

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 2967

27 January 2023

DENTAL TECHNICIANS ACT, 1979 (ACT NO. 19 OF 1979)

REGULATIONS RELATING TO SCOPE OF PROFESSIONS OF DENTAL
TECHNICIANS AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGISTS

The Minister of Health has, on the recommendation of the South African Dental Technicians Council and in terms of section 50 (1) (l) and (r) of the Dental Technicians Act, 1979, made the Regulations in the Schedule.



DR. MJ PHAAHLA, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 14/11/2022

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these Regulations a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have such meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates—

"appropriate clinical medical professional" means a medical practitioner or medical specialist registered as such with the Health Professions Council of South Africa who in a situation where a relevant dental clinician is not available would be allowed to prescribe a custom made oral appliance to a dental technician and dental technologist where it would be in the best interest of the patient to do so;

"dental clinician" means a dentist or dental specialist registered as such with the Health Professions Council of South Africa and who prescribes appropriate custom made oral appliances to a dental technician and dental technologist;

"custom made oral appliances or devices" means any removable or fixed intra- or extra-oral prosthesis;

"quality" means fitness for purpose, level of conformance and the degree to which the custom made oral appliance or device was produced correctly;

"safety" means the wellbeing of the patient while handling and wearing the custom made oral appliance or device;

"supervise or supervision" means overseeing and taking responsibility for the operations of a registered dental laboratory including the professional activities related to the profession of dental technology by persons registered in other categories by the council; and

"the Act" means the Dental Technicians Act, 1979 (Act No. 19 of 1979).

Acts pertaining to the profession of dental technician

2. (1) The following acts are deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of dental technician:-
- (a) carrying out infection control procedures to prevent physical, chemical and microbiological contamination in the laboratory;
 - (b) working with a dental clinician or appropriate clinical medical professional on treatment planning and designing of custom made oral appliances;
 - (c) selecting appropriate materials for the design, manufacture and repair of custom made oral appliances or devices as prescribed;
 - (d) manufacturing custom made oral appliances or devices as prescribed;
 - (e) repairing and modifying custom made oral appliances or devices as prescribed;
 - (f) Assisting with shade-taking if requested by a dental clinician or other appropriate clinical medical professional;

- (g) Verifying and taking responsibility for the quality and safety of custom made oral appliances or devices leaving the dental laboratory in as far as it is appropriate to the profession; and
 - (h) supervising a dental laboratory assistant and a dental technician with restricted registration as contemplated in sections 28 and 23A of the Act respectively.
- (2) A dental technician may not—
- (a) Practise as a dental technician contractor or supervise a dental laboratory whether or not such laboratory is registered or unregistered;
 - (b) perform clinical procedures or fit custom made devices; and
 - (c) provide treatment for or give clinical advice to patients.

Acts pertaining to the profession of dental technologist

3. (1) The following acts are deemed to be acts pertaining to the profession of a dental technologist:-
- (a) All acts as defined in section 2 (1) above,
 - (b) Practising as a dental technician contractor, owning or co-owning a registered dental laboratory or supervising a dental laboratory subject to sections 29 (5) and (6) of the Act;
 - (c) employing dental technicians, dental laboratory assistants and dental technicians with restricted registration;
 - (d) reviewing cases coming into the laboratory in order to decide how they should progress; and
- (2) A dental technologist may not—
- (a) perform clinical procedures;
 - (b) fit custom made oral appliances or devices; and
 - (c) provide treatment or give clinical advice to patients.

General limitations on the professional acts of dental technician and dental technologist

4. A dental technician or a dental technologist, may only engage or practice in those acts for which he or she has successfully completed appropriate training and practices to the standard set by the Council, under an appropriate Act of Parliament.