

## RULES ON THE FITTING OF CONTACT LENSES 1985

The General Optical Council, in exercise of their powers under section [25(3)] of the Opticians Act [1989], hereby make the following rules -

1. These rules may be cited as the Rules on the Fitting of Contact Lenses 1985.
2. (a) In these rules -
  - “The Act” means the Opticians Act [1989];
  - “appropriate course of instruction” means a course of instruction as a dispensing optician or an optometrist provided by an approved training establishment;
  - “the Council” means the General Optical Council established under the Act;
  - “examining body” means a body granting, for the time being, an approved qualification;
  - “qualified registered optometrist or registered dispensing optician” means a registered optometrist or registered dispensing optician who holds an approved qualification, as defined in the Contact Lens (Qualifications etc.) Rules 1988 (scheduled to the General Optical Council (Contact Lens (Qualifications etc.) Rules) Order of Council 1988 or has been granted certification as a person qualified to fit contact lenses in accordance with the provision of those Rules;
- (b) Section [36] of the Act shall apply for the interpretation of these rules as it applies for the interpretation of the Act.
3. A person who -
  - (a) is training as a dispensing optician or an optometrist;
  - (b) is registered in the register of students maintained by the Council in accordance with section 8A of the Act; and
  - (c) falls within one of the classes prescribed by rule 4 of these Rules,may fit a contact lens provided he does so -
  - (i) in the course of obtaining practical experience; and
  - (ii) under the continuous personal supervision of a qualified registered optometrist or registered dispensing optician or a registered medical practitioner.
4. The classes of persons training as dispensing opticians or optometrists prescribed for the purpose of these rules are the following -
  - (1) Persons engaged in an appropriate course of instruction.
  - (2) Persons who either -
    - (a) have completed an appropriate course of instruction; or
    - (b) are holders of a qualification granted outside the United Kingdom which is approved under section 12(7) of the Act (education and training);

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and who are undertaking a period of pre-registration training as a dispensing optician or an optometrist under the supervision of an examining body.

- (3) Persons who have been accepted by an examining body to sit without further part-time or full-time study the examinations for an approved qualification by virtue of having completed an appropriate course of instruction.
  - (4) Persons engaged in a course of instruction provided by an approved training establishment leading to a qualification specified in Appendix A to the Contact Lens (Qualifications etc.) Rules 1988 (scheduled to the General Optical Council (Contact Lens (Qualifications etc.) Rules) Order of Council 1988).
5. These rules shall come into operation on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1985.