

Registration Policy

Regarding: Acceptance of Quality Assurance Program Compliance from other Canadian Provinces

Regulation Provisions

Section 12, paragraph (1) of the College of Opticians of Ontario Registration Regulation (Regulation 869/93 made under the Opticianry Act) - Reinstatement, states:

“A member whose certificate of registration has been suspended by the Registrar... may apply to the Registrar to lift the suspension by:

...

(d) submitting evidence of having completed the requirements of the College’s Quality Assurance Program;...”

Section 12, paragraph (5), states:

“An application for reinstatement made more than three [3] years from the date of suspension shall be referred to the Registration Committee, which shall evaluate the applicant’s qualifications and determine whether the applicant must meet any examination and Quality Assurance Program requirements in order to be reinstated”.

The COO will accept Quality Assurance (QA) program compliance from another Canadian province of a suspended COO Member, who has been practising as an Optician in that province, once the Optician applies for the reinstatement of his / her certificate. The suspended COO Member will have completed the requirements of the COO’s QA program if he / she has been compliant with the QA Program requirements in the province he / she has been registered in.

Scenario: An Optician originally registered as a Registered Optician in Ontario decides to move to another province to practice and obtains registration as a Registered Optician for both eyeglasses and contact lenses dispensing in that province. At some later date, this Optician decides to move back to Ontario and reinstate his / her suspended certificate of registration with the COO.

The COO will accept this Optician’s QA Program compliance from the other province, if the Optician has been:

1. continually licensed in another province since the time of suspension in Ontario (a reasonable amount of time will be allowed for in order for his / her registration to be processed in another province);
2. licensed for both eyeglasses and contact lenses dispensing in that province;
3. the province must have QA Program requirements in place for its registered members; and
4. the Opticians must be in compliance with both the eyeglasses and contact lenses component of the QA Program in that province.

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The Optician will be considered to have been in compliance with the COO QA program requirements and will be placed into his / her regular COO QA cycle upon the reinstatement of his / her certificate of registration. There will be no additional COO QA requirements for this Optician at reinstatement.

This will apply regardless of the number of years the Optician's certificate of registration has been suspended in Ontario.

The letter of good standing from the other province must clearly state that the Optician has been in compliance with the QA Program requirements in that province. The letter must be provided to the COO along with the reinstatement application.