

**Competition Bureau  
Professions Study  
Information on Professions Regulations - Part i**

**PART 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1.1 This questionnaire was completed by:

Name: Cathi Mietkiewicz  
Position: President  
Organization: College of Opticians of Ontario  
Postal Address: 85 Richmond St W. Suite 902  
Toronto Ontario M5H 2C9  
Telephone Number: 416-368-3616  
E-mail Address: cathim@cogeco.ca

1.2 Please provide the web sites where the Competition Bureau can find all applicable current rules and regulations governing your profession, including all provincial statutes and legislation, bylaws, constitutions, codes or rules of conduct, regulations, protocols, procedures, guidelines and related documents.

[www.coptont.org](http://www.coptont.org)  
[www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

If any of the above documents are not publicly available on-line, please provide a hard copy of these documents with your response to this information request.

**PART 2: ORGANIZATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR PROFESSION**

2.1 Is membership in a professional association required in order to become a full member of your organization or profession? Yes  No

Individuals must be members of the College of Opticians – the Regulatory Agency.  
Membership in an Optician Association is not required.

If the answer is “Yes”, are there more than one such professional organizations for your profession in your province? Yes  No

If the answer is “Yes” again, please identify all such professional organizations in your province.

College of Opticians of Ontario  
Ontario Opticians Association  
Opticians Association of Canada (membership in the Ontario Opticians Association automatically provides membership in the Opticians Association of Canada).

2.2 Please choose which category is true for the main organizational structure of your profession. (Please choose one and add comments if applicable) **See Note 1.**

Licensing and compulsory membership in a professional association	
Licensing without compulsory membership in a professional association	X – Membership in the Regulatory College (The College of Opticians is required; membership in the professional association is not required.
No compulsory licensing and voluntary membership in a professional association (= certification)	
No compulsory licensing nor voluntary membership in a professional association (= certification)	

2.3 Regulations are created...(please choose one)

exclusively by public authorities	
exclusively by the responsible professional association	
by public authorities and by the professional association	
other (explain) Public Statute and the College of Opticians of Ontario	X

2.4 The implementation of the regulations is organized and controlled ....

exclusively by public authorities	
exclusively by the responsible professional association	
by public authorities and by the professional association	
other (explain) College of Opticians of Ontario	X

2.5 Please identify all provincial bodies that govern the regulations and codes of conduct for your professional organization (e.g. government departments or agencies, provincial colleges)

[College of Opticians of Ontario](#)  
[Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#)

2.6 Disciplinary sanctions for failure to respect these regulations are decided.....

exclusively by public authorities	
exclusively by the responsible professional association	
by public authorities and by the professional association	
other (explain) <a href="#">College of Opticians of Ontario. Decisions of the Discipline Committee may be appealed by either the Member or the College to the Ontario Divisional Court</a>	X
there are no such sanctions	

2.7 Please provide the number of all cases during the period 2001-2006 inclusive in which a member of your professional organization was sanctioned for failure to respect the rules or regulations governing advertising, pricing, exclusive rights, accreditation, “conduct unbecoming”, or participation in unauthorized business structures or practices. In each case, please provide the adjudicative decision including the identity of the parties involved.

1. [College of Opticians and Paul Glazier \(July 2003\)](#)

The member was found guilty of professional misconduct, in that he engaged in the practice of refractometry, contrary to the directive of the College of Opticians; he contravened the *Opticianry Act* by dispensing eyeglasses without the prescription of an optometrist or a physician, having used the results of a refractometry test to alter a prescription.

2. [College of Opticians and Bruce Bergez \(October 2003\)](#)

The member was found guilty of professional misconduct, in that he contravened the *Opticianry Act* by dispensing eyeglasses without the prescription of an optometrist or a physician, having used the results of a refractometry test to prepare and dispense eyeglasses; he engaged in the practice of refractometry contrary to the directive of the College of Opticians; he engaged in conduct in the course of practicing opticianry, that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members of the profession as disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional.

3. [College of Opticians and Balbir Ghai \(July 2005\)](#)

The member was found guilty of professional misconduct in that he contravened the *Criminal Code* by committing the offence of assault, which contravention is relevant to his suitability to practice; sexually abused a patient, physically abused a patient; and engaged in conduct in the course of practicing opticianry that,

having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable and unprofessional.

4. College of Opticians and Shailesh Jobanputra (October 2005)

The member was found guilty of professional misconduct, in that he engaged in the practice of refractometry; contravened a standard of profession, falsified records, signed or issued documents in his professional capacity that he knew or ought to have known contained false or misleading statements, submitted accounts or charges that he knew or ought to have known were false or misleading and engaged in conduct in the course of practicing opticianry that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

5. College of Opticians and Guido Panacci (April 2006)

The member was found guilty of professional misconduct in that he contravened the Criminal Code by committing the offence of assault, which contravention is relevant to his suitability to practice; sexually abused a patient, physically abused a patient, engaged in conduct in the course of practicing opticianry, that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

2.8 Which organization(s) is responsible for processing, hearing and adjudicating complaints against professional member by other members or the public?

College of Opticians of Ontario

**PART 3: CUSTOMERS AND CLIENTS OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

3.1 Who uses your professional services? Please provide best estimates if actual revenue numbers are unknown

Private Households	% of annual professional
income <u>98*</u>	
Government	% of annual professional income <u>2*</u>
Other Public Sector	% of annual professional income <u>0</u>
Large Business	% of annual professional income <u>0</u>
Small and Medium Business	% of annual professional income <u>0</u>

\* Estimate

*(Survey did not contain questions 3.2 or 3.3)*

3.4 For each of the four categories listed in question 3.1, what proportion of your customers/clients are insured for your professional services? (“insured for” means that a third-party cover the expense of the professional service e.g. a health insurance plan)

Information not available.

3.5 With regard to practice insurance for your members, must this insurance be purchased from an association to be effective or do your members have the option to purchase it from any source?



9.		1995 2000 2005
10.		1995 2000 2005

Opticians are permitted to perform the controlled act of dispensing eyeglasses, contact lenses and low vision devices. This service is not exclusive to Opticians; Optometrists and Physicians are also permitted to perform the controlled act of dispensing in Ontario.

4.4 Are there specific regulations or restrictions on access by others to the market in your province for the services offered exclusively by your professional organization? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ **Not applicable since Opticians do not offer an “exclusive service”.**

If the answer is “Yes”, please identify these restrictions.

4.5 Please list up to five services that both your professional organization and other professional organizations have the right to offer in your province and identify those other professional organizations

Type of service	Other Professional Organization
1. Dispensing Eyewear for vision or eye problems	Members of the College of Optometrists & College of Physicians & Surgeons
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

4.6 Please list up to five services that your professional organization does not have the right to offer in your province but which you believe you are qualified to offer. Please identify the professional organization(s) offering the service now and provide the justification for why you are excluded and why you believe you can offer the service identified. (Note: If there more than five services, please provide the identical information for each.)

Type of service	Other Entity	Justification
1.Refractometry	The Public (laypersons), Members of the College of Optometrists & Members of the College of Physicians and Surgeons	Refractometry, also known as refracting, refraction or sight testing is the process of measurement that assesses how the eye is bending and focusing an image on the retina of an eye. Refractometry is not a controlled act under section 27 of the <i>Regulated Health Professions Act</i> . It is therefore, a public domain act and can be performed by anyone. Opticians in Ontario are prohibited from performing refractions as the result of a directive from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in February 2001. The College of Opticians of Ontario believes the ban against Opticians refracting is discriminatory and contrary to the public interest when viewed in context with similar health care models in Ontario.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

4.7 Is a university or college degree a necessary precondition to become a member of your professional organization? Yes university \_\_\_\_\_ Yes college  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

If answer is “Yes”, which degree and what is the minimum duration of study? Please give exact information

Name of qualification:  Diploma in Opticianry

Years of study:  2 Years Full-Time

4.8 Are higher education qualifications necessary for entrance to your professional

organization? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If the answer is “Yes” to question 4.8, of what duration? Please give exact information

Name of each qualification:

Years of study for each qualification:

4.9 Are there requirements in regard to a period of relevant practice or experience (e.g. articling) in order to become a full member of your professional organization?

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes” to question 4.9, of what duration? Please give exact information

Additional relevant practice requirements:

The applicant must have completed verified dispensing experience.

The applicant must have completed 250 eyeglasses fittings, including 100 multifocal fittings and twenty-five high myopic or hyperopic fittings, under the supervision or direction of an optician, an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

The applicant must have completed, and must present evidence of, at least twenty contact lens fittings, including at least five rigid gas permeable (RGP) contact lens fittings, under the supervision or direction of an optician who is certified in the fitting of contact lenses or an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

Duration:

Dispensing Experience: 1,000 hours

4.10 Is there a requirement to pass one or more special professional exams in order to become a full member of your professional organization and offer services that are restricted to your professional organization? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes” to question 4.10, how many exams and provide name of each. Also, what entity administers these exams?

The applicant must have achieved a passing mark in each section of the College's examinations, or must have successfully completed examinations which are deemed equivalent to the College's examinations by the Registration Committee. Registration Examinations are administered by the National Association of Canadian Opticianry Regulators (NACOR).

4.11 Are further exams or continuing education required for the members of your professional organization? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes” to question 4.11, please list these requirements and describe how continuing education is organized and controlled.

Opticians must accumulate at least 30 Quality Assurance credits in the three-year period starting on January 1 of the year following the year in which he or she is first registered and in each three-year period after that. A continuing education activity includes attending courses, lectures, seminars and other similar activities approved by the College's Quality Assurance Committee. A professional activity includes teaching and research activities, including authoring articles, approved

by the Quality Assurance Committee and membership on the Council or a committee of the College or on the executive of an opticianry-related professional association. Dispensing activities include dispensing that is verified in accordance with policy guidelines published by the College.

An optician accumulates credits by submitting proof that is satisfactory to the Registrar of having successfully completed continuing education activities, professional activities and dispensing activities to which credits have been assigned.

4.12 How does your professional organization deal with the admittance of individuals who are qualified to practice your profession in (a) other provinces and (b) other countries?

- a) If, at the time he or she applies for a certificate, the applicant is licensed or registered by a statutory regulatory authority in a province or territory of Canada other than Ontario to dispense eye glasses, contact lenses and subnormal vision devices in that province or territory and is in good standing with that regulatory authority, the applicant will be granted a certificate of registration as an Optician by the College of Opticians of Ontario.
- b) If an applicant is licensed or registered to dispense eye glasses, contact lenses and subnormal vision devices in a jurisdiction outside Canada and is in good standing with the licensing or registering body of that jurisdiction, or is engaged in the practice of dispensing eye glasses, contact lenses and subnormal vision devices in a jurisdiction outside Canada in which no licence or certificate of registration is required to do so and be in good standing with a professional association in that jurisdiction which requires compliance with professional standards the applicant must undergo an assessment of his or her prior learning and experience.

4.13 If a member leaves your professional organization for a year or more, is she or he required to re-qualify in order to practice your profession? If so, please identify all requirements.

Yes

If the application for reinstatement is made within three years from the date of suspension of the member's certificate of registration the applicant need only pay the renewal/ reinstatement fees and be in compliance with any Quality Assurance requirements.

An application for reinstatement made more than three 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.

4.14 Are there any restrictions on who may use the designation associated with your profession (e.g. medical doctor, chartered accountant, lawyer, etc.)

Yes.

Only members of the College of Opticians may use the title Optician, a variation or

abbreviation or an equivalent in another language. Members of the College of Opticians are entitled to use the abbreviation “RO”.

4.15 Are there limitations on the number of individuals who may enter your professional organization each year? (Assuming the individual has the prerequisite educational qualifications.) If so, please describe these limitations including identifying the mechanisms used to limit entry.

No

4.16 Is the establishment of a business in your profession restricted to specific forms of business structure or ownership (such as limited liability partnerships or public companies).?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

If the answer is “Yes” to question 4.15, please identify the kinds of business structures which are not permitted: (check all that are applicable)

sole practitioners	
limited liability partnerships	
public limited companies	
private company	
other (please specify)	

4.17 Is the establishment of a business in the profession restricted by quotas or economic needs tests? **See Note 2.** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

4.18 Are there regulations on compulsory professional indemnity insurance?  
Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes”, what is the minimum amount in Canadian dollars which professionals must be insured? Per case \_\_\_\_\_  
Per Business \_\_\_\_\_

All registered opticians shall have professional liability insurance containing coverage of not less than \$1,000,000.

**PART 5 REGULATIONS ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

5.1 Are there regulations or suggestions for the fees/prices for services your profession offers? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

If the answer is “Yes” to question 5.1, please identify the sections in applicable legislation, regulations, bylaws, codes or rules of conduct or other applicable document(s).

If the answer is “No”, go to question 5.3

5.2(a) For each type of service your profession offers, please identify which of the following pricing applies:

binding minimum fees/prices for all services
--

binding maximum fees/prices for all services
binding minimum fees/prices for some services
binding maximum fees/prices for some services
non-binding suggested fees/prices
non-binding suggested fees/prices
other (please describe)

5.2(b) Are these binding or suggested fees/prices always respected in practice?  
 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If the answer is “No” to question 5.2(b), are do enforcement mechanisms exist to ensure binding fees/prices are respected? If so, please identify these enforcement mechanisms.

5.2(c) If the answer is “No” to question 5.2(b), are actual fees/prices or lower on average than binding or suggested fees?

Higher \_\_\_\_\_ Lower \_\_\_\_\_

5.2(d) How are prices lists determined in your profession?

5.2(e) How often are fee/price lists changed? Once a year \_\_\_\_\_  
 More than once a year \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please explain)

5.2(f) Are there any restrictions on particular pricing arrangements (e.g. contingency fees)? If yes, please specify these restrictions.

5.2(g) Please provide all fee/price lists (either binding or non-binding) for your profession for the years 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2006 for the province in which your profession provides service.

5.3 Are there regulations on advertising and marketing in your profession?  
 Yes  X  No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes” to question 5.3, please identify the sections in appropriate legislation, regulations, bylaws, codes or rules of conduct or other applicable document(s).

**ONTARIO REGULATION 219/94, Amended to O. Reg. 479/99 (General) Part II Advertising, section 6.**

If the answer is “No” to question 5.3, go to question 5.5.

5.4 Of what kind are these advertising and marketing restrictions?

all forms of advertising are strictly forbidden	
most forms of advertising are forbidden	
some forms of advertising are forbidden, these being:	
direct mailing	
price advertising	
comparative advertising	
other (specify)	
<a href="#">An advertisement with respect to a member's practice or place of</a>	

practice must not contain,	
(a) anything that is false or misleading;	
(b) anything that, because of its nature, cannot be verified;	
(c) a claim of specialization, if the member does not hold a Specialty Certificate issued by the College; or	
(d) the member's name or photograph, or other likeness, in an advertisement that implies, or could be reasonably interpreted to imply, that the professional expertise of the member is relevant to the subject matter of the advertisement if, in fact, it is not.	
1.	
2.	
3.	

5.5 Are there regulations restricting geographical areas of service? Yes \_\_\_ No  
 \_\_\_X\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes” to question 5.5, please identify these regulations and the applicable legislation, regulations, bylaws, codes or rules of conduct or other applicable document(s).

If the answer is “No”, go to question 5.7

5.6 Of what kind are these regulations on location and diversification?

geographical restrictions on offering services e.g. territorial restrictions	
restrictions on establishing branch offices	
other (please specify)	

5.7 Are there restrictions on multidisciplinary partnerships with other professionals? (e.g. accountants and lawyers)

No

If the answer is “No” to question 5.7, go to question 5.9.

5.8 If the answer is “Yes”, what are these restrictions on multidisciplinary partnerships?

any form is generally forbidden	
incorporation is generally forbidden	
some comparable licensed professions are allowed to cooperate in various commercial forms (including incorporation)	
incorporation is allowed only with the comparable licensed professions but incorporation is forbidden	
If other circumstances apply, please describe	

5.9 Are there any regulations on specialization in your profession? **See Note 3**

Yes \_\_\_Y\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If the answer is “Yes”, how is specialization organized? Is there a right to the title for this specialization? May this specialization be advertised? Please describe?

Opticians are restricted from using a term, title or designation indicating or representing that the Optician has a specialization in the practice of opticianry which the optician does not hold.

Currently, the College of Opticians does not recognize any specialty designations other than Certified Contact Lens Fitter which was granted under the *Ophthalmic Dispensers Act* (replaced by the *Opticianry Act, 1991*)

## **PART 6 OTHER INSTRUMENTS FOR QUALITY CONTROL**

6.1 Are there any special (voluntary) certification systems, which coexist alongside the traditional licensing or certification model? **See Note 4.**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

If the answer is “Yes”, please describe these systems, their purpose, and provide your experience with these systems.

6.2 Does there exist any other special instruments of quality control not mentioned in the data sheet so far? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

If the answer is “Yes”, please describe each of them, their purpose, and provide your experience with each of them.

## **PART 7 OTHER RESTRICTIONS**

7.1 Please identify any arrangements your professional association has negotiated with professional associations in other parts of Canada or internationally which gives your association the exclusive right to provide specific services. Please identify these services, the names and locations of these other professional associations and the date the arrangement was negotiated.

None

7.2 Please identify any other areas (other than those referred in Part 4 above where your professional association or others practicing your profession restrict entry into the profession or otherwise regulate the market conduct of members.

All provincial regulatory agencies, with the exception of Quebec have signed the Mutual Recognition Agreement among Opticianry Regulators (attached). This document does not restrict entry to the profession but rather facilitates labour mobility nationally.

**Competition Bureau  
Professions Study  
Information on Professions Regulations - Part ii**

**PART 8 CHANGES TO THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

8.1 Please give a brief overview of areas in which regulation of your profession has changed in the past ten years. If you wish to include a longer exposition, report, or study results, please provide a copy.

<b>Area of Regulation</b>	<b>Changes to Regulation</b>	<b>Purpose for Changes</b>	<b>Date of Implementation</b>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

8.2 Please give a brief overview of area in which regulations of your profession are currently being discussed. If you wish to include a longer exposition, reports, or study results, please indicate this.

<b>Area of Regulation</b>	<b>Changes to Regulation</b>	<b>Purpose for Changes</b>	<b>Date of Implementation</b>
1.Registration			Currently under review by College of Opticians
2.Quality Assurance			Currently under review by College of Opticians
3.Advertising	Proposing changes that will adhere to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Advertising Guidelines		Currently under review by College of Opticians
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

**Competition Bureau  
Professions Study  
Information on Professions Regulations - Part iii  
Data on Your Profession**

In the following sections data is requested for the years **1995, 2000 and 2005**.

**Part 9 Membership of the Professional Body (See Note 5)**

Please state, if known (this question refers to the professionals and firms in the province of your own professional body)

Total Membership of your Professional Body	1995	2000	2005
(by membership category - name as appropriate)			
College of Opticians of Ontario			
Student			169
Intern			94
Optician		Estimate: 1670	2049

**Part 10 Stages of Access to the Profession**

Please fill in the categories which are applicable to your profession.

	1995	2000	2005
newly admitted profession members in each year	69	84	105
trainees passing Final Qualifying Exams in each year	113	69	98
trainees writing Final Qualifying Exams in each year	167	163	144
professional trainees (in all stages of pre-qualifications)			213
new trainee entrants in each year	6	120	126
graduates from relevant disciplines, if known (e.g. law faculties etc.)	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Part 11 Questions about the Profession as a whole

### 11.1 Professionals

	1995	2000	2005
Total # of professionals practising in your province			2001
percentage of above self-employed (%)	Not Available (N/A)	N/A	27.34%
percentage of above non self-employed (%)	N/A	N/A	72.66%

### 11.2 Firms Practising the Profession in your province (see **Note 6**)

	1995	2000	2005
Total # of firms in your province	N/A	N/A	N/A
percentage of firms non-incorporated (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A
percentage of firms incorporated (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 11.3 Size of Firms (in terms of Professionals)

	1995	2000	2005
Total # of firms in your province			
% of firms with 1 qualified professional	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 2 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 3-5 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 5-30 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with more than 30 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 11.4 Size of Firms (in terms of Non-Professional Employees)

	1995	2000	2005
Total # of firms in your province			
% of firms with 0 employees	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 2 employees	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 3-10 employees	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 10-50 employees	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with more than 50 employees	N/A	N/A	N/A

11.5 Size of Multi-branch Firms (note that this refers to points of access by clients/consumers of professional skills. A branch office is counted as a separate location)

Total # of firms in your province	1995	2000	2005
% of firms with 1 office in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 2-5 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 5-20 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with 20-50 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
% of firms with more than 50 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A

11.6 Cost Structure of Firms (Please enter best estimates for “median firm” in your province)

% of total costs	1995	2000	2005
Remuneration of Professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
other wages and salaries	N/A	N/A	N/A
cost of professional insurance and risk	N/A	N/A	N/A
investment in office premises	N/A	N/A	N/A
investment in technology (e.g. computers)	N/A	N/A	N/A
on-going professional education (courses)	N/A	N/A	N/A
other costs (specify if possible)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Costs	100%	100%	100%

11.7 Average Revenues by Size of Firms (Please enter best estimates for “median firm” in your province average revenue in dollars)

	1995	2000	2005
Firms with 1 qualified professional	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with 2 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with 3-5 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with 5-30 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with more than 30 qualified professionals	N/A	N/A	N/A

11.8 Average Revenues by Size of Multi-branch Firms (Please enter best estimates for “median firm” in your province average revenue in dollars)

Average revenues for

	1995	2000	2005
Firms with 1 office in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with 2-5 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with 5-20 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with 20-50 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A
Firms with more than 50 offices in province	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Notes to the Survey Questionnaire

### Note 1:

*Licensing* indicates cases where there is a requirement for official/legal permission to offer specific services in the market. Such licensing is typically carried out by public authorities and/or the responsible professional association. Only licensed service providers are allowed to use a specific professional title.

*Certification* indicates cases where there is no requirement for licensing in order to offer specific services in the market, but usually where service providers are organized in one or more professional bodies and to obtain this certification they have to fulfil certain qualification (e.g. educational) requirements. Usually only the service providers certified in this way are allowed to use a specific professional title.

### Note 2

In general terms this question deals with quantitative restrictions on the number of people who may enter the profession and offer the respective services. Such limits may be related to an economic needs test or other types of proviso e.g. a limit to the number of professionals a community can support.

### Note 3

Specialization may take different forms. A lawyer may, for example, acquire specific skills and some kind of additional certification in the field of family law. In this context “specialization” means that the respective member of the profession not only has the advantage of acquiring specific skills but that this specialisation is recognised by some kind of institutionalized certification. This may take place within the traditional licensing or certification model adopted by the profession, or as a separately organized grouping.

### Note 4

For the term “certification” see Note 1. This question deals with special voluntary certification that, for example, may exist in the context of further specialisation (see Note 3) or international recognition.

### Note 5

Membership of a Professional Body may not necessarily extend to all professionals in your field. Nevertheless, in this section information regarding your knowledge about the profession as a whole is sought. Please answer with concrete data, or where this is not available, with an estimate based on your knowledge of the profession. If it is an estimate, please identify it as such.

### Note 6

This includes all firms whose primary business involves practicing the profession e.g. accountancy firms and firms offering accountancy and legal services, but not an industrial firm employing some professional accountants.