



Optometrists & Opticians Board

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FOR RETAILERS - PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE SALES OF SPECTACLES

The Optometrists and Opticians Board (the "Board") has recently developed a set of practice guidelines for registered optometrists and opticians regarding the sale of spectacles online. Please see **Annex 1** for details.

2 The guidelines aim to provide guidance for practitioners who intend to prescribe for consumers purchasing spectacles online, as well as for practitioners who are required to assist in the preparation and dispensing of spectacles purchased online. Any prescribing or dispensing that is performed contrary to these guidelines could be regarded as an act of professional misconduct and may lead to disciplinary action by the Board.

3 You are hereby alerted to section 25 of the Optometrists and Opticians Act:

(1) *No person shall —*

(a) carry out any practice of optometry or opticianry; or

(b) advertise or otherwise hold himself out to be qualified to carry out any practice of optometry or opticianry,

unless he is a qualified person in respect of the practice of optometry or opticianry in question, and he carries out that practice in accordance with the prescribed conditions.

(2) *No person shall employ any person who is not a qualified person in respect of a practice of optometry or opticianry to carry out that practice of optometry or opticianry.*

4 As a retailer of spectacles, you are expected to comply with the Optometrists and Opticians Act. If you are intending to provide online sales of spectacles, you must ensure that no person other than registered optometrists or opticians shall perform the online sales. Failure to comply with the Act, including failure to ensure that your registered practitioners comply with the enclosed Practice Guidelines for Online Sales of Spectacles as well as the latest Code of Professional Conduct and Professional Practice Guidelines for optometrists and opticians, could attract potential legal consequences under the Act, including prosecution.

5 Guidelines for retailers embarking on online sales of spectacles are enclosed at **Annex 2** for your adherence. You are advised to follow these guidelines to ensure that spectacles sold online are appropriate and safe for consumers to use. A set of advice for consumers and the public is enclosed at **Annex 3**. Please provide this advice to your consumers at your retail outlet(s) as well as on your retail website(s) including social media channels. If you need further clarification, please call the Board's Secretariat at 6355 2533 or email enquiries@oob.gov.sg

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

REGISTRAR
OPTOMETRISTS AND OPTICIANS BOARD