

HOW TO BECOME A REGISTERED DENTAL TECHNICIAN IN SC

Eligibility Requirements for Registration:

- Documented proof of high school graduation (or equivalent), college graduation, or certification as a Certified Dental Technician (CDT).
- Documentation of one of the following:
 - completion of a two-year course of study in a school for dental technological work acceptable to the Board; **or**
 - having performed dental technological work under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist or registered dental technician for a period of three years; **or**
 - national certification as a Certified Dental Technician (CDT)

Examinations

The following examinations must be passed successfully in order to become a registered dental technician in SC:

- Passing of the South Carolina Dental Practice Act (jurisprudence) examination. This is a written, open book exam.
 - Passing of one of the following written exams:
 - the South Carolina State Board Dental Technician Examination; **or**
 - the CDT Written Comprehensive Examination.
- Note:** A nationally recognized CDT must only pass the jurisprudence exam.

What is the State Board Dental Technician Examination?

This is a written exam on all phases of prosthetic dentistry, fixed and removable, laboratory techniques, procedures and occlusion, and infection control procedures. A “Study Guide for the Dental Technician Examination” is available online at the Board’s web site and is intended to assist applicants in preparation for this exam. This exam is administered at the Board office in Columbia, SC. Applicant must contact the Board office to schedule this exam.

What is the CDT Written Comprehensive Examination of the NBC (National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology)?

This is a written multiple-choice test, covering basic dental laboratory knowledge: oral anatomy, tooth morphology, materials science, health and safety, and fundamental theory and terminology across the five specialties tested by the NBC (Removable Prosthodontics-Complete Dentures and Partial Dentures; Fixed Prosthodontics – Crown & Bridge and Ceramics; and Orthodontics.) This exam is given at various times and locations throughout the country. For information, application and testing dates/places, go to www.nbccert.org. and click on “CDT.”

Application Process for Registration as a Dental Technician in SC

There is a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 required with your application. The application must be fully completed with all requested information and documentation supplied. Applications are maintained in the Board office for six (6) months. Upon receipt of an application and fee, applicant is mailed a copy of the open-book jurisprudence exam to be completed and returned to the Board office. Applicant is responsible for contacting the Board office to schedule the State Board Dental Technician Examination, or contacting the NBC to schedule the CDT Written Comprehensive Examination.

Once an application is complete and all required tests successfully completed, you will be issued a SC certificate number and a wall certificate/wallet card will be mailed to you as quickly as possible. The wall certificate/wallet card will serve as your proof of registration and your original certificate will be forthcoming.

Is every employee in an out-of-state dental lab required to become registered as a dental technician in SC?

In accordance with 40-15-125, an out-of-state laboratory that provides dental technological services for SC dentists must employ at least one dental laboratory technician registered by the SC Board of Dentistry.

When does the new law take effect?

The law was passed on June 4, 2008 and became effective beginning December 4, 2008.

Is there any grace period for out-of-state labs to accept work from SC dentists until an employee of the lab becomes registered in SC?

At the current time, a “grace period” has not been established by statute or the Board. This will be addressed by the Board at its next meeting in January. If a grace period is established by the Board, it will be so noted on the web site at that time.

Does the Board office have a specific work authorization/prescription “form” that must be used by all dental laboratories?

No. A prescription form is considered approved by the Board as long as it contains all of the information required in 40-15-280:

- the name, address, and certificate number of the individual or organization to do the work;
- identification of the patient by name or number;
- the date on which the authorization was written;
- a description of the work to be done, with diagrams, if necessary;
- a specification of the type and quality of materials to be used;
- the dentist’s signature, complete address, and state license number.

Who can authorize a prescription for out-of-state dental technological work?

Dental technological work performed in an out-of-state lab must be based on a prescription issued by a dentist licensed and practicing in SC.

What if I do not know the percentages of each ingredient used in the fabrication of a dental device?

The law requires a “percentage” be provided; therefore, you must list a percentage of each ingredient used.

What is the renewal process for registration as an out-of-state dental technician?

In-state and out-of-state dental technicians must renew their Certificate to Perform Dental Technological Work in SC annually. The renewal process is available online. On or about October 15th of each year, a renewal notice is mailed from the Board office reminding individuals of the need to renew their license/certificate.