

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

What is the SC 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. 803-896-4599

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www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry.

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.”

What is the Jurisprudence Examination?

Once our office receives your application and fee, you will be mailed instructions with your user id and password to take the exam online. A score of 70 or higher is considered a passing score. It is on the statutes and regulations governing the SC Board of Dentistry. The statutes and regulations are on the Board web site at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry

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 one (1) year. For the exams, the 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.

Registration:

Upon issuance of a SC registration number, an original wall certificate with a gold seal and wall certificate/wallet card will be mailed to you. Once you have been issued a registration number you may print a copy of your registration by accessing the Board's website at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/dentistry, click on "Print copy of your license?" and follow the prompts. You may use this copy until receipt of your original. Upon receipt of your original registration, you are required to display it in a conspicuous place in the office in which you practice.

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 did the law (40-15-125) 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 as a dental technician in SC?

A "grace period" has not been established in statute or by the Board.

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; and

- 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, that provides dental technological services for SC dentists, 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. Ask the lab for this information.

What is the renewal process for SC Registered Dental Technician?

In-state and out-of-state South Carolina Registered Dental Technicians must renew their Registration to Perform Dental Technological Work in SC biennially. The renewal process is available online. On or about October 15th biennially, a renewal notice is mailed from the Board office reminding individuals of the need to renew their license/certificate. The Board also e-mails this notice if you have an e-mail on file. It is your professional responsibility to renew whether you receive mailed notification or not.