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CONTENTS

Page

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

No. 277	Regulations relating to minimum requirements of study for registration of hearing aid acousticians and hearing aid acoustics interns, additional qualification in hearing aid acoustics, maintaining of registers of hearing aid acousticians and hearing aid acoustics interns and restoration of name to register: Allied Health Professions Act, 2004	1
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Government Notice

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

No. 277

2015

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF STUDY FOR
REGISTRATION OF HEARING AID ACOUSTICIANS AND HEARING AID
ACOUSTICS INTERNS, ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION IN HEARING AID
ACOUSTICS, MAINTAINING OF REGISTERS OF HEARING AID ACOUSTICIANS
AND HEARING AID ACOUSTICS INTERNS AND RESTORATION OF NAME TO
REGISTER: ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 2004

Under section 55 of the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004), read with sections 19, 24, 26 and 32 of that Act, on the recommendation of the Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia, I have made the regulations set out in the Schedule.

B. HAUFIKU

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Windhoek, 9 November 2015

SCHEDULE

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART 1
PRELIMINARY

1. Definitions

PART 2

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR REGISTRATION AND
REGISTRATION OF HEARING AID ACOUSTICIANS

2. Minimum qualifications required for registration as hearing aid acoustician
3. Recognition of qualifications by Council for purposes of registering person as hearing aid acoustician
4. Application for registration as hearing aid acoustician
5. Additional education, tuition and training

PART 3

REGISTRATION OF HEARING AID ACOUSTICS INTERNS AND ADDITIONAL
EDUCATION, TUITION AND TRAINING

6. Application for registration and training as hearing aid acoustics interns
7. Consideration of application by Council
8. Period of internship
9. Commencement and termination of internship
10. Completion of internship

PART 4

REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

11. Registerable additional qualifications
12. Requirements for registration of additional qualification

PART 5

REGISTERS AND RESTORATION OF NAME TO REGISTER

13. Register of hearing aid acousticians
14. Register of hearing aid acousticians interns
15. Restoration of name to register

PART 6

GENERAL

16. Language and forms of documents

ANNEXURE

PART 1
PRELIMINARY**Definitions**

1. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise indicated, a word or expression defined in the Act has that meaning, and -

“additional qualification” means an additional qualification referred to in section 32(1)(a) of the Act;

“applicant” means a person making an application in accordance with these regulations;

“approved facility” means any private practice, hospital, clinic or other health facility in Namibia defined in section 1 of the Hospitals and Health Facilities Act, 1994 (Act No. 36 of 1994), approved by the Council for the purpose of the training of hearing aid acoustics interns, and “facility” has a corresponding meaning;

“certified” means certified as a true copy of the original by a commissioner of oaths appointed under section 5, or designated under section 6, of the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Oaths Act, 1963 (Act no. 16 of 1963);

“hearing aid acoustics intern” means a person registered as such under these regulations for the purpose of qualifying as a hearing aid acousticians and “intern” has a corresponding meaning;

“registration authority” means the registration authority of a country responsible for the registration of a person to practice as a hearing aid acoustician in that country; and

“the Act” means the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (Act No. 7 of 2004).

Minimum qualifications required for registration of hearing aid acousticians

2. (1) Subject to compliance with the other requirements prescribed by or under the Act, the Council may register a person as a hearing aid acoustician if the person holds any of the qualifications specified in the Annexure.

(2) The Council may register a person who is not a holder of a qualification referred to in subregulation (1) as a hearing aid acoustician, if the person -

- (a) holds an advanced diploma in hearing aid acoustics that complies with subregulation (3);
- (b) obtained an advanced diploma referred to in paragraph (a) from an educational institution listed in regulation 12; and
- (c) has received full time education, tuition and training in hearing aid acoustics for a minimum period of two years.

(3) A qualification referred to in subregulation (2) must include education, tuition and practical training in the subjects of -

- (a) anatomy and physiology of the ear;
- (b) pathology of the ear;
- (c) acoustics of speech;
- (d) communication and perception of speech;
- (e) application of the basic audiometric test battery;
- (f) theoretical basis of hearing aids and assistive listening devices;
- (g) practical application of hearing aids and assistive listening devices; and

- (h) rehabilitation of the hearing-impaired.

Recognition of qualifications by Council for purposes of registering person as hearing aid acoustician

3. The Council may only register a person with a qualification under regulation 2(2) as a hearing aid acoustician if -

- (a) the educational institution at which the person obtained the qualification is approved by the Council;
- (b) the registration authority responsible for the registration of a person to practice as a hearing aid acoustician in the country in which the person obtained the qualification, recognises the qualification for registration to practice as a hearing aid acoustician in that country; and
- (c) that person complies with the other requirements for registration as a hearing aid acoustician prescribed by or under the Act.

Application for registration as hearing aid acoustician

4. (1) An application for the registration of a person as a hearing aid acoustician in terms of section 20 of the Act must, in addition to the documents and particulars specified by subsection (2) of that section, be accompanied by -

- (a) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant;
- (b) a certificate issued by the Council in the form that the Council determines, certifying that the applicant has passed the evaluation referred to in section 21(3) of the Act, if applicable;
- (c) proof to the satisfaction of the Council that the applicant has completed the internship referred to in regulation 8;
- (d) subject to subregulation (2), the original certificate of registration to practice as a hearing aid acoustician in the country in which the applicant obtained the qualification referred in paragraph (a) of that subregulation issued by the relevant registration authority of that country.

(2) If the applicant is not registered with the registration authority referred to in paragraph (d) of subregulation (1), he or she must, together with his or her application for registration as a hearing aid acoustician submit to the registrar -

- (a) a certificate issued by that registration authority, certifying that the qualification which the applicant holds entitles him or her to be registered as a hearing aid acoustician in that country; or
- (b) if he or she had been registered previously, a certificate issued by the registration authority confirming that the applicant has been registered in that country and his or her name has been removed from the register of the registering authority and specifying the grounds for the removal.

(3) If the applicant is registered in any country other than the country referred to in subregulation (1)(d), the application for registration as hearing aid acoustician must be accompanied by the -

- (a) original certificate of registration to practice as a hearing aid acoustician issued by the registration authority where the applicant lastly practiced as a hearing aid acoustician; and
- (b) the original qualification entitling him or her to practice as a hearing aid acoustician referred to in subregulation (2)(a).

(4) The Council may require an applicant to furnish proof of his or her English proficiency in a manner determined by the Council.

Additional education, tuition and training

5. (1) If the Council registers a person conditionally as a hearing aid acoustician under section 22(2)(a) of the Act, the Council must determine the additional education, tuition or training that the person so conditionally registered must undertake in order to qualify for registration as a hearing aid acoustician under the Act.

(2) Particulars of the additional education, tuition or training referred to in subregulation (1) must be endorsed by the Council on the certificate of conditional registration issued by the Council in the name of that person under section 22(2)(b) of the Act.

PART 3 HEARING AID ACOUSTICS INTERNS

Application for registration as hearing aid acoustics interns

6. (1) For registration as a hearing aid acoustician, a person who holds a minimum qualification prescribe in terms of section 19 of the Act must complete an internship as a hearing aid acoustics intern before the person is registered as a hearing aid acoustician.

- (2) An application for registration as a hearing aid acoustics intern must be -
 - (a) made in the form determined by the Council; and
 - (b) submitted to the registrar.
- (3) An application referred to in subregulation (2) must be accompanied by -
 - (a) a qualification or certified copy of the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) as proof that the applicant holds a minimum qualification required for registration as a hearing aid acoustician;
 - (b) a certificate of good standing, if the applicant has been registered in a country other than Namibia as a hearing aid acoustician or as an intern, or is still so registered, issued by the registration authority of the country in which the applicant has been or is registered, which certificate is issued not more than 120 days before the date of the submission of the application for registration as hearing aid acoustician;
 - (c) a certified copy of the identity document or passport of the applicant;
 - (d) a certified copy of the agreement of internship training referred to in regulation 8 entered into by and between the applicant and the approved facility;
 - (e) any additional documents and information that the Council may require; and

- (f) payment of the application fees as determined by the Council in respect of such application or proof of payment.

(4) If the applicant making an application under subregulation (2) is not registered with any registration authority under subregulation (3), the applicant must together with his or her application for registration as a hearing aid acoustician submit -

- (a) a certificate issued by the registration authority of the country in which the applicant obtained the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) certifying that the qualification that the applicant holds entitles him or her to be registered as a hearing aid acoustician in that country; or
- (b) if he or she had been registered previously, a certificate issued by the registration authority of the country in which the person obtained the qualification referred to in subregulation (1) confirming that the applicant has been registered in that country and his or her name has been removed from the register of that registration authority and specifying the grounds for the removal.

(5) The Council may require the applicant to furnish proof of proficiency in the English language in a manner determined by the Council.

Consideration of application by Council

7. (1) The registrar must submit the application for registration as hearing aid acoustician to the Council for its decision.

(2) The Council after having considered the application referred to in subregulation (1) may -

- (a) grant the application if the Council is satisfied that the applicant -
 - (i) complies with the requirements required for the registration as a hearing aid acoustics intern;
 - (ii) has complied with subregulations (2) and (3) of regulation 6; and
 - (iii) is proficient in the English language; or
- (b) refuse the application if the Council is satisfied that the applicant does not comply with the requirements of paragraph (a).

(3) The Council must -

- (a) inform the applicant in writing of its decision made under subregulation (2);
- (b) issue to the applicant a certificate of registration as a hearing aid acoustics intern if the application is granted, in the form determined by the Council;
- (c) enter the name of the applicant into the register;
- (d) if the application is refused, inform the applicant in writing as soon as practicable and the grounds for the refusal.

(4) Despite subregulation (1) of regulation 6 the Council may exempt a person from being registered as a hearing aid acoustics intern or may reduce the period of internship referred to

in regulation 8 by the period that the Council determines if the applicant submits documentary proof to the satisfaction of the Council that he or she has -

- (i) completed practical training substantially equivalent to the training referred to in regulation (8) at a training facility in a country other than Namibia in accordance with the laws of that country pertaining to hearing aid acoustician and hearing aid acoustics interns; or
- (ii) practiced as a hearing aid acoustician in a country other than Namibia in accordance with the laws of that country for the period of time and under the circumstances that afford him or her an experience and training substantially equivalent to the internship training referred to in regulation 8.

Period of internship

- 8.** (1) An intern must complete an internship training for a maximum period of -
- (a) 12 months in the case of a six month internship; or
 - (b) 24 months in the case of a 12 month internship

after the date of the first registration of an intern.

(2) If the internship training in terms of subregulation (1) is interrupted at any time, the internship training must consist of a period which when added together are not less than -

- (a) six months in case of a six month internship; or
- (b) twelve months in case of a twelve month internship.

(3) Any leave including sick leave taken, any other absence from the approved facility or any other interruption in the internship training during the period of internship referred to in subregulation (1) must be added to the period of internship to ensure that an intern completes not less than six or twelve months internship periods when added together.

(4) Subject to regulation 8 if an intern fails to comply with subregulation (1), his or her registration as intern is regarded as cancelled as from the date which the period of 12 or 24 months is exceeded.

(5) The Council may extend in writing, on good cause shown, the period of 12 or 24 months referred to in subregulation (1) within which the hearing aid acoustics internship training must be completed.

Internship

- 9.** (1) A hearing aid acoustics intern must complete his or her internship training at an approved facility or approved facilities as determined by the Council.
- (2) A person may not commence with his or her internship at an approved facility unless he or she -
- (a) is registered with the Council as a hearing aid acoustics intern in accordance with these regulations;

- (b) has entered into a written agreement of internship with the approved facility at which he or she must complete the internship in the form and containing the conditions and particulars that the Council may determine; and
 - (c) has obtained from the Council a written approval of the agreement of internship entered into under paragraph (b).
- (3) The agreement referred to in subregulation (2)(b) must be in the form and contain the conditions and particulars determined by the Council.
- (4) The Council may specify in writing, when approving a facility for the training of hearing aid acoustics interns, that different specific portions of the training of an intern be undertaken at different approved facilities.
- (5) If at any time during the period of internship the Council considers any training provided by the facility to be inadequate or unsatisfactory for any reason, the Council may withdraw its approval of the written agreement of internship referred to in subregulation (1)(c) by written notice to both the facility and the intern after having afforded both the facility and the intern the opportunity to be heard.
- (6) Any period of internship completed by an intern under an agreement of internship cancelled under regulation 7(6) or in respect of which the Council has withdrawn approval under subregulation (5) or terminated in terms of regulation 10 is invalid.
- (7) The Council must furnish an intern with copies of all regulations and rules of professional conduct applicable to environmental health practitioners before internship training starts.
- (8) An intern is subject to all the rules of professional conduct applicable to a hearing aid acoustician during his or her internship.
- (9) The criteria pertaining to hearing aid acoustics internship training are specified in the Annexure.

Commencement and termination of internship and change of name

- 10.** (1) An intern must notify the Council in writing -
- (a) of the commencement as soon as he or she starts the internship and furnish the Council with the name, business address and telephone number and any other particulars that the Council may require of the specific approved facility where he or she has commenced internship;
 - (b) if he or she terminates the internship with the facility referred to in paragraph (a) within a period of 30 days;
 - (c) if he or she intends to terminate the internship with the facility referred to in paragraph (a) and to start internship with any other approved facility not less than 30 days before the date of the intended termination and apply to the Council in the form determined by the Council for approval of the new agreement of internship entered into between the intern and the other approved facility.
- (2) Hearing aid acoustics interns must complete an internship -
- (a) for a period of six months if -

- (i) he or she is a holder of a prescribed qualification in hearing aid acoustics obtained after the full time study of three years; or
 - (ii) he or she provides proof of a previous internship completed in a country other than Namibia;
- (b) for a period of twelve months if he or she is a holder of a prescribed qualification in hearing aid acoustics obtained after the full time study of two years,

at an educational institution approved by the Council.

(3) During the period of time of the internship the intern must successfully complete practical education, tuition and training to the extent as the Council may determine and to the satisfaction of the Council in the discipline specified in the Annexure.

- (4) If the name and surname of an intern is changed for any reason, he or she must -
- (a) give written notice to the Council of the name change and submit documentary proof to the satisfaction of the Council within a period of 30 days after the change; and
 - (b) provide the Council in writing with any other particulars relating to the change of name that the Council may require.

Completion of internship

11. (1) Upon the completion of the internship undertaken by a hearing aid acoustics intern in accordance with these regulations, the intern must submit to the Council proof of completion by means of a certificate to the satisfaction of the Council issued by the facility where he or she completed the internship.

(2) The certificate referred to in subregulation (1) must be in the form and contain the particulars as determined by the Council.

(3) The Council may not register any person as a hearing aid acoustician unless he or she has submitted the certificate referred to in subregulation (1).

PART 4

REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Registerable additional qualifications

12. The following qualifications may be registered as additional qualifications under section 32 of the Act:

Educational Institution	Qualification
Academy of Hearing Aid Acousticians, Luebeck, Germany	German Master Craftsman Certificate in Hearing Aid Acoustics
Academy of Hearing Aid Acousticians Luebeck, Germany	European Association of Hearing Aid Acousticians Diploma
Academy of Hearing Aid Acousticians, Würzburg, Germany	Federal Professional Certificate in Hearing Aid Acoustics

Institute for Vocational Training,
Karlsruhe, Germany

German Master Craftsman Certificate
in Hearing Aid Acoustics

Requirements for registration of additional qualification

13. An application in terms of subsections (2) and (3) of section 32 of the Act for the registration of an additional qualification must be accompanied, in addition to the documents and particulars specified in subsection (3) of that section, by -

- (a) a certified copy of the applicant's identity document or passport;
- (b) documentary proof that the registration authority responsible for the registration of a person to practice as a hearing aid acoustician of the country where the applicant obtained that additional qualification recognises that qualification as one that may be registered as an additional qualification by a hearing aid acoustician registered in that country.

PART 5

REGISTERS AND RESTORATION OF NAME TO REGISTER

Register of hearing aid acousticians

14. The register of hearing aid acousticians established and kept in terms of subsection (2) of section 24 of the Act, must contain, in addition to the particulars specified by subsection (3) of that section -

- (a) the particulars of additional qualifications entered against the name of the hearing aid acoustician in terms of subsection (4) of section 32 of the Act; and
- (b) any change in any of the particulars recorded in the register.

Register of hearing aid acoustics interns

15. The register of hearing aid acoustics interns established and kept in terms of section 24(2)(c) of the Act, must contain, in addition to the particulars specified by subsection (3) of that section -

- (a) particulars of the approved facility where the intern is completing his or her internship;
- (b) the date upon which he or she started the internship and the date upon which it must be completed; and
- (c) any change in any of the particulars recorded in the register.

Restoration of name to register

16. An application in terms of section 26(1) of the Act for the restoration of a person to a register must be accompanied, in addition to the documents and particulars specified in subsection (2) of that section, by -

- (a) a certified copy of the applicant's identity document or passport; and
- (b) the original registration certificate issued to the applicant under section 21(4)(b) of the Act or a certified copy thereof.

PART 6
GENERAL

Language of forms and documents

17. (1) Subject to subregulation (2) any document required to be submitted to the Council or the registrar in terms of the regulations must be in the English language.

(2) Any document that is not in the English language must be accompanied by a sworn translation of it in English.

ANNEXURE

CRITERIA PERTAINING TO SIX OR 12 MONTHS PERIOD HEARING AID ACOUSTICS
INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME
(Regulation 8)

1. The practical training of a hearing aid acoustics intern during the six or 12 months internship period must take place at an approved facility and must cover all of the following domains -

- (a) anatomy and physiology of the ear;
- (b) pathology of the ear;
- (c) application of the basic audiometric test battery;
- (d) hearing health care in industry;
- (e) rehabilitation of the hearing impaired;
- (f) practice management; and
- (g) ethics and jurisprudence.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

Educational Institution and Country
Academy of Hearing Aid Acousticians,
Lubeck, Germany

Qualification
German Journeyman Certificate
in Hearing aid Acoustics

Institute for Hearing aid Acousticians,
Switzerland

Federal Professional Certificate
in Hearing Aid Acoustics
