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**News & Information**

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**Essilor Introduces Thin & Lite® 1.74**

*The thinnest and flattest high-index lenses available*

DALLAS -- (March 10, 2005) – Essilor of America, Inc. will once again transform the lens industry with the introduction of Thin & Lite 1.74 this summer. Available exclusively from Essilor, Thin & Lite 1.74 will be the thinnest and flattest high-index material available, making it a marquis lens choice for patients with high prescriptions.

“Essilor is very proud to exclusively offer the highest index lens on the market.” said Mike Daley, president of Essilor Lenses. “Thin & Lite 1.74 lenses exemplify our continued efforts to bring unmatched material quality combined with unparalleled optics through Varilux® Panamic® and Crizal® Alize™. There is greater light transmission with Crizal Alizé, allowing Eyecare Professionals to offer their patients outstanding vision with Essilor ultra high-index.”

Thin & Lite 1.74 lenses are offered in both single vision and Varilux Panamic. All lenses will be coated with Essilor’s award-winning Crizal Alizé. This anti-reflective treatment prevents dirt deposits on the lens and makes it easier to clean; improving aesthetics, as well as sharpness of vision and contrast sensitivity.

Power ranges for the product are: Thin & Lite 1.74 in Varilux Panamic, -20.00 to +8.00 up to a 4.00 cylinder and single vision, -18.00 to +10.00 up to a 4.00 cylinder.

Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, S.A., a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).

Essilor International is the Official Worldwide Supplier of Ophthalmic Lenses to Special Olympics-Lions Club International Opening Eyes Program®.

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and founding partner of VisionWebSM, [www.visionweb.com](http://www.visionweb.com), the premier Internet-based tool for eye care providers backed by industry leaders. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. The company manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux, Crizal, Airwear® and Essilor brand names. For more information, please see the new [www.essilorusa.com](http://www.essilorusa.com).

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