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**News & Information**

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**Essilor Introduces Ultra LiteStyle Solaire™**  
*The first LiteStyle® or Ultra LiteStyle® TD2® Prescription Sunwear Lens*

DALLAS -- (March 10, 2005) – Catching some rays will be a more comfortable and stylish experience for prescription eyeglass wearers this summer. Last month, Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) launched Ultra LiteStyle Solaire™, a high-performance outdoor lens perfect for an active lifestyle. Available from ELOA as a proprietary brand, LiteStyle®/Ultra Lite Style® polycarbonate prescription sun tint lenses are available with TD2® scratch protection, backside anti-reflective and flashy front surfaces, in addition to 100 percent ultraviolet protection.

In response to consumers' increased demand for prescription sun tint lenses, Essilor has combined LiteStyle/Ultra LiteStyle, TD2 and prescription sun tints to create the Ultra LiteStyle Solaire lens. The LiteStyle and Ultra LiteStyle materials are light, safe, comfortable and thin, which are ideal conditions for drill mount frames. TD2 offers identical scratch resistance on both sides of the lens with unmatched durability. Finally, the prescription sun tints contain systematic backside anti-reflective performance and a fashionable look.

“In a recent Eyecare Professional survey, participants rated the need of having a prescription tinted polycarbonate lens as 8.6 on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the greatest need,” said John Carrier, president of Essilor Laboratories. “With Ultra LiteStyle Solaire, Eyecare Professionals can, for the first time, offer patients a true sunwear style with the durability, comfort, and protection they need from the sun’s powerful rays.”

Tinting polycarbonate lenses has been a challenge. The results are often not dark enough and the tints can scratch, fade, crack, or peel. The Ultra LiteStyle Solaire process, however, creates a chromatic filter that is guaranteed never to scratch, peel or fade for the first two years.

Ultra LiteStyle Solaire™ lenses are specially formed from the patented ColorTect Infusion™ process - created in a state-of-the-art vacuum chamber, completely free of impurities, where microscopic layers of color are fused into the lens. This creates a diamond-hard two-sided scratch protection, backside anti-glare treatment, and a backside hydrophobic topcoat. Ultra LiteStyle Solaire lens tint intensity is a category three, with 85 percent sun tint or 15 percent light transmission. The power range for Ultra LiteStyle Solaire is +6.00 to -5.00 up to a -4.00 cylinder. An economical alternative to polarized sunglasses, the lenses are available in Titanium Gray & Cromium Bown.

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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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