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**News & Information**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ESSILOR AIRWEAR PROGRESSIVE LENSES RECEIVES  
AOA SEAL OF ACCEPTANCE FOR UVA/UVB**

**DALLAS** – (April 28, 2006) – Essilor of America, Inc. announced today that its Varilux<sup>®</sup> Airwear<sup>®</sup> progressive lenses have received the American Optometric Association (AOA) Seal of Acceptance for Ultraviolet Absorbers/Blockers, as well as its Ovation<sup>®</sup>, Essilor Natural<sup>®</sup> and Adaptar<sup>®</sup> progressive lenses made with Airwear material.

The AOA's Seal of Acceptance for Ultraviolet Absorbers/Blockers is one of nine categories in the AOA Seal of Acceptance Program. The AOA's Commission on Ophthalmic Standards evaluates the quality of ophthalmic products, devices and instruments. They specify the minimum requirements and test procedures for acceptance of products for the AOA Seal of Acceptance for Ultraviolet Absorbers/Blockers.

Products meeting the Seal's criteria provide substantial protection of the eye from naturally occurring environmental ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The product sample must not transmit more than one percent UVB (290 to 315 nm) or UVA (315 to 380nm), or  $0.2(\tau_v)$  (where  $\tau_v$  is the luminous transmittance) short wavelength VIS (380 to 400nm) in order to be accepted.

Airwear is a polycarbonate lens that is lighter in weight and thinner than traditional plastic lenses. Airwear offers scratch-resistance, 100 percent ultraviolet absorption, durability and impact-resistance. In addition, Airwear lenses provide enhanced comfort and cosmetic appearance.

“Essilor is thrilled to receive a Seal from the AOA for the second time. Select Airwear progressive lenses join Thin&Lite<sup>®</sup> 1.67, which received the AOA Seal of Acceptance for Ultraviolet Absorbers/Blockers last year,” said Carl Bracy, vice president of marketing for

Essilor of America. “The Seal helps eye care professionals assure patients that they are offering the best the industry has to offer.”

Varilux, Ovation, Essilor Natural and Adaptar progressive lenses made in Airwear will now use the AOA Seal of Acceptance in product labeling and marketing.

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs over 6,100 people in more than 100 facilities throughout the 50 states. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux<sup>®</sup>, Crizal<sup>®</sup>, Thin&Lite<sup>®</sup>, DEFINITY<sup>™</sup> and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eye care professionals across the nation. 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).

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