



News & Information

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ESSILOR OF AMERICA OFFERING NEW COURSES FOR ABO AND COPE CREDIT
Continuing education credit offered through CD-ROM and trade publications

DALLAS – (December 6, 2006) – Essilor of America, Inc. announces that opticians and optometrists now have additional opportunities to obtain American Board of Opticianry (ABO) and Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE) credit through new courses on wavefront technology. The courses, which were previously available through seminars held across the country, are now being offered on CD-ROM and through the November issues of *20/20* and *Review of Optometry*.

“The CD-ROM and editorial options for ABO and COPE credit offer ECPs more opportunities to participate in the continuing education program. We understand that busy schedules sometimes do not permit everyone in the practice to attend a group meeting or seminar,” said Mike Daley, president of Essilor Lenses. “These new options allow ECPs to participate in the course on their own time and will hopefully encourage more people to participate in continuing education programs. It is our intent to make it as easy and accessible as possible for ECPs to learn about wavefront technology, Varilux Physio and obtain continuing education credit.”

The CD-ROM offers the ABO course titled, *Varilux Physio - The Benefits of W.A.V.E. Technology™: Wavefront Advanced Vision Enhancement*. The course has been developed to provide a better understanding of the following components of Varilux Physio 360° and Varilux Physio:

- Past and present progressive lens technology
- The new technology behind Varilux Physio
- The performance benefits Varilux Physio provides

This course takes participants through a 48 slide show, educating opticians on the new technology of Varilux Physio and then gives them the option to take an online test. The test consists of 15 questions, of which the respondents must answer ten correctly to obtain one hour of ABO credit. Certificates are sent by mail within 48 hours to participants that complete and pass the course.

Bonus content features include the following topics:

- *Varilux Physio - Introductory Video*
- *Wavefront, Higher Order Aberrations and W.A.V.E. Technology*
- *Positioning Varilux Physio in Your Practice*

Opticians interested in obtaining the CD-ROM should contact their Essilor sales representative.

Additionally, opticians can obtain one hour of ABO credit by completing a written course available in the November issue of *20/20* and optometrists can obtain one hour of COPE credit in the November issue of *Review of Optometry*. Each magazine contains educational content regarding the technology and benefits of wavefront technology. Once ECPs read and study the material, they have the option to take a written test and send in their answers for grading, credit and their certificate.

In January of 2006, Essilor launched Varilux Physio 360° and Varilux Physio as the first lens designs to deliver the corrective power of W.A.V.E. Technology to presbyopes seeking the sharpest, most natural vision. Through W.A.V.E. Technology: Wavefront Advanced Vision Enhancement, Essilor has adapted the wavefront technology used in laser surgery to correct vision by detecting and even eliminating many surface distortions to perfect progressive lenses. For the first time, Varilux engineers can analyze the entire beam of light entering the pupil and then identify distortion and compensate for it, thus controlling the quality of the wavefront passing through the lens to achieve optimal acuity. W.A.V.E. Technology uses patented, proprietary software in both lens designs to scan the entire surface of the lens, calculating the targeted optical function for each gaze direction. Through these engineering

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advancements, W.A.V.E. Technology achieves unmatched visual acuity and comfort for the wearer.

Varilux Physio 360° offers the ultimate in progressive precision. W.A.V.E. Technology is applied to both the front and back of the lens with 360° Digital Surfacing™, which minimizes distortions and preserves and enhances the effectiveness of the front design. Essilor has developed 360° Digital Surfacing, which combines a patented calculation engine to optimize design, as well as a patented digital surfacing manufacturing process to produce the back side surface of the lens.

For more information, visit www.Varilux.com or www.EssilorUSA.com.

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 more than 8,500 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux®, Crizal®, Thin&Lite®, DEFINITY™ 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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