

Opticians in Employment

Part 05-02-07

Expenses allowable under Section 114 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) 1997

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A more recent version of this manual is available

1 Introduction

The purpose of this manual is to set out the types of payments, made by optometrists and dispensing opticians in employment, that can be deducted from emoluments as expenses under section 114 TCA 1997.

2 Allowable expenses

The items of expenditure which qualify for an expense deduction are:

- (a) Registration fees paid to the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU) (see section 3 below),
- (b) Fees paid to the Opticians Board (prior to 31 October 2015) (see section 3 below), and
- (c) Premiums paid for Professional Indemnity Insurance (see section 4 below).

No deduction is allowed for subscriptions paid to any representative association (the Association of Optometrists Ireland or the Irish Association of Dispensing Opticians).

3 Statutory Registration Fees

A tax deduction may be granted in respect of costs incurred on the annual statutory registration fee paid to the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU).

The Optical Registration Board at CORU was appointed by the Minister for Health in 2015 and, on 31 October 2015, registration with the Opticians Board automatically transferred to the Optical Registration Board at CORU.

Prior to 31 October 2015, the Opticians Act 1956 required all optometrists and dispensing opticians to register with the Opticians Board/Bord na Radharcmhastóirí and to pay an initial registration fee and an annual retention fee. A tax deduction may also be granted in respect of the cost of these fees (prior to 31 October 2015).

4 Professional Indemnity Insurance

Registered optometrists and dispensing opticians must adhere to a Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics. This contains the following statement:

- 21a. ensure that you maintain adequate professional indemnity cover for any assessment, intervention, treatment or service you provide or have provided. In effect, this imposes a legal requirement to hold Professional Indemnity Insurance.

Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians taking up employment will generally be covered by the practice's own indemnity policy. If an optometrist or dispensing optician is required to put his or her own cover in place, a deduction is available to the extent that the expense is incurred wholly, exclusively and necessarily in the performance of the duties of the employment. In practical terms, a deduction is available to the extent that the cover meets the statutory minimum requirement.

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