

Refractometry/Refraction Survey of IOA Member and Associate Member Countries

This **2012-2013** survey of IOA member countries obtained answers to the following two questions: **in which countries do orthoptists perform retinoscopy** and **in which member countries are orthoptists legally permitted to prescribe corrective lenses**.

Please note that for the purpose of this survey refractometry could mean any of the following technique were used: minus or plus cylinder techniques, subjective or objective, using a phoropter or loose lenses, manifest or with cycloplegic drops, dynamic or autorefraction. Further information on the topic of orthoptists and their involvement in refractometry/refraction will be obtained and updated on a regular basis.

Definition of Terms

Refractometry: is a technique to obtain a subjective or objective measurement of the refractive error of a patient's eyes

Refraction: the art of performing refractometry and prescribing corrective lenses **Refraction is also a term that is used to describe the bending of light as it passes from one substance to another**

Country	Refractometry	Legally permitted to Prescribe
AUSTRALIA	YES	YES
AUSTRIA	YES	NO
BELGIUM	YES	NO
CANADA	YES	NO
FRANCE	YES	NO
GERMANY	YES	NO
INDIA	YES	YES
ITALY	YES	NO
JAPAN	YES	YES
THE NETHERLANDS	YES	YES
PORTUGAL	YES	YES
SCANDINAVIA	<i>Sweden : only some orthoptists</i>	<i>Sweden : only some orthoptists</i>
SWITZERLAND	YES	NO
UK	YES	NO
USA	NO	NO
ASIA PACIFIC Singapore	YES	YES
BRAZIL	NO	NO
CZECH REPUBLIC	NO	NO
HONG KONG	unknown	unknown
NEW ZEALAND	YES	NO
SOUTH AFRICA	NO	NO