

DENTASA UPDATE:

New website

Have you visited the new DENTASA website? The site has a new easy to find address www.dentasa.org.za, and an easy to find menu bar to keep you informed of all exciting events happening in the dental industry. We hope to bring you the political news activities and legislation affecting dental technologist as well as DENTASA matters and event.

News and gossip are the lifeblood of the industry, so we have all the latest developments for you, as well as technical article downloads provided by the traders in our industry. Please let us know what you think using our contact details.

Even those who are looking to relocate to a new area of the country can find job opportunities listed on the new job section.

Toll Free Number

DENTASA implemented a 0800 toll free number to help clean up the industry. The initial idea was that technicians name dentists and technicians who took and gave discounts, in exchange for amnesty. The SADTC however was not prepared to give a blanket amnesty to all who came clean.

Although this was a setback, it was decided to keep the line active until 15 December 2006 in case any technician still want to make use of it. The Toll Free Number is **0800 205 217**

Crack down on Fraud

The biggest news story of the year is the strong campaign by the Health Professions Council, SARS and the SADTC to stop fraud in the medical industry. The years of never policing the discounts and kickbacks given to dentist must stop.

These bodies have made it public that fraud in the industry must be eliminated and they will fine and prosecute those involved. It is time for dental lab's to stop doing what they know is wrong.

Firstly it is important to explain that The Dental Technician's Council (SADTC) is a statutory body, which falls under the department of health. It is a regulatory body, which is in place to regulate the dental technology industry in the interest of the **public**.

Since the inception of the dental technician's Act of 1979, it has been stated clearly in section 32 that

“No dental technician or dental technologist shall offer or allow to or accept from any dentist any discount on the tariff of fees determined under section 12(1) (b), or may in connection with his or her work as a dental technician or dental technologist, as the case may be, offer or pay any commission or remuneration to a dentist, and no dentist may propose, offer, or accept such discount, commission or remuneration to or from any dental technician or dental technologist.”

This regulation is annually reprinted in Government Gazette with the tariff of fees for that respected year.

DENTASA is not a regulatory body. Like SADA, it is an association for members to join where relevant matters affecting the profession can be discussed and a common standpoint can be achieved and pushed for by the association to the relevant regulatory body.

The stronger the association is in members, the better DENTASA can work towards advancing the profession to a level where the public can respect and admire the work of dental technologist.

It is also important to note that a dental technician contractor may charge a higher fee than that provided for in the fee schedule. The higher tariff charged by a dental technician contractor must be by

prior agreement between the parties concerned and must be clearly indicated on the invoice rendered to the patient.

Payment to laboratories:

- Every dental technician contractor shall complete, in triplicate, a separate tax invoice in the form prescribed in Annexure A of the government gazette, in respect of each patient for all work completed for such patient as prescribed by a dentist on the work slip referred to in rule '004.
- The original and one duplicate of the tax invoice shall accompany the completed work when such work is delivered.
- Every dental technician contractor shall render a monthly statement, in the form prescribed in Annexure B of the government gazette, of all the work done during the month concerned, to the dentists for whom he/she has performed such work.
- The dentist shall pay every monthly statement submitted by a dental technician contractor to him/her in full not later than **one** month from the date of submission of such account. This account must be treated as a trust account.
- The dental technician contractor shall issue a receipt to the dentist for all payments made and he/she shall retain a duplicate copy of such receipt for a period not less than five years.

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