

GERMAN OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS ARE NOW AUTHORISED TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATORY EYE TESTS FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS



SARAH KÖSTER

Abteilungsleiterin
Kommunikation, ZVA

THE ZENTRALVERBAND DER AUGENOPTIKER UND OPTOMETRISTEN (ZVA) WELCOMES THE CHANGE

The extension of authorisation to carry out eye tests to driving licence categories C, C1, CE, C1E, D, D1, DE and D1E, as well as licences for passenger transport, has come into force: since 18 August, opticians' practices have been able to carry out and certify the mandatory eye tests.

For the Association of Ophthalmic Opticians and Optometrists (ZVA), the new regulation represents a significant professional achievement and clear legal recognition of ophthalmic opticians' and optometrists' specialist expertise.

Anyone applying for or renewing a driving licence for the relevant professional driver categories must provide the driving licence authority with evidence of a more comprehensive eye test.

Under the new regulations, opticians' practices can now also carry out the prescribed tests for central daytime visual acuity, colour vision, contrast and twilight vision, visual field and stereoscopic vision, and issue the relevant certificate, provided they meet the legal requirements.

"In future, lorry and bus drivers will have significantly more opportunities to have the prescribed eye test carried out close to home and without unnecessary waiting times. At the same time, the new regulation represents an important professional achievement for the optometry sector: The legislator

MORE CHOICE AND CONVENIENCE FOR PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS

By opening up the sector to optometry practices, the existing range of examination centres can be significantly expanded.

Particularly for the transport and passenger transport sectors, which rely on predictable processes, the expansion of examination options could provide significant relief.

According to estimates by the National Regulatory Review Board, around 125,000 people could make use of this new option each year. In addition to shorter journeys and better availability of appointments, this also offers the potential for financial savings.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND ROAD SAFETY

The extension of the authority to carry out examinations does not imply any lowering of standards. Opticians' practices must have the necessary qualified staff, equipment and operational facilities to carry out the examinations.

For the ZVA, which has drawn up corresponding implementation recommendations for its guild members, this also represents the consistent utilisation of existing professional structures: opticians and optometrists possess comprehensive expertise in testing visual acuity and are available nationwide and close to where people live.

The ZVA had campaigned vigorously during the political process for the inclusion of the optometry sector. After

thereby expressly recognises that optometrists possess the professional expertise to carry out such examinations – which are vital for road safety – in a quality-assured manner,” explains ZVA President Kai Jaeger.

the Bundesrat approved the relevant regulation on 10 July 2026, it was published in the Federal Law Gazette on 17 August. The amendments relevant to the optometry sector have been in force since 18 August 2026.



ZVA