



August 19, 2025

Re: Regulatory Requirements for Dental Technology

Dear dentists, office managers, and other interested individuals,

We are reaching out to inform you of a new regulatory requirement from the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD) that may affect some of your team members – specifically, employees of dental clinics or dentist-owned laboratories who are engaging in the practice of dental technology. The NSRDHDTD reached out to the NSRDDA and the NSDA earlier in the summer to help us better understand these changes.

As you likely know, on May 1, 2025 there were legislation changes affecting all oral health professions in Nova Scotia as they migrated under the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).

The regulatory bodies for dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism were amalgamated into a single entity – the NSRDHDTD.

Unauthorized Practice

The *RHPA* and the related Regulations are clear that an individual can engage in the practice of a health profession in Nova Scotia only if they are registered and licensed or otherwise authorized by the regulatory body in the province.

While this may seem obvious for dentists, physicians, and nurses, the same is true for all regulated health professions including those practising dental technology.

Dental Technology Scope of Practice

The scope of practice for dental technology is set out in Section 9 of the the [NSRDHDTD Regulations](#).

IMPORTANT: Oral health professions' scopes of practice can overlap. Therefore it is important to note that as per Section 25 of the [NSRDHDTD Regulations](#), "nothing [in the [NSRDHDTD Regulations](#)]....prohibits....the practice of dentistry by a licensed dentist under the Act [or] the practice of dental assisting by a licensed dental assistant under the Act". (The same provision is set out in Section 21 of the [Dentistry and Dental Assisting Regulations](#).)

Who Practises Dental Technology?

Dental Technology is performed by both:

- dental technologists (DTs), and
- dental laboratory technicians (DLTs).

What are the differences in the regulatory oversight of DTs and DLTs? Very broadly, they are as follows:

Profession	Regulatory Oversight
Dental Technologists (DTs)	Must be licensed by the NSRDHDTD to engage in the practice of dental technology
Dental Laboratory Technicians (DLTs)	Must obtain a permit from the NSRDHDTD to engage in the practice of dental technology Must work under supervision

These requirements for licensing or permitting (and supervision in the case of DLT) exist whether dental technology is performed in a traditional dental laboratory or in another oral health setting (including a dental office or a dentist-owned laboratory). For full details on the requirements for DTs and DLTs, please go to the [NSRDHDTD website](#).

Who can Supervise a DLT?

According to the NSRDHDTD's [Standard of Practice: Supervising DLTs](#) as it currently exists, DLTs must be supervised by an NSRDHDTD registrant (Dental Technologists, Dental Hygienists, or Denturists).

However, we understand that supervision by a dentist licensed with the NSRDDA may be granted as a permit condition by the NSRDHDTD Registrar on a case-by-case basis, where it is determined that all other components of the Standard can be met.

License or Permit Required

We gather that according to NSRDHDTD Regulations, Bylaws, and Policies, all DTs and DLTs practising dental technology in Nova Scotia must apply to obtain a license or permit (as the case requires) regardless of the practice environment. As well, practising dental technology without a licence or a permit after November 1, 2025, in a dental practice or dentist-owned lab will be a contravention of the [RHPA](#).

The general DT and DLT registration and permitting period took place earlier this year. The application window for DLTs working in dental offices and dentist-owned laboratories is now open and closes on October 6, 2025.

You should direct individuals in your office who are engaged in dental technology to the communicate at this [link](#) or advise them to contact the [NSRDHDTD](#) directly to get more information.

Dental Technology “Adjacent” Activities

We understand from the NSRDHDTD that individuals working in dental clinics and laboratories who are performing tasks incidental to the delivery of dental technology services but not within the scope of dental technology do not need to apply for a DLT permit.

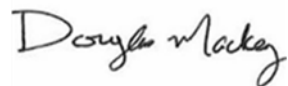
For clarity, this could be administrative or support staff who:

- disinfect impressions,
- pour stone models,
- print 3D models,
- scan models but do not design dental prosthetics,
- maintain laboratory or clinic equipment, etc.

Questions?

You, or those practising dental technology in your setting, should reach out directly to the [NSRDHDTD](#) if you have questions about these regulatory requirements.

Sincerely,



Dr. Doug Mackey
Registrar, NSRDDA



Steve Jennex
Executive Director, NSDA