Rules of
Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration
Division 2165—Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists
Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.010 Hearing Instrument Specialist in Training (Temporary Permits)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.020 Supervisors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.025 Application Procedures</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.030 Licensure by Examination</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.040 Licensure by Reciprocity</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.050 Continuing Education Requirements</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.060 License Renewal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 CSR 2165-2.070 Public Complaint Handling and Disposition Procedure</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
Division 2165—Board of Examiners for
Hearing Instrument Specialists
Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements

20 CSR 2165-2.010 Hearing Instrument Specialist in Training (Temporary Permits)

PURPOSE: This rule clarifies the process by which an individual may apply for a permit to practice as a hearing instrument specialist in training, and defines time limit and supervision requirements for the temporary permit holder.

(1) Any individual seeking to develop the skills and training necessary to obtain a license under section 346.075, RSMo, shall register supervision and apply for a temporary permit to engage in the practice of fitting hearing instruments as defined by section 346.010(11), RSMo. An application for registration of supervision shall be made on a form provided by the board and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee as prescribed in 20 CSR 2165-1.020. The application shall not be considered proper and final until qualifications of the supervisor match the criteria as prescribed in 20 CSR 2165-2.020.

(2) An approved temporary permit shall entitle the hearing instrument specialist in training to engage in the practice of fitting hearing instruments as defined by section 346.010(11), RSMo, for a period of one (1) year.

(A) If a person holding a permit has not passed the examination within the one (1)-year period, the hearing instrument specialist in training may renew the permit once for a period of six (6) months upon payment of the applicable fee as prescribed in 20 CSR 2165-1.020.

(B) The six (6)-month renewal term shall commence immediately following the expiration of the temporary permit, regardless of when the renewal application is received by the board, such that a hearing instrument specialist in training shall not hold a temporary permit beyond eighteen (18) months from the date the temporary permit was originally issued.

(3) The hearing instrument specialist in training shall accrue no less than one hundred (100) hours of supervision from a licensed hearing instrument specialist registered as a supervisor pursuant to 20 CSR 2165-2.020 prior to becoming eligible for licensure by examination.

(4) If the hearing instrument specialist in training ceases to practice under an approved supervisor and/or changes supervision, s/he shall notify the board by filing a change of supervision form and paying the change of supervision fee as defined in 20 CSR 2165-1.020. The change of supervision is subject to review pursuant to 20 CSR 2165-2.010(2).

(5) Each applicant for a hearing instrument specialist in training permit as provided in section 346.075, RSMo, must indicate on the application form the name, business address and license number of the registered supervisor.

(6) The practice of fitting hearing instruments by a hearing instrument specialist in training shall be performed according to the registered supervisor’s order, control, guidance and professional responsibility.

(7) A hearing instrument specialist in training shall be trained in the following procedures during his/her training period:

(A) Air conduction thresholds, with masking where appropriate;
(B) Bone conduction thresholds, with masking where appropriate;
(C) Speech reception thresholds, with masking where appropriate, utilizing test equipment with a calibrated circuit;
(D) Word recognition scores, with masking where appropriate, utilizing test equipment with a calibrated circuit;
(E) A verification of hearing instrument benefit;
(F) Ear impressions; and
(G) Visual otoscopy.

(8) Upon completion of any registered supervised experience, the hearing instrument specialist in training shall request an attestation form from the board to be completed by the registered supervisor and returned to the board.

(9) The hearing instrument specialist in training must be identified by a temporary permit number and use one of the following titles: “hearing instrument specialist in training,” “trainee” or “temporary permit holder” in any sales contract or other documents available to the consumer, and referring to the temporary permit holder. Initiats or acronyms representing these titles shall not be used.

(10) A temporary permit is not required for students attending a hearing sciences program at an accredited college or university that are participating in a practicum to complete that program. The student must be under the direct supervision of a registered supervisor. Direct supervision shall mean the licensed hearing instrument specialist is on the premises where the patient is being treated and is quickly and easily available and the patient has been examined by a licensed hearing instrument specialist at such times as acceptable hearing instrument specialist practice requires. Such students shall not identify themselves as a “hearing instrument specialist,” “hearing instrument specialist in training” or a “temporary permit holder.”

AUTHORITY: sections 346.070, 346.075, 346.080, and 346.115.1(7), RSMo 2000.*


20 CSR 2165-2.020 Supervisors

PURPOSE: This rule outlines and explains the responsibilities and requirements of a registered supervisor.

(1) A licensed hearing instrument specialist may obtain a certificate of authority as a registered supervisor by completing an application from the board and paying the required fee as defined in 20 CSR 2165-1.020.

(2) A registered supervisor of a hearing instrument specialist in training must be licensed in Missouri as a hearing instrument specialist for a minimum of two (2) years.

(A) A licensed hearing instrument specialist who holds any professional license which is or has been subject to probation, suspension, or revocation may be prohibited from serving as a supervisor of a hearing instrument specialist in training; and

(B) Within twelve (12) months of the effective date of the proposed rule, as published in the Code of State Regulations, a licensed hearing instrument specialist shall pass the National Competency Examination (N.C.E.)
20 CSR 2165-2—DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Division 2165—Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists

Purpose: This rule outlines the procedure for applying for licensure as a hearing instrument specialist and/or a hearing instrument specialist in training.

1. Applications for licensure must be made on the forms provided by the board. Application forms may be obtained by requesting them from the Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists, PO Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or on the board’s website www.pr.mo.gov/hearing.asp.

2. Applications must be legible (printed or typed), signed, notarized, and accompanied by the appropriate fees. The fee must be in the form of a cashier’s check, personal check, or money order.

3. The following documents must be on file for an application to be considered complete:
   (A) Completed application;
   (B) Appropriate fee;
   (C) Proof of acceptable educational credentials as evidenced by an official transcript sent directly to the board by the school;
   (D) A current, standard passport photo, one and one-half inches by two inches (1.5" × 2.0"), must be attached to the application; and
   (E) Verification of licensure must be submitted by each state where the applicant has ever been licensed.

4. All forms must be completed and received by the board by the established deadline.


20 CSR 2165-2.025 Application Procedures

Purpose: This rule outlines the procedure for applying for licensure as a hearing instrument specialist and/or a hearing instrument specialist in training.

1. Applications for licensure must be made on the forms provided by the board. Application forms may be obtained by requesting them from the Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists, PO Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO 65102-1335. The telephone number is (573) 751-0240 and TDD number is (800) 735-2966.

2. The board shall not consider any application for examination unless it is completed, accompanied by all required documentation and properly notarized.

3. Applications shall be received by the board no later than thirty (30) days prior to the examination. Applications received or completed less than the thirty (30) days before the next examination scheduled may not be considered for examination.

4. Applicants with special needs addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act must notify the board office at least thirty (30) days prior to the examination to ensure that reasonable accommodations are made. Notification may be forwarded in writing and mailed to the Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists, PO Box 1335, 3605 Missouri Boulevard, Jefferson City, MO 65102 or by calling (573) 751-0240. The text telephone number for the hearing impaired is (800) 735-2966.

5. The examination may be administered by the board in two (2) general parts, one (1) written and one (1) practical. The examination shall be conducted by the board or its designee. The following procedures and requirements shall apply:

   (A) It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to furnish all equipment needed. In order to ensure the integrity of the practical portion of the examination and that it adequately tests the applicant’s abilities, the board may determine what equipment an applicant is permitted to use and may prohibit the use of any particular equipment containing memory storage, unless it can be demonstrated and verified that the memory can be erased. Equipment shall be in good working order as evidenced by a receipt of

   (B) The examination shall be conducted by the board or its designee. The following procedures and requirements shall apply:

   (C) The examination shall be conducted by the board or its designee. The following procedures and requirements shall apply:

   (D) The examination shall be conducted by the board or its designee. The following procedures and requirements shall apply:
Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements

20 CSR 2165-2

PURPOSE: This rule outlines the requirements for applying for licensure by reciprocity.

(1) An applicant with a license to engage in the practice of fitting hearing instruments in another state or jurisdiction as defined in section 346.050, RSMo, may be granted licensure in Missouri without examination provided the applicant submits evidence of his/her qualifications acceptable to the board.

(2) For the purpose of this rule, “evidence acceptable to the board” shall include, but not be limited to, a completed application on forms provided by the board, documentation of licensure which shall contain information concerning the requirements in force at the time the applicant was licensed, the method of licensing including examination results, date of original licensure, current status of the applicant’s license and applicable fee.

20 CSR 2165-2.050 Continuing Education Requirements

PURPOSE: This rule provides the requirements for continuing education for a licensed hearing instrument specialist.

(1) The following guidelines govern the attendance and approval of educational programs for license renewal:

(A) The board may approve individual educational programs whose curriculum provides training which enhances the licensee’s ability to dispense hearing instruments and which benefits the hearing impaired. Documentation supporting the educational program’s relevance is required. The board will automatically approve continuing education programs that are approved by the following organizations without requiring documentation supporting the educational program’s relevance:

1. International Hearing Society (IHS);
2. American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA);
3. American Academy of Audiology (AAA);

(B) Any group or individual that wishes to sponsor an educational program to meet the standards for annual license renewal in Missouri that is not approved by the organizations listed in subsection (1)(A) of this rule, shall submit a copy of the program schedule and outline to the board. The outline shall indicate the program subject, the number of hours required for its presentation and the identity and qualifications of the speakers and instructors and shall be submitted to the board no less than sixty (60) days prior to the presentation of the program;

(C) The licensee may submit the information outlined in 20 CSR 2165-2.050(1)(B) to the board for review and approval.

20 CSR 2165-2.060 License Renewal

PURPOSE: This rule clarifies the license renewal requirements and procedures.

(1) Every licensed hearing instrument specialist must notify the Board of Examiners for...
Hearing Instrument Specialists of every change in their office address(es) within fifteen (15) working days.

(2) Every licensed hearing instrument specialist shall display his/her current license in a conspicuous place in his/her office. A hearing instrument specialist working outside of the office shall have available for review his/her current official wallet license at all times.

(3) Each person who engages in the fitting and selling of hearing instruments shall, on or before the renewal date, pay the required fees, present annual receipts of calibration of all audiometers and obtain satisfactory evidence that continuing education requirements have been completed. No person whose license has expired and who applies for renewal will be required to submit to an examination as a condition of renewal, if this renewal application is made within two (2) years from the date of expiration.

(4) Prior to January 1, 2004, the following guidelines govern the attendance of educational programs for annual license renewal:

(A) The licensee shall provide evidence of attendance upon request of the board. Every licensee shall maintain full and complete records of all approved continuing education hours earned for the two (2) previous reporting periods in addition to the current reporting period. Such records shall include all attendance certificates of approved continuing education programs. The board may conduct an audit of licensees to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements. Licensees shall provide all approved continuing education certificates to the board within fifteen (15) days of the board’s request of such documentation;

(B) This evidence must demonstrate that the licensee attended a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of approved educational hearing instrument programs during the current reporting period;

(C) The continuing education reporting period shall consist of a two (2)-year period. It shall begin on January 1 of each numbered years and end on December 31 of the following year.

(5) Effective January 1, 2004, the following guidelines govern the attendance of educational requirements for biennial license renewal:

(A) The licensee shall provide evidence of attendance upon request of the board. Every licensee shall maintain full and complete records of all approved continuing education hours earned for the two (2) previous reporting periods in addition to the current reporting period. Such records shall include all attendance certificates of approved continuing education hours. The board may conduct an audit of licensees to verify compliance with the continuing education requirements. Licensees shall provide all approved continuing education certificates to the board within fifteen (15) days of the board’s request of such documentation;

(B) This evidence must demonstrate that the licensee attended a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of approved educational hearing instrument programs during the current reporting period; and

(C) The continuing education reporting period shall consist of a one (1)-year period. It shall begin each year on January 1 and end on December 31 of that same year.

(6) When an organization owns or leases all or a portion of the audiometers utilized by the hearing instrument specialist employed, the organization must submit annual receipt of calibration as required in 20 CSR 2165-2.060(3). A hearing instrument specialist employed with such an organization who utilizes only this equipment may reference this annual receipt as evidence of compliance with his/her annual calibration requirements.

(7) The first twelve (12) hours of the continuing education requirements will be waived during the initial year of licensure as a hearing instrument specialist. Effective January 1, 2004, the new licensee will be required to obtain the remaining twelve (12) hours of the twenty-four (24)-hour continuing education requirement should the licensee become licensed in the first year of the continuing education reporting period. If the new licensee becomes licensed in the second year of the continuing education reporting period, the continuing education requirement shall be waived for that reporting period.

(8) Reactivation of Non-Current License.

(A) Any hearing instrument specialist license, which is not renewed prior to the expiration date of the license, shall become non-current. Persons with non-current licenses shall not engage in the fitting of hearing instruments.

(B) In order to reactivate a non-current license the hearing instrument specialist must submit the following:

1. Renewal application;
2. Renewal fee;
3. Reactivation fee;
4. Annual calibration receipt;
5. Prior to January 2004, proof of twelve (12) hours of attendance at an approved continuing education program(s).

These hours must have been obtained during the preceding twelve (12) months from the date of application for reactivation;

6. Effective January 2004, proof of twenty-four (24) hours of attendance at an approved continuing education program(s). These hours must have been obtained during the preceding twenty-four (24) months from the date of application for reactivation.

(C) Hearing instrument specialists may reactivate a non-current license within two (2) years of its expiration date. Any hearing instrument specialist license not reactivated within two (2) years of the expiration date shall become void.

(9) Inactive License.

(A) A hearing instrument specialist may choose to place his/her license on an inactive status by signing an affidavit stating that s/he will not engage in the practice or be involved in any aspect, administrative or otherwise, of the practice of fitting hearing instruments in Missouri, which would include serving as a supervisor of a hearing instrument specialist in training and submitting that affidavit with the renewal application and the appropriate fee to the board office. The license issued to all applicants shall be stamped “inactive.”

(B) In order for a hearing instrument specialist to activate an inactive license, the licensee shall submit to the board office—

1. The renewal application;
2. The balance of the active renewal fee.
No fee will be prorated;

3. Evidence that the licensee has completed the required continuing education credits in accordance with 20 CSR 2165-2.060(5) for each renewal cycle that the license is inactive. These required approved continuing education credits shall not exceed a total of fifty (50) hours. These hours must have been obtained during the preceding twenty-four (24) months from the date of application for restoration to active status;

4. Annual calibration receipt;
5. The license stamped “inactive”; and
6. Registered supervisors must submit proof of current board certification.

(C) The board will issue an inactive license, which shall be effective until the next regular renewal date. No penalty fee shall apply.

20 CSR 2165-2.070 Public Complaint Handling and Disposition Procedure

PURPOSE: This rule establishes a procedure for the receipt, handling and disposition of public complaints by the division.

(1) The office will receive and process each complaint made against any licensee or hearing instrument specialist in training which complaint alleges certain acts or practices which may constitute one (1) or more violations of the provisions of Chapter 346, RSMo. Any member of the public or the profession, or any federal, state or local official may make and file a complaint with the department. Complaints from sources outside Missouri will be received and processed in the same manner as those originating within Missouri. No member of the board shall file a complaint with this division while they hold that office, unless the member excuses him/herself from further board deliberations or activity concerning matters alleged within that complaint. Any executive director or any staff member within the division may file a complaint pursuant to this rule in the same manner as any member of the public.

(2) Complaints should be mailed or delivered to the following address: Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists, 3605 Missouri Boulevard, P.O. Box 1335, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-1335. Complaints may be made based upon personal knowledge or upon information and belief reciting information received from other sources. Telephone number (573) 751-0240. TDD number (800) 735-2966.

(3) All complaints shall be made in writing and shall fully identify the complainant by name and address. Complaints shall be made on forms provided by the board. Oral or telephone communication will not be considered or processed as complaints. However, the person making this communication will be provided with a complaint form and requested to complete it in writing and return it to the office.

(4) Each complaint received under this rule shall be acknowledged in writing. The licensee or subject of the complaint shall be informed as to whether the complaint is being investigated. Both the licensee and the complainant shall be notified of the ultimate disposition of the complaint, excluding judicial appeals and shall be provided with copies of the ultimate disposition (if any) of the Administrative Hearing Commission and the board. The provisions of this section shall not apply to complaints filed by staff members of the board based on information and belief, acting in reliance on third-party information received by the division.

(5) Both the complaint and any information obtained as a result of the investigation shall be considered a closed record and shall not be available for inspection by the general public. However, a copy of the complaint and any attachments shall be provided to any licensee who is the subject of that complaint or their legal counsel, upon written request to the office.

(6) This rule shall not be deemed to limit the board's authority to file a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commission charging a licensee or hearing instrument specialist in training of the board with any actionable conduct or violation, whether or not any public complaint has been filed with the board.
