The scope and competency of optical and optometric professionals is set out in 4 levels - with each level adding more to the scope and competency of a professional. Category 4 is the highest level.*

Category 1 is usually referred to as an optician and categories 2-4 as optometrists (in some countries these are combined into one professional group). In most countries, professionals of categories 2-4 are considered health care professions.

* These categories are adapted from the World Council of Optometry “A Global Competency-Based Model of Scope of Practice in Optometry”