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ESSILOR

File N° 82-4944



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From : Véronique Gillet
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March 4, 2003

Securities and Exchange Commission
Division of Corporate Finance
Room 3094 (3-6)
450 Fifth Street
Washington, D.C. 20549
U.S.A.

SUPPL

Re: ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL/ exemption pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b)

To whom it may concern:

This letter is provided to the Securities and Exchange Commission in order to update the Essilor file.

Please find enclosed our French and English latest press release.

Sincerely,

Véronique Gillet
Véronique Gillet
VP Investor Relations

DLG 3/11

PROCESSED

MAR 19 2003

**THOMSON
FINANCIAL**

Encl.: Acquisition of SLC and polarized lens technology



PRESS RELEASE

**Essilor Acquires Specialty Lens Corp
and Polarized Lens Technology**

Charenton-le-Pont, France, (March 4, 2003) -- Essilor has announced the acquisition of Specialty Lens Corp (SLC), a US company that designs, manufactures and markets prescription polarized sunglass lenses. Based in Salt Lake City, Utah, SLC employs 40 people and has sales of approximately \$4 million.

The polarization process consists of casting a polarized film into a lens during manufacture. The film blocks horizontal light, resulting in a high value-added sunglass lens that eliminates glare and reflected light from water, snow, roads and other horizontal surfaces.

The polarized sunglass lens market has grown considerably in recent years. While still concentrated mainly in the United States, it is developing rapidly in Europe and Japan.

Essilor is already active in the segment, marketing polarized lenses purchased from a number of manufacturers, including SLC. Today, it has decided to acquire the technology in order to develop its full potential and enhance the Company's range of high value-added products.

SLC will be a part of Essilor's North American Production Division. SLC's current management team will remain in charge of operations.

Essilor International is the world leader in ophthalmic optical products, offering a wide range of lenses under the flagship Varilux®, Crizal®, Airwear® and Essilor® brands to correct myopia, hyperopia, presbyopia and astigmatism. Essilor operates worldwide through 18 production centers, 160 lens finishing laboratories and local distribution networks. The Essilor share trades on the Euronext Paris market (Euroclear: 12166; Reuters: ESSI.PA; Bloomberg: EF FP).

Investor Relations and Financial Communication

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