

19 June 2024

Dear INSETA Stakeholder

**RE: Stakeholder Communique – Implications on the Directive on the Implementation and Transitional Arrangements for PRE-2009 Qualifications (under SAQA Act, 1995): Directive #50742 issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

**1. Background (extract from Gazette)**

- 1.1 The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Act (Act 58 of 1995) provided for the eight-level National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Unit standard based qualifications, unit standards and qualifications not based on unit standards were registered at various levels on the eight-level NQF. The SAQA Act was repealed in 2008 and replaced by the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act (Act 67 of 2008). The NQF Act provides for a ten-level NQF with three distinct sub-frameworks with a quality council responsible for the development and quality assurance of its specific sub-framework. Each sub-framework developed its sub-framework policy that identifies the qualification types to be registered at each level of the NQF.
- 1.2 The NQF Act (2008), in section 36, makes allowance for transitional arrangements between the SAQA Act (1995) and the NQF Act (2008).
- 1.3 The Ministerial Determination in 2012 indicated that all qualifications registered on the eight-level NQF will not be re-registered and must be replaced with qualifications as per the sub-framework policies. All pre-2009 qualifications allocated to the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) were to reach their registration end date on 30 June 2015. The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) requested extension until 30 June 2018 as it was a newly established council, and not enough occupational qualifications were developed to replace the pre-2009 qualifications, at the time. The QCTO thereafter requested the re-registration of the pre-2009 qualifications until 30 June 2023 to allow for the development and implementation of the new occupational qualifications.
- 1.4 In 2020, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation published implementation and transitional arrangements for all pre-2009 qualifications (Under the SAQA Act, 1995) in a Determination of the sub-frameworks that comprise the National Qualifications Framework (Notice number on 1391 on Government Gazette No. 44031 published on 24 December 2020).
- 1.5 Sections 12 to 15 state:
  - a) The registration end date for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the OQSF shall be 30 June 2023;
  - b) The last date of first-time learners enrolling for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the OQSF shall be 30 June 2024;
  - c) The last date of achievement for learners enrolled for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the OQSF shall be 30 June 2027; and
  - d) The Quality Councils must ensure that the accreditation period for the pre-2009 qualifications coincide with the ministerial determination.

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- 1.6 In addition, the revised QQSF policy was published in 2021, identifying 9 occupational qualification types from NQF level 1 to 8. The policy states that all occupational qualifications registered on the QQSF must be reviewed and aligned to the qualification types as stated in the QQSF (2021).
- 1.7 A total of 1 475 pre-2009 qualifications reached their registration end date on 30 June 2023. The last date of first-time learners enrolling for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the QQSF is 30 June 2024, less than 2 months from the date of this gazette. It was however found that a number of pre-2009 qualifications have not been prioritised by the SETAs for review and alignment to the QQSF policy (2021). In the case of INSETA, 6 Qualifications are affected.
- 1.8 Although SETAs have been well informed of the transition since the establishment of the QCTO in 2009; have been specifically engaged to replace qualifications since 2018 (towards the 2023 expiry); and have been instructed by the Ministerial determination in 2020; they have not all adequately taken up this function.
- 1.9 Against this background, and after considering advice from SAQA and the QCTO, this directive amends the implementation and transitional arrangements for pre-2009 qualifications (under the SAQA Act, 1995) and puts in place a structured process to track and support the full implementation and transitional arrangements within the short to medium term.

## 2. Implication and Understanding

- 2.1 This directive replaces the pre-2009 arrangement and as such the following is recorded as a **decision** taken by INSETA:

- a) Registration of 1<sup>st</sup> time learners for existing legacy qualifications is extended by one year (12 Months). The deadline to exit all learners participating in legacy qualifications remains unchanged as 31<sup>st</sup> June 2027..
- b) Affected INSETA legacy qualifications that are extended include:

QUALIFICATION TITLE	SAQA ID	STATUS
Short-Term Insurance NQF Level 4	49929	In Realignment
Short-Term Insurance NQF Level 5	57918	In Realignment
Long-Term Insurance NQF Level 4	69649	In Realignment
Wealth Management NQF Level 4	66613	In Realignment
Wealth Management NQF Level 5	57608	In Realignment
Retail Insurance NQF Level 4	49835	In Realignment

- c) Accreditation of Skills Development Providers (SDPs) by INSETA is extended up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027 to allow for 2.1(a) and exiting of learners. This applies **only** to SDPs with learner enrolments. Individual letters of extension will be issued to SDPs.
- d) Constituent registration of **active** assessors and moderators that are linked to SDP's delivering legacy qualifications will be extended up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027 to allow for 2.1(a) and exiting of learners. Individual letters of extension will be issued to Assessors and Moderators.
- e) **Currently** registered Occupational Qualifications that have NOT yet been reviewed and whose expiry date is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 are extended to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025. These Include:

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OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION TITLE	SAQA ID	STATUS
Claims Assessor NQF Level 4	99668	In Review
<i>Financial Advisor NQF Level 6</i>	105026	In Review
<i>Long-Term Insurance Advisor NQF Level 5</i>	105021	In Review
<i>Health Care benefits Advisor NQF Level 5</i>	105025	In Review
<i>Investment Advisor NQF Level 5</i>	105022	In Review
<i>Employee &amp; Pension Funds Benefits Advisor NQF Level 5</i>	105030	In Review
<i>Organisational Risk Manager</i>	97387	Due for review
<i>Organisational Risk Practitioner</i>	94222	Due for review
<i>Professional Principal Executive Officer NQF Level 7</i>	93602	Due for review
<i>Professional Principal Executive Officer Retirement Fund Trustee NQF Level 5</i>	99574	Due for review

### 3. Motivation for Tight Timelines (extract from Gazette)

- 3.1 SAQA, QCTO and DHET will report to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation on the SETA implementation in relation to their qualification development and replacement of the 374 pre-2009 qualifications.
- 3.2 SETAs are accountable for finalising the development and replacement of occupational qualifications.
- 3.3 SETAs will submit development plans and commit resources to the implementation of this transition to occupational qualifications.
- 3.4 DHET will contract and monitor the development of these occupational qualifications in the SETA Service level agreements (SLAs);

### 4. Conclusion

INSETA notes that its decision to extend registration end dates to allow for 1<sup>st</sup> time learners to be registered for legacy qualifications is informed by the need to transition in compliance with the Occupational Qualification Sub-Framework.

INSETA adopts a one year timeline extension against the backdrop of the Gazette confident in its current efforts to realign outstanding legacy qualifications.

This communication to stakeholders is issued by:

**Mr Leslie Kwapeng**

Executive Manager: Operations INSETA

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