

TO: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS
SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITIES
QUALITY PARTNERS
ACCREDITED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDERS
ACCREDITED ASSESSMENT CENTRES
PROFESSIONAL BODIES
OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

CC: SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

CIRCULAR 2/2022

Dear Stakeholders

RE: OQSF POLICY 2021 – TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRE-2009 QUALIFICATIONS AND UNIT STANDARDS, OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS, PART QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS PROGRAMMES

This Circular should be read in conjunction with Circular 1/2022 issued in January 2022 and available on the QCTO website.

The Occupational Qualifications Sub Framework (OQSF) Policy 2021, Notice No. 1463 published in Govt. Gazette No 45401 of 29 October 2021 is the policy that currently is implemented and replaces any OQSF Policy issued previously.

The abovementioned policy gives effect to the Ministerial Determination on the three sub-frameworks that comprise the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), Government Gazette Notice No. 1391 published in Govt. Gazette No 44031 of 24 December 2020.

In order to ensure that the current policy is implemented, and with specific reference to how Historically Registered Qualifications (Pre-2009 Qualifications and Unit Standards) will be dealt with, **a transitional arrangement** is set out as follows:

"Whilst all reasonable steps are taken to ensure the accuracy, completeness and integrity of the information contained herein, the Council for Trades and Occupations accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever if the information is, for whatsoever reason, incorrect. Nothing will limit any of our liabilities in any way that is not permitted under applicable law, or exclude any of our liabilities that may not be excluded under the applicable law. The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations reserves its right to amend any incorrect information"

- a. The qualification registration end date for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards on the QQSF is 30 June 2023;
- b. The learner enrolment end date for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards is 30 June 2024;
- c. The learner achievement end date for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards on the QQSF is 30 June 2027;
- d. Skills Development Providers (SDPs) and Sector Education Authorities (SETAs) offering pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards should, with immediate effect, approach the QCTO to realign these qualifications into Occupational Qualifications or Part-Qualifications or Skills Programme, if they have not already done so. When aligning pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards SDPs and SETAs should comply with the current QQSF Policy as well as the current Ministerial Determination; and
- e. All **occupational qualifications and part qualifications, including realigned pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards**, that are developed from the date of signing this circular should comply with the current QQSF Policy and the current Ministerial Determination. This means occupational qualifications and part qualifications types submitted for registration should be one of the following:
 1. General Occupational Certificate: Level 1
 2. Elementary Occupational Certificate: Level 2
 3. Intermediate Occupational Certificate: Level 3
 4. National Occupational Certificate: Level 4
 5. Higher Occupational Certificate: Level 5
 6. Occupational Diploma/Advanced Occupational Certificate: Level 6
 7. Advanced Occupational Diploma: Level 7
 8. Specialised Occupational Diploma: Level 8

All qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) must be aligned to the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) NQF Level Descriptors by 30 June 2023, to ensure coherence in learning, and enable the allocation of qualifications to particular levels in order to assess their compatibility and parity of esteem.

Registered Occupational Certificates will be reviewed and reregistered with qualification types (nomenclatures) in accordance with the New Ministerial Determination and current QQSF Policy. The qualifications unit in QCTO has begun consulting with stakeholders on this and other processes regarding the transitional arrangements.

The QCTO is available to assist SDPs, SETAs and other Partners in ensuring that the transitional arrangement is understood, implemented smoothly and without delay.

For any clarity seeking query, e-mail Mr TM Lata, e-mail address Lata.T@qcto.org.za

Yours sincerely,



Mr V Naidoo

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Date: 02/02/2022