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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 5681

13 December 2024

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 67 OF 2008)**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
PRE-2009 QUALIFICATIONS (UNDER SAQA ACT, 1995)**

I, Nobuhle Pamela Nkabane, Minister of Higher Education and Training, in terms of sections 3(2) and 36 of the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008) (NQF Act), considered advice from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), hereby publish Guidelines on the implementation of the *Directive on the Implementation and Transitional Arrangements for pre-2009 Qualifications* (under SAQA Act, 1995 (Act 58 of 1995) published on 3 June 2024 (Government Gazette Number 50742). The Guidelines give direction to the work of SAQA, the Quality Councils, Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs), institutions and skills development providers during the transition period published in the Directive.



Dr. NP Nkabane, MP**Minister of Higher Education and Training****Date:** 10/12/2024

Guidelines on the Implementation of the *DIRECTIVE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRE-2009 QUALIFICATIONS* (under SAQA ACT, 1995) published in the Government Gazette 50742 on 3 June 2024

The former Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr BE Nzimande, MP published the *DIRECTIVE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRE-2009 QUALIFICATIONS* (under SAQA Act, 1995) on 3 June 2024 in terms of sections 3(2) and 36 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008). These guidelines must be considered with the Ministerial Determination of the Sub-frameworks comprising of the NQF (Notice Number: 1391 of GG No: 44031) published on 24 December 2020.

In 2012 a Ministerial Determination was published for all pre-2009 qualifications allocated to the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) to reach their registration end date on 30 June 2015. Various extensions were since given.

In terms of the determination published on 24 December 2020 (Notice Number 1391), sections 12 – 15 states the following:

- 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.

The pre-2009 qualifications have been acknowledged as dated (older than 12 years); unresponsive to workplace needs; and in the context of our increasing unemployment rate, borne in the main by the youth, the occupational qualifications sector must transition.

In support of the Determination of 24 December 2020 and the Directive of 3 June 2024, I urge the education and training sector to transition in the interest of a skilled and capable workforce and the benefit of learners.

In consultation with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) we acknowledge that enrolments for certain pre-2009 qualifications must be extended due to:

- No new replacement qualifications are registered;
- Current learnerships are registered against pre-2009 qualifications;
- Inadequate learnerships have been registered against Occupational Qualifications;
- Qualifications are still being realigned;
- Pre-2009 qualifications are linked to regulatory requirements; and
- The funding regime that is still linked to pre-2009 qualifications (2024-2025 performance targets).

We acknowledge that there are several qualifications identified that have challenges that need their enrolment and achievement date extended.

In light of the above the *DIRECTIVE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION & TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRE-2009 QUALIFICATIONS* published in the Government Gazette 50742 on 3 June 2024 extends the last date of enrolment for particular categories of qualifications for a

minimum of one (1) year and a maximum of two (2) years for qualifications that are in the process of realignment, development, evaluation and recommendation to SAQA.

Aligned to paragraph 6.2 of the directive, to circumvent any potential gaps in the qualification system or challenges for learner progression and mobility, and to ensure that the directive is implemented as intended, I hereby give SAQA and the QCTO the responsibility, in consultation with the Department of Higher Education and Training's Skills Branch, to extend the last date of enrolment and achievement for pre-2009 expired qualifications on a case-by-case basis, for no longer than 2 years, where criteria set by SAQA and the QCTO is met, to deal with any exceptional challenges emanating from the implementation of this directive. However, all the decisions to extend must be dealt with in line with the provisions and timeframes as provided for in the Directive.

All stakeholders must speedily implement the directive and work with SAQA and the QCTO under supervision of the DHET: Skills Branch to transform the education and training system.

Also note that no further extension will be granted beyond the timeframes set in the directive.

All implementation queries and communication must be directed to Mr Vijayan Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer: QCTO at ceo.naidoo@qcto.org.za.

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