

CIRCULAR 1 OF 2017 (OQM)

Date: October 2017

Enquiries: Mr T Lata

TO: All Stakeholders

BY: Email

SUBJECT: PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH QUALIFICATIONS THAT HAVE A REGISTRATION END DATE OF 30 JUNE 2018

The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) is responsible for all qualifications registered on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The QCTO notes that certain registered qualifications have an expiry date of 30 June 2018. Most of these qualifications will be replaced by the QCTO occupational qualifications. The aim of this circular is to communicate to providers and stakeholders the process for dealing with expiring qualifications.

Providers and stakeholders must take note that if the registration date of a qualification has been reached, the teach-out period is calculated as $n + 2$ where "n" is the duration of the qualification (number of years).

NOTE: Registered qualifications with registration end dates of 30 June 2018 can still have learners registered against them up to 30 June 2019.

The QCTO is communicating with stakeholders on an individual basis or in small delegated groups in order to assist in understanding the process. For further details, please contact Mr TM Lata (Lata.T@qcto.org.za) or Ms PN Langa-Mtintsilana (Langa.B@qcto.org.za) respectively.

Kindly circulate this information to accredited Skills Development Providers (SDPs) and other relevant stakeholders.

CIRCULAR 2 OF 2017 (OCCUPATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE)

Date: October 2017

Enquiries: Ms B Langa

TO: All SETAs
All QAPs (Quality Assurance Partners)
All Accredited Providers

BY: Email

SUBJECT: Provider Accreditation

As per the Skills Development Act (SDA) of 1998, the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) is mandated with the quality assurance of all qualifications on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). As a result of the repealed South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Act (1995), the quality assurance functions which resided under the Education and Training Authorities (ETQAs) became the responsibility of the QCTO. These have been managed in partnership with all ETQAs, now called Quality Assurance Partners (QAPs).

In order to manage the OQSF effectively, the QCTO would hereby like to inform all relevant stakeholders of the following:

1. QAPs must ensure that all databases of accredited providers are submitted to the QCTO by 16 October 2017 for upload onto the QCTO's Management Information System by the QCTO.
2. As from 31 March 2018, Quality Assurance Partners are advised that no new accreditations for single unit standards or skills programmes will take place. All current accreditations in this regard will remain valid until the "last date for achievement".
3. As from 31 March 2018, Quality Assurance Partners will not be accrediting NEW providers on historically registered qualifications where there are new or related registered Occupational Qualifications. Providers must apply to the QCTO for accreditation on all new Occupational Qualifications. Current providers that have been accredited with unit standard qualifications where there are learner uptakes will be valid until the "last date for achievement".
4. De-accreditation must take place for all accredited providers that have been accredited for any qualification, learning programme, skills programmes or single unit standards, for which there have been no learners in the system for the past two (2) years (since 2015).

CIRCULAR 3 OF 2017 (OCCUPATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE)

Date: October 2017

Enquiries: Ms B Langa

TO: All SETAs
All QAPs (Quality Assurance Partners)
All Accredited Providers

BY: Email

SUBJECT: Compulsory standardised Final Summative Assessment for all historically registered full qualifications as from November 2018

As per the Skills Development Act (SDA) of 1998, the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) is mandated with the quality assurance of assessments on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The QCTO is striving towards one quality assurance system for all qualifications on its sub-framework.

This means that in order for certificates to be issued in future, all historically registered full qualifications must be assessed by means of one integrated Final Summative Assessment as from November 2018. It is important to note that no changes must be made to the current assessment methods being used by the QAP for external moderation and/or verification. The standardised integrated Final Summative Assessment will become a compulsory addition to the existing system used.

Therefore as from November 2018, all learner achievements must first be approved by the QCTO before being certified by the QAP.

The QCTO will issue appropriate guidelines and templates to support this process by 30 November 2017.