



merSETA

MANUFACTURING, ENGINEERING
AND RELATED SERVICES SETA

QUALITY COUNCIL FOR TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS (QCTO) INFORMATION

A merSETA Communiqué 01/2012

Topic: General information and the re-registration of NQF qualifications

About the QCTO

The merSETA would like to congratulate Ms. Joice Mashabela with her appointment as the CEO of the QCTO. The QCTO only began functioning in July 2011, primarily with the support of acting and seconded staff. As from the start of the 2012/13 financial year, fulltime staff has been appointed, inclusive of the CEO. We wish them well with the challenging task of fully operationalising the QCTO, specifically in the context of the anticipated changes in the education and training policy terrain.

QCTO in context of the education and training policy landscape

The past 18 years has been a steep learning curve for education and training policy makers and implementation experiences across the NQF have shown that much still has to be done to develop coherence across the three qualification sub-frameworks, of which the NQF consists. Three important policy-related review steps were therefore initiated by Minister Blade Nzimande, namely:

- The review of the NQF level descriptors, finalised in November 2011 (refer to the SAQA website, www.saga.org.za for detailed information in this regard);
- A request to respond to the draft qualification sub-frameworks, respectively managed by the Council for Higher Education and Training (CHE), the Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi) and the QCTO, and
- A request to respond to the Green Paper on Post-school Education and Training.

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Responses to the Green Paper had to be submitted by 30 April 2012. At this point, the responses are analysed by a task team and we will report on outcomes in due course.

QCTO pilots and the status of the current NQF-registered qualifications

Qualifications underpin a range of SETA processes. Since the implementation of SETAs, qualification development and design have been topics of much debate, critique and research, specifically in terms of learner mobility and credit accumulations. One of the major issues has been the articulation possibilities between the qualification sub-frameworks. These debates and critiques were once again highlighted in the policy context, referred to under “QCTO in the context of the education and training policy landscape”.

Although the QCTO embarked on a pilot process to review occupational qualifications, these pilots have not been finalised. SAQA, as the custodian of the National Learners Data Base (NLRD) and qualification registration system, is therefore assisting the QCTO with a process of re-registering NQF qualifications, based on the following:

- SETAs evaluating the uptake, relevance and related issues pertaining to qualifications in their primary focus;
- SETAs proposing to SAQA which qualifications should be re-registered for a period of three years, plus the teach-out phase;
- The three-year re-registration period will commence on 30 June 2012; and
- Qualifications not recommended for re-registration will start their teach-out phase on 30 June 2012.

More detailed information related to this communiqué

- The SAQA website currently hosts QCTO information, which could be accessed on www.saqa.org.za – QCTO icon on the right-hand side of the SAQA homepage.



Future communiqués

We trust that the merSETA communiqués will assist you in developing an understanding of the QCTO processes. In the communiqués to follow, we will provide information on

- ETQA roles and quality assurance;
- Provider accreditation;
- The National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB), and
- Related QCTO policy and regulation developments.

