

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a formal assessment process that evaluates an individual's skills and knowledge gained through:

Informal learning (e.g., self-taught skills),

Non-formal learning (e.g., workplace training),

Experiential learning (e.g., on-the-job experience).

If the individual meets the required standards of a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) registered qualification or part-qualification, they may be awarded credits toward that qualification.

Why RPL

Recognition: Validates skills and knowledge acquired outside formal education.

Redress: Helps address historical inequalities by recognizing workplace competence.

Access: Provides alternative pathways into formal learning and qualifications.

Quality Assurance: Supports consistent and credible assessment practices.

Where is RPL Applicable

RPL can be applied to:

- **Occupational Qualifications**

These are full qualifications registered at SAQA on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF), typically comprising knowledge, practical skills, and work experience components.

- **Part Qualifications**

These are components of full qualifications that can be assessed and recognized independently, often used to build toward a full qualification over time.

- **Trades**

RPL is used to recognize prior learning and experience in artisan and trade occupations, enabling candidates to access trade tests or occupational certification pathways.

EISA Assessment Process

Learners enrolled in occupational qualifications are assessed through the External Integrated Summative Assessment (EISA). This assessment is a key part of the quality assurance systems used by both merSETA and QCTO. It ensures that assessments for occupational qualifications, part-qualifications, and trades are conducted in a way that is standardised, consistent, and credible.

Skills Development Providers (SDPs) conduct internal assessments for learners enrolled in occupational qualifications. Upon completion, learners receive a Statement of Results (SoR), which must reflect their achievements across the three components of the qualification: knowledge, practical experience, and workplace experience.

The final External Integrated Summative Assessment (EISA) is administered by Accredited Assessment Centres. Registration for EISA can be initiated either by the SDP or directly by the learner. To support this process, merSETA will publish a calendar outlining scheduled EISA dates for all occupational qualifications with active learners in the system.

Scheduled for EISA dates for all occupational qualifications with active learners

Qualification Title	DATE	Exemplar
Plastics Manufacturing Machine Operator SAQA ID 118697	TBA	To be loaded
Production Process Machine Operator and Assembler SAQA ID 118697	TBA	To be loaded
Vehicle Damage Quantifier SAQA ID 99507	TBA	View
Heavy Duty Drive Train Repairer (Vehicle Transmission Mechanic) SAQA ID 117357	TBA	To be loaded