

## CIRCULAR 1 OF 2017 (OQA & OQM)

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**TO: Quality Assurance Partners (QAPs)**

Further to consultation processes with QAPs, the QCTO hereby issues:

### **TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE QUALITY ASSURANCE OF HISTORICALLY REGISTERED QUALIFICATIONS**

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 31 March 2018 or 30 June 2018. Most of these qualifications will be replaced by occupational qualifications registered on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF). The aim of this circular is to communicate to providers and stakeholders the process for dealing with historically registered qualifications.

1. PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH QUALIFICATIONS THAT HAVE A REGISTRATION END DATE OF 31 MARCH 2018 OR 30 JUNE 2018
  - 1.1 Skills Development Providers and stakeholders must take note that when historically registered qualifications on the OQSF reach the “registration end date”, the QCTO will be recommending to SAQA to de-activate these qualifications. Note that enrolments may still take place until the “last date for enrolment” as stipulated and there will be a teach-out period for the achievement of these qualifications. The teach-out period is calculated as  $n + 2$  where “n” is the duration of the qualification (number of years).
  - 1.2 Skills Development Providers that are currently accredited for registered qualifications with registration end dates of 31 March 2018 or 30 June 2018 may still enrol learners up to 31 March 2019 or 30 June 2019 respectively (as per “last date for enrolment”).
  - 1.3 Historically registered qualifications on the OQSF with learner enrolments, which have not been replaced by an Occupational Qualification by 31 March 2019 or 30 June 2019, will be prioritised for re-alignment and/or extension of the registration date. Extension will only be granted in exceptional cases once the Quality Assurance Partner has requested this in writing from the QCTO, by no later than 31 March 2018.
  - 1.4 For Skills Development Providers who are offering skills programmes and single unit standards: Single unit standards or skills programmes will be replaced by occupational part qualifications. If such part qualifications are not in place by June 2019, these unit standard registrations will be extended. However, the historically registered full

qualification on the OQSF may not be offered (if replaced by an Occupation Qualification); only the relevant unit standards or skills programmes for which there are learners enrolled may be offered.

## 2. IMPLICATIONS OF THE ABOVE FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER ACCREDITATION

- 2.1 Where there is a registered Occupational Qualification, Skills Development Providers' accreditation for the historically registered qualifications on the OQSF will end with the "last date for achievement" to allow for teach-out.
- 2.2 This will mean that Skills Development Providers will have to apply for accreditation for the new Occupational Qualification with the QCTO as soon as such qualifications are registered.
- 2.3 Skills Development Provider accreditation for unit standards (not linked to a full qualification) and skills programmes (combination of unit standards) will remain valid until the "last date for achievement" of the full qualification or the stand-alone unit standard, provided there are no occupational part qualifications registered.
- 2.4 In the case of Trades, where an occupational qualification has been registered, Skills Development Provider accreditation will not be extended beyond the expiry date of the provider's accreditation. Skills Development Providers will have to apply for accreditation with the QCTO for the new occupational qualifications.
- 2.5 Skills Development Provider accreditation applications for historic qualifications registered on the OQSF post 30 June 2018, must be done via the QCTO.
- 2.6 All Skills Development Provider accreditation applications for Occupational Qualifications registered on the OQSF must be made to the QCTO.

## 3. FINAL SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 Historically registered full qualifications on the OQSF that have been extended post 30 June 2018, must include a compulsory Final Summative Assessment (FSA) as from November 2018 in order for competent learners to be certificated. This does not replace the final verification or moderation done by the Quality Assurance Partner; it must be seen as an additional requirement for the certification of learners.
- 3.2 The QCTO will issue appropriate guidelines and templates to support this process by 28 February 2018.



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