



Amendments made to the Policy for Recognizing a Professional
Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the
Purposes of the National Qualification Framework Act

Presentation prepared for Modern Membership

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Introduction

SAQA recently published amendments to their Policy for Recognizing a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualification Framework Act. In this short presentation we cover the following:

- What is the NQF?
- Who is SAQA?
- What amendments were made and what do they mean?

What is the NQF?

- The South African NQF is a comprehensive system approved by the Minister of Higher Education and Training for the classification, registration, publication and articulation of quality-assured national qualifications
- The objectives of the NQF are designed to contribute to the full personal development of each learner and the social and economic development of the nation at large.

Who is SAQA?

- SAQA is responsible for overseeing the further development and implementation of the NQF, and understands the NQF as a system of communication, co-ordination and collaboration across education, training, development and work. In advancing the NQF objectives, SAQA embraces diversity, environmental sustainability and social justice.
- It is not mandatory for Professional Bodies to be recognized with SAQA and Professional Bodies may continue to act in their industry whether recognized by SAQA or not.

What amendments were made?

Clause 15a is amended as follows:

In administering the *P&C for professional bodies* SAQA will:

- charge professional bodies a cost recovery fee for all services rendered, including an application fee for new applications for recognition, and in instances where SAQA is forced to incur unnecessary and wasteful expenditure because of delays and lack of compliance by the professional body concerned.

Clauses 28c and Clause 28d are amended as follows:

A body applying to be recognised as a professional body by SAQA will:

- have a transformation policy that guides the constitution of the Board, staff and membership. Furthermore, the professional body must indicate activities that ensure representation of the demographics of the country and support transformation, and if there is no transformation, an explanation must be provided;
- have the necessary human resources capacity to undertake its function, which is separate from the Board, except for executive members. Professional bodies may share capacities between themselves with regards to the day to day management of the affairs of the professional bodies.

The following Clause is inserted after Clause 42.

As part of the process of de-recognising a professional body, SAQA should receive all the necessary data in a manner prescribed by the NLRD.

Previously SAQA was providing certain services to Professional Bodies on a non-profit basis. Some fees, *for example when applying for the recognition of a foreign qualification*, were refundable if the applicant was unsuccessful. SAQA will no longer refund fees in such instances.

Did you know? SAQA, as well as the Minister of higher Education, has taken the stance that if a training provider does not submit themselves to the quality assurance regime of SAQA, their qualifications awarded to individuals is considered a foreign qualification. If a submission is made for a qualification to be recognized on the NQF framework, you might incur additional fees now even if your application is unsuccessful. View the [non-refundable fees notice here](#)

Amendment to fees

In applying to become recognized by SAQA, there is a robust application process with strict criteria for such recognition to be awarded. SAQA now further requires that such professional bodies submit a policy document on how the professional body intends addressing transformation holistically within the organisation. Furthermore you must be able to show you have sufficient resources and capacity to undertake your mandate.

Did you know? Having sufficient resources does not necessarily mean enough staff. Having the right software and technology in place could make for a case of being sufficiently 'resourced'.

Amendment
to the
requirements
to become a
recognized
Professional
Body

Professional bodies are required by SAQA to submit their data submissions in a timely fashion. SAQA calls for data submissions twice a year with strict requirements on the data submission format.

Going forward, even Professional bodies wishing to be de-recognized by SAQA will need to successfully complete a data submission as part of the offboarding process.

[View the latest notice regarding data submissions from SAQA here.](#)

Amendment to
the
requirement of
completing a
successful Data
Submission
before being
de-recognized