

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 1391

24 DECEMBER 2020

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 67 OF 2008)

DETERMINATION OF THE SUB-FRAMEWORKS THAT COMPRISE THE NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

I, Bonginkosi Emmanuel Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, in terms of section 8(2)(e) of the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008), after having considered the advice from the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), hereby determine the three sub-frameworks that comprise the National Qualifications Framework with effect from the date of publication of this notice.

The previous determinations in Government Notice No. 1040 of 2012 published in Government Gazette No. 36003 of 14 December 2012 and Government Notice No. 891 of 2013 published in Government Gazette No. 36803 of 13 August 2013 respectively, are hereby repealed.



DR BE NZIMANDE, MP

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

DATE: 29/11/2020

DETERMINATION OF THE SUB-FRAMEWORKS THAT COMPRISE THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK AND ITS SUB-FRAMEWORKS

1. The National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (the Act) in terms of section 7 read with sections 24 to 26 thereof, provides for the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) as a single integrated system for the classification, registration, publication and articulation of quality-assured national qualifications (s 4) comprising three co-ordinated qualifications sub-frameworks, each developed and managed by a Quality Council, viz.:
 - a) The General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework under the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training (Umalusi), contemplated in the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance (GENFETQA) Act, 2001 (Act 58 of 2001);
 - b) The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework under the Council on Higher Education, contemplated in the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act 101 of 1997); and
 - c) The Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework under the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations, contemplated in the Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act 97 of 1998).
2. The Act also provides for Quality Councils to each:
 - a) develop and manage its Sub-Framework, and make recommendations thereon to the Minister in terms of section 27(e); and
 - b) in terms of section 27(f), in consultation with the SAQA, advise the Minister on matters relating to its Sub-Framework.
3. The three Quality Councils, through extended consultative processes, have developed and published their Sub-Frameworks.
4. SAQA is co-ordinating the Sub-Frameworks in terms of section 11(c) of the Act.

DETERMINATION OF THE SUB-FRAMEWORKS

5. The three NQF Sub-Frameworks are determined as follows:
 - a) The General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF) comprise NQF Levels 1 to 4 with general and vocational purposes;
 - b) The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) comprise NQF Levels 5 to 10, and includes qualification types with general, professional and vocational purposes; and
 - c) The Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) comprise NQF Levels 1 to 8 with occupational purposes.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK LEVELS AND QUALIFICATION TYPES

6. The following table reflects the determined qualification types on the NQF:

NQF Sub-Framework/ Quality Council	NQF Level	NQF Sub-Framework and Qualification Type		NQF Sub-Framework/ Quality Council
Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF)/ Council on Higher Education (CHE)	10	Doctoral Degree Doctoral Degree (Professional)		Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)
	9	Master's Degree Master's Degree (Professional)		
	8	Bachelor Honours Degree Post Graduate Diploma Bachelor's Degree	Specialised Occupational Diploma	
	7	Bachelor's Degree Advanced Diploma	Advanced Occupational Diploma	
	6	Diploma Advanced Certificate	Occupational Diploma Advanced Occupational Certificate	
	5	Higher Certificate	Higher Occupational Certificate	
General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF)/ Umalusi	4	National Certificate	National Occupational Certificate	
	3	Intermediate Certificate	Intermediate Occupational Certificate	
	2	Elementary Certificate	Elementary Occupational Certificate	
	1	General Certificate	General Occupational Certificate	

7. The minimum credits that may be awarded at each level of the NQF to qualifications across the sub-frameworks are 120 credits per level.
8. SAQA will register part-qualifications at any level of the NQF.

ARTICULATION, RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND CREDIT ACCUMULATION AND TRANSFER

9. Articulation between different programmes and qualifications within and between the sub-frameworks is essential to advance the objectives of the NQF.
10. Each qualification will by design have clear articulation rules and pathways aligned to the purpose and scope of the qualification.
11. The Quality Councils must, in consultation with curriculum developers and providers, produce articulation pathway maps for each registered qualification and part-qualification both within and between sub-frameworks.
12. SAQA and the Quality Councils must ensure the alignment and implementation of all Articulation, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) policies.

IMPLEMENTATION AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

PRE - 2009 QUALIFICATIONS (UNDER THE SAQA ACT, 1995)

13. The registration end date for Pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the OQSF shall be 30 June 2023.
14. The last date of first-time learners enrolling for Pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the OQSF shall be 30 June 2024.

15. The last date of achievement for learners enrolled for Pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards on the OQSF shall be 30 June 2027.
16. The registration end date for all Pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the GFETQSF shall be 30 June 2023.
17. The last date of first-time learners enrolling for Pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the GFETQSF shall be 30 June 2024.
18. The last date of achievement for learners enrolled for the Pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the GFETQSF shall be 30 June 2025.
19. The registration end date for non-aligned qualifications on the GFETQSF shall be 30 June 2023. The last date for first-time students entering the qualifications that are not aligned to the GFETQSF will be 30 June 2024. The last date of achievement shall be 30 June 2025.
20. The Quality Councils must ensure that the accreditation periods for the Pre-2009 qualifications coincide with this Ministerial Determination.

QUALIFICATIONS NOT ALIGNED TO THE NQF LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

21. All qualifications registered on the NQF must be aligned to the NQF Level Descriptors by 30 June 2023, to ensure coherence in learning, and to enable the allocation of qualifications to particular levels in order to assess their comparability and parity of esteem.

GENERAL

22. The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation may, on the advice of the SAQA and/or a Quality Council, publish exceptions on the Determination from time to time.