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**Amendments to the Policy  
and Criteria for Recognising a  
Professional Body and  
Registering a Professional Designation  
for the Purposes of the National  
Qualifications Framework Act,  
Act 67 of 2008 (2023)**

Professional Body Forum  
Wednesday, 29 November 2023

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WORLD CLASS NQF



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## BACKGROUND

### National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008, as amended)

#### Section 13 (1)

The SAQA must, in order to advance the objectives of the NQF—

(i) with respect to professional bodies—

(i) develop and implement policy and criteria for recognising a professional body and registering a professional designation for the purposes of this Act, after consultation with statutory and non-statutory bodies of expert practitioners in occupational fields and with the Quality Councils; and

(ii) **recognise** a professional body and **register** its professional designation if the criteria contemplated in subparagraph (i) have been met;

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# BACKGROUND

## SAQA Policies and Criteria



1. 2012
  2. As amended, March 2018
  3. As amended, 2020 (March 2020)
  4. As amended, September 2020
  5. 2023
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# DEFINITIONS

## 12 new definitions added

- Artisan
  - Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
  - Expertise
  - Occupation
  - Occupational Body
  - Occupational field
  - Profession
  - Professional
  - Professional Standard
  - Right to practice
  - Statutory Body
  - Trade
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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### Clause 8 is new (a. to d. was in 2012 P&C)

In meeting the policy and criteria for the recognition of professional bodies, a recognised professional body may according to Section 32 of the *NQF Act*, on delegation of the relevant Quality Council:

- a. recognise suitable workplaces and training providers **(2012)**;
- b. conduct assessment of workplace experience **(2012)**;
- c. be involved in the curricula of learning programmes **(2012)**;
- d. set its own board examinations **(2012)**; and
- e. develop and/or quality assure qualification/s required for the awarding of professional designations **(new)**.

PBs can perform the above functions.

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# POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

## Clause 15. (2023) - wording

SAQA reserves the right to (The 2020 *Policy and Criteria* – “will not” substituted with “reserves the right to”) recognise a professional body in a sector in which a statutory body has been established through an Act of Parliament.

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## POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

### Clause 16. a. (2023) (New clause)

In administering the *P&C for professional bodies* SAQA will charge professional bodies a **nominal fee per designated member** on the National Learners' Records Database (NLRD)

**(2020 Policy and Criteria – “cost recovery fee”)**

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# POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

## Clause 16. f. (2023) (New sub-clause)

In administering the *P&C for professional bodies* SAQA will review and update guidelines relating to criteria for recognising professional bodies and/or registration of professional designations.

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# POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

## Clause 19 (2023) (New clause)

Professional bodies may not offer qualifications registered on the NQF but may offer non-credit bearing learning for CPD purposes.

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# POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

## Clause 23 (2023) (New sub-clauses d., e. and f.)

SAQA may withdraw the recognition status from a professional body:

- d. when the professional body recognition status ends; or
  - e. by request from the professional body; or
  - f. where it was found that a professional body has misrepresented its recognition status or extended its scope of practice.
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## POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

**New clauses:** Clauses 29 and 30 (2023): Appeals

**Clause 29:** The appeals application and supporting documents will be forwarded to SAQA's **Professional Body Appeals Committee** for a decision.

**Clause 30:** The outcome of the Committee is final and will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

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# POLICY FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

## Clause 31 (2023) - wording

SAQA will publish the withdrawal of the recognition status of a professional body **on the SAQA website** (**2020 Policy and Criteria – “in the Government Gazette”**). This will be considered sufficient communication regarding this change in status to the specific community of practice and the wider society.

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## CRITERIA: NON-STATUTORY AND STATUTORY

**Criteria** for the recognition, mid-term monitoring review and re-recognition of **non-statutory** professional bodies.

**Clauses 32. a. to k.; 33. and 34**

**Criteria** for the recognition, mid-term monitoring review and re-recognition of **statutory** professional bodies.

**Clauses 35. a. to f.; 36 and 37**

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## CRITERIA: NON-STATUTORY

### **New: Clause 32. i. iii.**

A non-statutory body of expert practitioners applying to be recognised as a professional body by SAQA will have policy and criteria on **membership**, which includes but is not limited to the responsibilities and benefits, voting right, use of designation, and different categories of memberships.

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## CRITERIA: NON-STATUTORY

### **New: Clause 32. j. i to iii.**

Policies from non-statutory professional bodies must adhere to the:

- i. Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), Act 4 of 2013,
  - ii Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), Act 2 of 2000,  
and
  - iii Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (PAJA), Act 3 of 2000  
for the processing and accessing of membership information.
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## CRITERIA: NON-STATUTORY

### **New: Clause 32. k. vi.**

Professional bodies must establish a **register of complaints** and submit as part of the mid-term monitoring and re-recognition, the register must indicate number, and nature and date of the complaints received as well as the findings and or resolutions achieved.

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## CRITERIA: STATUTORY

### Clauses 35. a. to f.; 36. and 37.

A statutory body established through an Act of Parliament must submit:

- a. an Act or regulations establishing the statutory body.
  - b. its most recent annual report.
  - c. have policy and criteria:
    - i. to develop, award, monitor and revoke its professional designations in terms of its own rules and founding legislation;
    - ii. on RPL to award designations for members who do not have the required underlying qualifications; and
    - iii. on CPD.
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# POLICY: NEW AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

## **New: Clauses 42 and 43**

42. The professional designation title cannot be the same as a qualification registered on the NQF or an occupation as defined in the Organising Framework for Occupations.
  43. Designation titles and their related acronyms must not mislead or confuse members of the public regarding qualification achievement and job level, job function or job title.
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## POLICY: NEW AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

### **New: Clause 52 (Appeal)**

All relevant documents will be forwarded to the SAQA **Professional Body Appeals Committee**, and the outcome of the Committee is final.

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## CRITERIA: NEW AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

### **New: Clause 55. f.**

In order for a professional designation to be registered it must include as general requirements a clearly articulated **competencies framework** which defines the applied competences of the specific designation and associated progression pathways.

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## CRITERIA: NEW AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

**New: Clause 56.**

If there are any proposed changes to policies from the initial recognition of the professional body or registering of the designation(s), the professional body must consult with SAQA.

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# CRITERIA: NEW AND ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

## **New: Clause 57.**

The professional designations of statutory bodies will be prescribed by their respective founding acts while professional bodies registered under the Companies Act, Act 71 of 2008 and NPO Amendment Act, Act 17 of 2000, will adhere to the guidelines that will be issued by SAQA in terms of the naming of professional designations.

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## SUMMARY

### Additional clauses: 2023 P&C:



1. Will be charged a nominal fee per designated member on the NLRD



2. Professional Body Appeals Committee



3. Must have a Membership Policy (non-statutory)



4. Must establish a register of complaints (non-statutory)



5. Must have a Competencies Framework (non-statutory)
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**THANK  
YOU**



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