

APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION(S) FOR PROFESSIONAL BODIES ALREADY RECOGNISED BY SAQA

Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPA-SA)

Name of Professional Body	Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPA-SA)
Statutory or Non-Statutory Body	Statutory
Sector	Human and Social Studies (Environmental Relations)
Physical Address	Unit 19 Oxford Office Park, 3 Bauhinia Street, Highveld Techno Park Centurion
Application Approved by Board/Council	Yes
Application Signed by CEO / Registrar/ Board Chairperson	Yes
Registered Designations	Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)
Designations Applied for	Environmental Control Practitioner (ECP)
Date of Recognition	11 September 2019
Date of Gazette Notice	

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA) is a culmination of a consultative process initiated in 2005 when the Interim Certification Board for Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) was appointed by the then Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The aim was to initiate an inclusive process that would deliver on the identified needs and legal requirements for the establishment of a Registration Authority for EAPs in South Africa. EAPASA was officially launched on 7 April 2011, supported by approximately 800 EAPs, and its Board was nominated and announced in November 2011. The Regulations which provide for the establishment of the Registration Authority and requirements for the registration of EAPs were promulgated on 22 July 2016. EAPASA applied to the Minister to be appointed as the Registration Authority.

On 8 February 2018, the Minister of Environmental Affairs promulgated the appointment of EAPASA as the single registration authority for Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) in South Africa, in Notice No 104 in Government Gazette 41434 in terms of section 24H(3)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Section 24H Registration Authority Regulations.

On 19 September 2019, EAPA-SA was recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as a professional body in the sector. On 8 February 2022, SAQA conducted a midterm monitoring review of EAPA-SA.

MOTIVATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION

There are numerous environmental service providers active on various small-to-large-scale construction and development projects across South Africa tasked with the practice of post-decision monitoring, evaluation, governance, and management of, and communication about the environmental performance of projects and/or related management plan/s. They essentially aid government and developers with the immense task of validating compliance with sustainability commitments made during the planning phase of the thousands of projects that have been subject to impact assessment and/or risk assessment processes [voluntary and/or mandatory]. These practitioners include [but are not limited to]: Environmental Compliance Officers (ECOs)/ Environmental Control Officers (ECOs) (also Waste Management-, Emission- and Fishery Control Officers);

Environmental Officers (EOs) and/or Environmental Managers (EMs).

Although these practitioners provide invaluable expertise ensuring the success of managing the impacts of a project, they are mostly not able to register as professionals at existing Professional Registration Authorities/Bodies [e.g. EAPASA, South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), and/or the South African Auditor and Training Certification Authority (SAATCA)] due to the specialist type of work they provide and thus not meeting existing registration criteria. This leads to a 'Lack of confidence in environmental professionals' providing these services as identified in the 2014 Environmental Impact and Management Strategy for South Africa (EIAMS). Moreover, the EIAMS identified this 'root cause for lack of confidence' as a key motivation for registering ECOs and other environmental professionals (EOs, EMs) under a professional body such as EAPASA.

CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OF A PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

The criteria for the awarding of the additional Professional Designation below comply with the SAQA *Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualification Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008 (as amended, 2023)* and the designations complement the one already registered, creating a designation pathway.

Designation Title: Environmental Control Practitioner (ECP)

Short Description

The Environmental Control Practitioner (ECP), within the South African context, refers to on-site environmental professionals tasked with the practice of post-decision monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of a project or plan that has been subject to an impact assessment (IA) and/or risk assessment process.

Underlying Qualification(s)

NQF Level 8 Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation, or Postgraduate Diploma in Social Impact Assessment or equivalent qualification at NQF level 8.

Experiential Learning and Practical Experience

Candidates are required to have at least three years of relevant and proven full-time professional experience, or break periods that cumulatively add up to three (3) years, that constitute professional standing in the field of IA.

Board/ Admission Examination/Assessment

Applicants for the designation must successfully complete a written online application describing their knowledge of and practical application of six (6) Core Competencies (CCs), providing evidence of having mastered a conceptual and working knowledge of IA.

The online application system requires applicants to write short descriptions that show both understanding and practical application of each competency, with cross-referencing to documents compiled by the applicant, referring to specific sections or page numbers in each document uploaded to the system to substantiate the written statements.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Requirements

Designees must accumulate a minimum of 25 CPD points in a five-year cycle.

Application of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

In the absence of either or both a formal academic qualification and formal specialist training in IA follow-up may be compensated by application of the principles of Recognition of Prior Learning in the form of at least seven (7) years of relevant and proven full-time experience, or broken periods that cumulatively add up to seven (7) years, that constitutes professional standing in the field of IA follow-up.

Designation competencies:

- Demonstrate conceptual understanding of the environment, sustainable development, integrated environmental management, impact assessment, and IA follow-up processes for impact management.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, holistically, systematically, spatially, objectively, and in an integrative manner to discern what is relevant to decision-making during IA follow-up processes.

- Identify and apply IA follow-up governance processes and procedures [arrangements for managing the IA follow-up process].
- Monitor, evaluate, and manage compliance and impacts of projects for environmental performance implementation [arrangements for managing the impacts].
- Conduct applied research in a specific context.
- Conduct a communication process that provides feedback to relevant stakeholders about the IA follow-up process implementation and the environmental performance of the project.

CRITERIA FOR RETAINING THE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the Professional Designation, the professional must comply with the following minimum requirements:

Code of Conduct

Designees are required to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Designees must accumulate a minimum of 25 CPD points in a five-year cycle.

Fees

Designees are required to pay the annual membership fee.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

Environmental Control Practitioner (ECP)

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at www.eapasa.org.za.