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**SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)**

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Task Team for

Occupational Health & Safety

registered by Organising Field 09 – Health Sciences and Social Services, publishes the following Qualification and Unit Standard for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the Qualification and Unit Standard. The full Qualification and Unit Standard can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at www.sqa.org.za. Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate of Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comment on the Qualification and Unit Standard should reach SAQA at the address below and **no later than 29 January 2010**. All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – Task Team for Occupational Health and Safety** and addressed to

The Director: Standards Setting and Development
SAQA

Attention: Mr. E. Brown

Postnet Suite 248

Private Bag X06

Waterkloof

0145

or faxed to 012 – 431-5144

e-mail: ebrown@sqa.org.za


D. MPNUTHING**ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT**



SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

QUALIFICATION:***National Certificate: Construction Health and Safety Management***

SAQA QUAL ID		QUALIFICATION TITLE	
77063		National Certificate: Construction Health and Safety Management	
ORIGINATOR		PROVIDER	
TT - Occupational Health & Safety			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
National Certificate	9 - Health Sciences and Social Services	Preventive Health	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	133	Level 3	Regular-Unit Stds Based

New NQF Level: NQF Level 03

This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by another qualification.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION**Purpose:**

Learners will be equipped to work in the construction industry with a broad understanding and knowledge of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental legislation and controls. They will be able to deal with health and safety problems and issues on construction sites.

Qualifying learners will be able to responsibly, independently and effectively manage themselves on construction sites regarding generic health and safety issues. Learners will be able to identify and evaluate occupational safety, hygiene and environmental factors in occupational environments which may have a detrimental effect on the health and safety of people in such environments. Learners credited with this Qualification will be able to perform essential functions that promote a culture of health and safety on construction sites.

Learners credited with this qualification will be capable of:

- Using verbal, electronic and written modes to communicate in the workplace and apply mathematical processes to solve everyday numerical problems.
- Explaining the requirements of current, relevant legislation and accepted theories impacting on Health, Safety and Environmental issues in the construction environment.
- Recognising, assessing and reporting health and safety hazards and situations in the construction industry.
- Administering various functions required to ensure health and safety on construction sites.

Rationale:

Learners credited with this qualification are likely to be working mainly in the occupational safety discipline although interaction with the occupational health and environmental management disciplines is likely to take place. Learners are required to integrate practical skills with essential knowledge, to be able to take proactive and reactive measures in order to maintain a healthy and safe environment.

There is currently a shortage of qualified occupational health, safety and environmental practitioners with specific construction industry knowledge. Due to the dynamic nature of all construction projects as opposed to the more static nature of factories and mines, as well as the fact that construction sites pose hazards more orientated towards safety than health, or hygiene specifically, it was felt that greater emphasis should be placed on occupational safety content rather than occupational hygiene and environmental management. As the currently registered National Certificate: Occupational Safety and Hygiene, NQF Level 3 contains 44% credits from the core, focused on Occupational hygiene, this clearly did not suit the training requirements identified for the construction safety practitioner.

Occupational hygiene is the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of conditions arising in or from the workplace or occupation, which may cause illness or adverse health effects to the employee. These conditions, also referred to as occupational hygiene stress factors, are generally grouped as physical (such as noise, vibration, lighting, ventilation and others), chemical, ergonomic, biological and psychological stressors. The nature of the measurement and management of these also requires a very scientific and methodical approach, which is not generally applicable to construction project environments. The level of academic qualifications required to be able to perform occupational hygiene measurements and manage these are also much higher than the level three entry of this construction- specific qualification. This further supports the need for a more occupational safety orientated qualification at this level.

The need is for the qualifying learner to have knowledge and skills focussing on occupational safety. Where the learner then identifies a risk due to any of the occupational hygiene stressors, the services of an Occupational Hygiene Approved Inspection Authority, registered with the Department of Labour, who are the only people allowed to practice legally in occupational hygiene, would be called in.

The qualification of learners through this programme will increase the number of qualified practitioners available for construction sites.

Construction Health and Safety practitioners will contribute to providing safer construction sites in the Republic of South Africa.

According to figures of the Federated Employers Mutual Association which acts as the licensed Compensation agent for approximately 40% of the registered construction companies in South Africa, they have paid out R109,94m in the period from January 2009 to October 2009, and there are currently R126,74m of outstanding claims for the same period. This would indicate that the statistics for the other 60% of the construction industry would bring these figures to an astounding R591,7m in claims for the whole of the construction industry. Qualified practitioners will lead to a reduction in occupational related injuries and disease reducing the above compensation claims costs. Improved health and safety awareness will flow down to off-the-job attitudes improving due to more knowledge. Their contributions will improve environmental controls on sites which again will flow down to the broader community thus improving environmental management.

The construction industry has experienced a boom over the last five years, unfortunately along with this increase construction related injuries and fatal incidents have continued at an alarming rate. The social and economic impact of occupational, health, safety and environmental incidents is immense. Direct costs that result from poor construction safety, hygiene, health, and environments include human and economic costs. Indirect costs are also incurred and can include, inter alia, poor morale, poor productivity and downtime. Improved construction health, safety and environments could influence the South African economy in direct costs alone to the value of millions of Rand each year. This qualification aims to meet the demand for learners who are able to facilitate a safe and productive occupational environment.

This qualification is the entry level to a career path in construction health, safety and environmental management. There are generic components which will allow maximum mobility

within the field of application. Skills, knowledge, values and attitudes (competencies) reflected in the qualification are building blocks towards a NQF Level 4 qualification.

Qualifying learners will be able to show responsibility, and independently and effectively manage themselves in the workplace regarding generic and construction specific health and safety issues. Learners will be able to identify and evaluate occupational safety factors in the construction environment which may have a detrimental effect on health and safety of people in construction. Learners credited with this Qualification will be able to perform essential measurements and functions that promote a culture of health and safety in the workplace.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?

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LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE

- Mathematical literacy at NQF Level 2.
- Communication at NQF Level 2.
- Computer literacy at NQF Level 2.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

The Qualification can be achieved whole or in part through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Learners obtaining the whole Qualification through Recognition of Prior Learning and wishing to be declared competent will be required to complete a practical assessment component to demonstrate competence for the purpose of such recognition. This implies that the Qualification may be granted to learners who have acquired the skills and knowledge without attending formal courses.

Learners submitting themselves for Recognition of Prior Learning should be thoroughly briefed prior to the assessment, and may be required to submit a Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) in the prescribed format and/or undergo a workplace assessment to be assessed for formal recognition. While this is primarily a workplace-based Qualification, evidence from other areas of endeavour may be introduced if pertinent to any of the Exit Level Outcomes. All Recognition of Prior Learning is awarded in agreement with the provider and relevant ETQA.

Access to the Qualification:

Access is open to all learners bearing in mind the learning assumed to be in place.

QUALIFICATION RULES

The Qualification is made up of a combination of learning outcomes from Fundamental, Core and Elective components, totalling a minimum of 133 Credits.

Fundamental component:

All unit standards to the value of 36 Credits are compulsory.

Core component:

All unit standards to the value of 85 Credits are compulsory.

Elective component:

The Elective Component consists of a number of unit standards from which at least 12 Credits must be attained.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Use verbal and written practices to communicate in the workplace and apply mathematical processes to solve everyday numerical problems.
2. Explain the requirements of current legislation and accepted theories impacting on health, safety and environmental issues in the construction environment.
3. Recognise, assess and report health and safety hazards and situations in the construction industry.
4. Administer various health and safety functions, planning, policy and behaviours on construction sites.

Critical Cross-field Outcomes:

This Qualification addresses the following Critical Cross-field Outcomes, in the indicated Exit Level Outcomes:

- Identifying and solving problems in the workplace is demonstrated in the process of dealing with health and safety hazards and situations and the administration of health and safety functions.
- Working effectively with others is demonstrated in the maintenance and adherence of health, safety and environmental practices in the workplace.
- Organising and managing oneself and one's activities responsibly and effectively is demonstrated in the practice of health, safety and environmental functions in the workplace and in the application of legislation.
- Collecting, analysing, organising and critically evaluating information is demonstrated in the application of health, safety and environmental legislation and the implementation of health, safety and environmental practices and functions.
- Communicating effectively is demonstrated throughout all communication with the stakeholders who are involved in health, safety and environmental practices and functions.
- Using science and technology effectively and critically is demonstrated in the preparation and distribution of health, safety and environmental reports and in health, safety and environmental practices.
- Demonstrating an understanding of the world as a set of related systems is demonstrated through the proper application of systems, policies and procedures related to health, safety and environmental practices and functions into the general business processes.

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

- 1.1 Information from texts, reports and standard operating procedures is practically applied in the workplace in specific health, safety and environmental contexts.
- 1.2 All communications are addressed and responded to in accordance with the relevant workplace requirements.
- 1.3 Numerical conversions, calculations and measurements are performed as required in the workplace in specific health, safety and environmental contexts.
- 1.4 Health and safety signs, policies, standards and legislation are interpreted and explained as required by specific worksites.

Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

- 2.1 Relevant health and safety regulations are described according to the requirements of current applicable legislation.
- 2.2 The health and safety environment is defined with reference to specific construction workplace principles and situations.