

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

No. 410

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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 Standards Generating Body (SGB) for

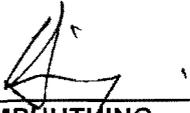
Rail and Pipeline Operations

registered by Organising Field 11 – Services, publishes the following Qualifications and Unit Standards for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the Qualifications and Unit Standards. The full Qualifications and Unit Standards can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at www.saqqa.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 Qualifications and Unit Standards should reach SAQA at the address below and **no later than 18 May 2009**. All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – SGB for Rail and Pipeline Operations** and addressed to

The Director: Standards Setting and Development
SAQA
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ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT



SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

QUALIFICATION:**National Certificate: Rail Operations (Functional Yard Operations)**

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| SAQA QUAL ID | QUALIFICATION TITLE | | |
| 66709 | National Certificate: Rail Operations (Functional Yard Operations) | | |
| ORIGINATOR | | | PROVIDER |
| SGB Rail and Pipeline Operations | | | |
| QUALIFICATION TYPE | FIELD | SUBFIELD | |
| National Certificate | 11 - Services | Transport, Operations and Logistics | |
| ABET BAND | MINIMUM CREDITS | NQF LEVEL | QUAL CLASS |
| Undefined | 121 | Level 3 | Regular-Unit Stds Based |

This qualification replaces:

| Qual ID | Qualification Title | NQF Level | Min Credits | Replacement Status |
|---------|--|-----------|-------------|---|
| 23893 | National Certificate: Rail Operations (Functional Yard Operations) | Level 3 | 120 | Will occur as soon as 66709 is registered |

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Purpose:

A learner qualifying in this qualification will be able to execute train control functions to ensure the safe and timeous movement of rail-bound vehicles from one point to another under planned and controlled conditions.

A learner who has achieved this qualification will have extensive theoretical and practical knowledge and skills of all the functions in a marshalling yard and will manage the functional duties as required.

The qualifying learner will be capable of:

- Preparing and despatching trains.
- Using equipment and procedures to provide on-track protection.
- Applying organisational standards and procedures in executing rail yard functions.

Rationale:

A safe and efficient rail transport system provides a key service of the transport sector of an economy. This qualification is intended for new entrants as well as existing personnel to gain formal recognition for learning in rail operations (yard personnel). It will serve to equip qualifying learners with the ability to perform functions related to a marshalling yard environment of rail operations.

This unit standards-based qualification was generated to provide an opportunity for entry into the rail operation industry at NQF Level 3, a foundation for further learning at NQF Level 4 as well as for further development from NQF Level 2.

This will allow persons currently in, or aspiring to enter the rail operations environment (Yard Personnel) and others to obtain an integrated practical and theoretical grounding in the

operation of a marshalling yard and all the functions thereof, which includes utilising, planning and controlling of movement for shunting purposes.

This will ensure a portable, nationally recognised qualification that will:

- Improve the quality of safety in the work environment.
- Provide a better service to clients.
- Lead to transformation in economic growth and social development.
- Better co-ordination between various functions within the yards, Joint Operating Office and open line working.

The aim of this qualification is to create a life-long learning environment in which the individual can build on a personal career in the Rail Operations environment. The various skills programmes that exist will allow learners to progress to a national qualification in functional yard operations.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?

Y

LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE

It is assumed that a learner will be competent in:

- Communication at NQF Level 2
- Mathematical Literacy at NQF Level 2.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

This Qualification and the entire fundamental, core and elective Unit Standards associated with it can be achieved by any learner through the recognition of prior learning, which includes learning outcomes achieved through formal, informal and non-formal learning and work experience. Learner and assessor will jointly decide on methods to determine prior learning and competence in the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes implicit in the qualification and the associated unit standards.

This Recognition of Prior Learning may allow for:

- Gaining of credits for unit standards in this qualification.
- Obtaining this qualification in whole.

All Recognition of Prior Learning is subject to quality assurance by the relevant ETQA or an ETQA that has a Memorandum of Understanding with the relevant ETQA.

Access to the Qualification:

- There is open access to this Qualification.

QUALIFICATION RULES

The Qualification consists of a Fundamental, a Core and an Elective Component.

To be awarded the Qualification learners are required to obtain a minimum of 121 credits as detailed below.

Fundamental component

The Fundamental Component consists of Unit Standards in:

- Mathematical Literacy at NQF Level 3 to the value of 16 credits.
- Communication at NQF Level 3 in a First South African Language to the value of 20 credits.

All Unit Standards in the Fundamental Component are compulsory.

Core component:

- The Core Component consists of Unit Standards to the value of 54 credits all of which are compulsory.

Elective component:

- The Elective Component consists of individual unit standards from which the learner must choose unit standards totalling a minimum of 31 credits.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Prepare and dispatch trains for safe movement on rail.
2. Execute protection procedures to ensure safe movement on rail.
3. Conduct rail yard functions.

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

- 1.1. A train profile is formulated according to the nature of rolling stock and destination.
 - 1.2. Shunting movement of rolling stock is controlled in a specific environment according to instructions, POSMOR and train working rules.
 - 1.3. Rail vehicles are inspected for road worthiness and compilation is inspected and rectified according to organisational standards and procedures.
 - 1.4. Despatching procedures, are executed according to organisational standards and procedures.
- Range: Procedures include performing brake test and administration.

Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

- 2.1. Radio communication skills are demonstrated during train control and protection procedures in accordance with protocols and organisational standards and procedures.
- 2.3. A high-voltage earthing switch is operated according to manufacturer specifications and instructions.
- 2.3. Procedures for the introduction, maintenance and discontinuation of on-track protection are executed in applicable area of operation according to train working rules.

Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 3:

- 3.1. Organisational requirements for various rail yard functions are described in terms of methods to achieve acceptable results.
- 3.2. Consequences of not adhering to organisational requirements are described in terms of the impact on the organisation and safety.
- 3.3. Rail yard functions are conducted in accordance with organisational requirements.

Integrated Assessment:

Integrated assessment at the level of the qualification provides an opportunity for learners to show that they are able to integrate concepts, principles and practice across unit standards to achieve competence that is grounded and coherent in relation to the purpose of the qualification. Integrated assessment should show how already demonstrated competence in individual areas can be linked and applied for the achievement of a holistic outcomes as described in the exit level outcomes.

Integrated assessment must judge the quality of the observable performance, and also the quality of the thinking that lies behind it. Assessment tools must encourage learners to give an account of the thinking and decision-making that underpin their demonstrated performance. Some assessment practices will demand practical evidence while others may be more theoretical, depending on the type of outcomes to be assessed. The ratio between action and knowledge is not fixed, but varies according to the demands of the particular exit level outcome of the qualification.

While the generic components of this qualification at NQF Level 3 can be assessed through occupational contexts and activities relating to Train Operations, care must be taken in both the learning programme and the assessment to ensure that these foundational skills are portable. The primary aim of this qualification is to ensure that learners have a sound general foundation to prepare them for further learning towards a specialised role in their chosen career path. Learners must be able to transfer generic skills across a number of different contexts, and apply them within a number of learning areas.

A broad range of task-orientated and theoretical assessment tools may be used, with the distinction between practical knowledge and disciplinary knowledge maintained so that each takes its rightful place.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARABILITY

- International and National benchmarking was done throughout the standard writing process.
- The UK courseware received, was not applicable to the South African environment and the competence profiles do not match the related profiles in South Africa.
- The yard operations, as well as the roles within the South African context, differ totally in comparison with that in the UK rail environment.
- The competency descriptions/profiles also vary within Spoornet, Metrorail, OREX, Coallink and other private rail-related companies, but the project team compiled standards that will cover the whole spectrum within the rail environment in South Africa.
- RAIL TRANSPORTATION WORKERS (USA) advertise various jobs for the USA rail market, but if it is compared with the South African market and competency profiles, then it does not match any competencies at all.

ARTICULATION OPTIONS

The possibility exists for vertical articulation with this Qualification. The following qualifications serve as examples of vertical articulation:

- ID 66669: Further Education and Training Certificate: Rail Operations: Train Control, NQF Level 4.
- ID 61670: Further Education and Training Certificate: Railway Construction and Maintenance, NQF Level 4.
- ID 49067: Further Education and Training Certificate: Railway Signalling: Fault-finding and Repair of Equipment, NQF Level 4.

Examples of horizontal articulation with this Qualification: