
GOVERNMENT NOTICE

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

No. 48

22 January 2007

**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

Occupational Health and Safety

registered by Organising Field 09 - Health Sciences and Social Services, publishes the following qualification for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the qualification. The full qualification can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at www.saqa.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 should reach SAQA at the address below and **no later than 22 February 2007**. All correspondence should be marked Standards Setting - Occupational Health and Safety addressed to

The Director: Standards Setting and Development
SAQA

Attention: Mr. D. Mphuthing

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DR. S. BHIKHA
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SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

QUALIFICATION:**National Diploma: Emergency Care and Technology**

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE		
58083	National Diploma: Emergency Care and Technology		
SGB	PROVIDER		
SGB Occupational Health and Safety			
ETQA			
o			
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD	
National Diploma	9 - Health Sciences and Social Services	Curative Health	
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS
Undefined	240	Level 5	Regular-ELOAC
REGISTRATION STATUS	SAQA DECISION NUMBER	REGISTRATION START DATE	REGISTRATION END DATE
Draft - Prep for P			

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Purpose:

This qualification is an entry-level qualification and recognises the key competences required of Emergency Care Technicians (ECT) who are able to work independently in a variety of contexts. This qualification will be particularly useful for:

- Individuals wishing to enter the profession.
 - o Existing basic ambulance assistants.
 - o Existing ambulance emergency assistants.
- Existing operational emergency care orderlies.

Holders of this qualification will operate mainly in and around the ambulance, within wide ranging contexts, including rural, urban, military, coastal, corporate, mass gatherings, homes and workplaces. In general, the ECT will provide an independent service within the pre-hospital context.

Scope of practice of Emergency Care Technicians:

The exit level outcomes, range statements and assessment criteria must be interpreted and applied within the context of the scope of practice of Emergency Care Technicians as defined by the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

Rationale:

This qualification is designed to produce a mid-level worker who will provide emergency care services primarily within South Africa, in contexts that range from rural, disadvantaged communities to sophisticated, highly technological urban areas. In addition, this qualification aims to produce a competent mid-level worker who will take cognizance of South African history and be able to adapt to the unique circumstances of a changing South Africa with emphasis on equity in health care and reduction of burden of disease.

The National Diploma in Emergency Care and Technology defines the competences needed by the Emergency Care Technician (ECT). The qualification provides the necessary foundational knowledge, skills and insights needed to form a platform for further study in the field of Emergency Care. The qualification is thus designed to enable learners to pursue further personal and professional development and to promote life-long learning.

This qualification will benefit individual holders of the qualification, the medical profession and society in the following ways:

Benefit to individual holders of the qualification:

This qualification provides an entry point to the career path of emergency care services while opening doors for employment and providing mobility for the individual to move between different areas within emergency care. The qualification provides for holistic development of individuals and the competencies required to do the job.

Benefit to the profession:

This qualification is of benefit to the emergency care profession as it:

- o Provides a consistent and coherent foundation for practice at an entry level and progression within the profession in the context of a national qualifications framework.
- Provides a means for the critical function of formal certification and registration within the profession, thus ensuring society is served by competent Emergency Care Technicians.
- Helps to legitimise this level of practice in particular, as well as the profession as a whole.
- Provides a comparable benchmark within the health profession.
- o Will lead to a reduction in the burden on other health structures and practitioners.
- Will lead to a reduction in the number of disciplinary occurrences that take place due to inadequate or inappropriate training.
- Will promote emergency care as a preferred career option.
- Will encourage individuals to enhance and develop the profession itself through their own innovation.
- Will help in the planning, implementation and monitoring of continuing professional development.
- Provides a more equitable basis for remuneration.
- Will enhance the societal image of the profession through improved quality of emergency care services.

In addition, employers of Emergency Care Technicians will benefit through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and productivity (e.g. reduced accidents).

Benefit to society:

The key benefits to society are:

- o Patients are served by competent Emergency Care Technicians, thus increasing their chances of survival and recovery.
- o There will be a reduction in the **cost** of health care and hospitalisation through the more efficient use of resources.
- o Society will be served by more efficient and effective service delivery.
- o The country will be served by a broad reserve of competent individuals.
- o Given South Africa's role as one of five developing nations, this qualification will provide a benchmark for the continent.
- The qualification provides a step towards world-leading practice in **EMS**.

- With a decreased burden on health structures, there are resultant benefits to allied services that are trying to meet EMS needs due to current inadequacies in competencies e.g. reduced contamination of crime scenes, how to give evidence in court; issues related to child abuse etc.

RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?

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LEARNING ASSUMED TO BE IN PLACE

It is assumed that the learners have NQF level 4 mathematical literacy and literacy skills and the ability to undertake independent learning. In addition, it is assumed that learners are able to use information technology to access, present, record and disseminate information.

Access to the qualification:

Learners accessing this qualification will be expected to have an FETC or equivalent qualification at NQF Level 4. Employees of the Department of Health not holding appropriate NQF Level 4 qualifications may be required to access this qualification through a bridging course.

Recognition of Prior Learning:

This qualification may be achieved in part through RPL on presenting the relevant evidence that meets the outcomes of the qualification.

QUALIFICATION RULES

Learners are to achieve all the credits for:

- o The Fundamental component (16 credits).
- o The Core component (**200** credits).

Qualification Overview:

Learners are to achieve one of the four Electives (**24** credits).

Fundamental (16 credits)

- Communicate with patients, colleagues and other services through oral, written and electronic media: (10 credits).
- Promote awareness of HIV and AIDs in self and among others: (6 credits).

Core (200 credits)

Foundations of Professional Practices

- o Demonstrate understanding of the structure and function of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) systems in South Africa and how the EMS relates to the broader health care structures within the country: (4 credits).
- Demonstrate an understanding of and apply the principles of medical ethics, professional behaviour and the legal framework to the context within which the emergency care provider operates: (10 credits).
- Maintain personal health, wellness and safety: (10 credits).

Scientific Knowledge

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of clinical gross human anatomy: (20 credits).

- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental human physiology and bioprocesses: (20 credits).
- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental integrated sciences underpinning emergency care: (30 credits).

Emergency Care Practice

- Provide clinical emergency care independently within an EMS environment: (66 credits).
- Perform clinical assessment and clinical decision making, and provide treatment for minor injuries and minor ailments in specific controlled circumstances: (30 credits).
- Carry out operational routines within an EMS environment: (10 credits).

Electives (select 24 credits)

- Perform medical rescue in selected contexts: (24 credits).
- Provide support in specialised transport of patients: (24 credits).
- Carry out call taking and dispatch in an emergency communication centre: (24 credits).
- Provide emergency care within a military environment: (24 credits).

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

Fundamentals:

- Communicate with patients, colleagues and other services through oral, written and electronic media: (10 credits).
- Promote awareness of HIV and AIDs in self and among others: (6 credits).

Core:

Foundations of professional practices

- Demonstrate understanding of the structure and function of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) systems in South Africa and how the EMS relates to the broader health care structures within the country: (4 credits).
- Demonstrate understanding of and apply the principles of medical ethics, professional behaviour and the legal framework to the context within which the emergency care provider operates: (10 credits).
- Maintain personal health, wellness and safety: (10 credits).

Scientific knowledge

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of clinical gross human anatomy: (20 credits).
- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental human physiology and bioprocesses: (20 credits).
- Demonstrate understanding of fundamental integrated sciences underpinning emergency care: (30 credits).

Emergency care practice

- Provide clinical emergency care independently within an EMS environment: (66 credits).
- Perform clinical assessment and clinical decision making, and provide treatment for minor injuries and minor ailments in specific controlled circumstances: (30 credits).
- Carry out operational routines within an Emergency Medical Services environment: (10 credits).

Electives:

Any one of: