

Government Gazette
Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 721 15 July Julie 2025 No. 53015

ISSN 1682-5845



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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

NO. 6435 **15 July 2025**

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT NO. 16 OF 2006 / NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK ACT NO. 67 OF 2008

DIRECTIVE ON THE INTERNALISATION OF THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL) (NCV) LEVELS 2 AND 3 EXAMINATIONS, AND THE CESSATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE BY UMALUSI, THE QUALITY COUNCIL FOR GENERAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

I, Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, Minister of Higher Education and Training, in terms of section 43(1) of the Continuing Education and Training Act 16-of 2006, as amended, hereby publish (1) the directive on the internalisation of the National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) Levels 2 and 3 examinations, and the cessation of quality assurance by Umalusi, the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training Qualification Sub-Framework; and (2) the revised Policy for the National Certificate (Vocational): a qualification at NQF level 4.

Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, MP
Minister of Higher Education and Training
Date: 26/05/2025

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DIRECTIVE ON THE INTERNALISATION OF THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (VOCATIONAL) (NCV) LEVELS 2 AND 3 EXAMINATIONS, AND THE CESSATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE BY UMALUSI, THE QUALITY COUNCIL FOR GENERAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

BACKGROUND

1. In 2010 a FET Roundtable summit was held, and as part of the resolutions taken at this summit, it was agreed to conduct a review of the NC(V).

2. This review was finally concluded in 2013, and a presentation which included 25 recommendations was made by the Ministerial Task Team (MTT) to the Minister. One of these recommendations was the review of the NC(V) policy.

3. The NC(V) policy was reviewed from 2014 and public consultations done in 2017.

4. In 2020, the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation approved a position paper that proposes changes to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college qualifications. One of the proposed changes in the paper was to have the NC(V) converted into a single 3-year qualification.

DISCUSSION

5. The NC(V) is a vocational qualification registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) comprising of three exit levels at NQF Level 2, 3 and 4. This qualification was developed to enable students to acquire the necessary knowledge, practical skills, applied competence and understanding required for employment at an elementary, intermediate and entry level of a particular occupation or trade, or class of occupations or trades. It would also provide opportunities for articulation into further studies in vocational and occupational qualifications above NQF level 4.

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6. A Government Notice for public comments, which included the conversion of the NC(V) into a single 3-year qualification, was published in November 2020. Comments were received from the public and other stakeholders which included public TVET colleges, private institutions and quality councils (UMALUSI and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations [QCTO]), academics and others. These comments were analysed, and the proposed changes mainly supported.

7. The Director-General of the DHET approved the internalisation of NCV Levels 2 and 3 together with the establishment of the Examinations Internalisation Task team (EITT) and its Terms of Reference in 2021. This EITT will, amongst other functions, develop different models to oversee a smooth transition of the affected examinations from the DHET to regions and colleges.

8. The NC(V) L2 – L4 qualifications are due to be reregistered with the SAQA during 2025. This would be an appropriate time to take the logical step to request SAQA to deregister NC(V) L2 and L3 as separate qualifications and only retain NC(V) as a single 3-year qualification with an exit at NC(V) Level 4. As a result, NC(V) L2 and L3 Examinations would be internalised, administered and managed by the TVET colleges and Regional offices.

9. The internalisation will be implemented through a phased approach, with National Examinations and Assessment (NEA) managing NC(V) L2 and L3 examinations centrally in the beginning, while capacity is being built in regional structures and TVET colleges. Capacity building will take place over a few years until all regions can conduct and manage these examinations successfully.

10. This internalisation would also imply that the number of Examination Question Papers developed by the Chief Directorate: National Examinations and Assessment is reduced, providing a more manageable workload, which would lead to increased efficiency in the conduct of national examinations. The reduction of the examination load will alleviate

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the pressure on DHET resources, which are stretched beyond capacity due to the twelve (12) examination cycles that are managed by the Chief Directorate: National Examinations and Assessment.

AUTHORISATION

This Directive is issued by the Minister of Higher Education in terms of section 43(1) of the Continuing Education and Training Act 16 of 2006, as amended.

This Directive repeals the following policies:

- Policy for the Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC) (Vocational): A qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
- National Certificate (Vocational): A qualification at Level 2 on the NQF
- National Certificate (Vocational): A qualification at Level 3 on the NQF

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Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065

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