

EDUCATION QUALIFICATION DEADLINE EXTENSION

COMPLIANCE DUE DATE EXTENSION: CERTIFICATION AGAINST NQF4 AND NQF5 FOR ESTATE AGENTS REGISTERED WITH THE ESTATE AGENCY AFFAIRS BOARD (EAAB) ON 15 JULY 2008

Further and final extension granted by the Estate Agency Affairs Board for the certification of estate agents registered on 15 July 2008

In terms of the Standard of Training of Estate Agents Regulations, 2008, estate agents who were registered on 15 July 2008, the date when the Regulations came into effect, were required to be certificated against either the Further Education and Training Certificate: Real Estate (NQF Level 4) for non-principal estate agents or the National Certificate: Real Estate (NQF Level 5) for principal estate agents by 31 December 2011. The Regulations specifically provide, however, that this time period may be extended by the Board on reasonable grounds.

Acting under this provision the Board previously extended the certification period to 31 December 2013. It has become increasingly apparent to the Board, however, that a further extension of this period is required if the needs of the estate agency sector in general and the affected estate agents in particular are to be accommodated. Many of the affected estate agents have, unfortunately, delayed enrolling for certification against the required real estate qualifications while other unanticipated delays have also seriously hampered the finalisation of the certification process, including the necessary de-accreditation of certain real estate education providers and recognition of prior learning assessment centres as well as the lack of performance and the due exiting of learners manifested by others.

The Board has, in the circumstances, agreed to grant a further and final extension of time until **30 June 2015** for affected estate agents to be certificated against the required real estate qualifications. It is not envisaged that this time period will again be extended. It is to be underscored, therefore, that those affected estate agents who have still not been certificated by the extended date will not be issued with fidelity fund certificates, entitling them legally to perform the functions and activities of an estate agent, for the 2016 calendar year.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the significant investment in time and resources by the many dedicated and committed estate agents who complied with the previously established deadline and who were timeously certificated against the required real estate qualifications. It is emphasised that certification against the NQF real estate qualifications is an essential prerequisite to registration for the mandatory Professional Designation Examination, whether for non-principal or principal estate agents as the case may be.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is an effective process that was incorporated into the Education Regulations specifically to recognise the acquired knowledge, skills and learning of estate agents who were already active in the real estate sector on 15 July 2008. It is anticipated that, as most of these persons are duly certificated in due course, the RPL process will be commensurately less utilised, with new entrants to the estate agency profession being required to undergo training instead.

The Estate Agency Affairs Board also wishes to remind practicing estate agents who are 60 years of age or older, who have held a valid fidelity fund certificate for at least five years and who currently hold a valid fidelity fund certificate, that they can apply for the special education exemption which may be granted to them in accordance with the requisite EAAB policy. This education exemption applies in respect of both the NQF real estate qualifications as well as the Professional Designation Examination.

For further information please contact our education manager Ms Nomsa Mokoena on nomsa.mokoena@eaab.org.za

