



CLARIFICATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL REAL ESTATE QUALIFICATIONS

The two new occupational qualifications for estate agents, namely the **Occupational Certificate: Real Estate Agent (SAQA QUAL ID 118714)** at **NQF Level 4**, and the **Higher Occupational Certificate: Principal Real Estate Agent (SAQA QUAL ID 121691)** at **NQF Level 5**, officially became effective on **1 July 2024**. These qualifications are intended to replace the legacy real estate qualifications and mark a significant shift towards competency-based training and assessment.

The implementation of these new occupational qualifications by the **Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority (PPRA)** had to align with a Ministerial directive, which provided guidance on transitional arrangements regarding the **pre-2009 educational qualifications**. According to these guidelines, the final enrolment date for the **legacy qualifications**—namely, the **Further Education and Training Certificate: Real Estate (SAQA QUAL ID 59097)** and the **National Certificate: Real Estate (SAQA QUAL ID 20188)**—was **30 June 2024**. It was further stipulated that **no extensions** would be allowed beyond this date for enrolment, and the final **certification deadline** for these legacy qualifications was set for **30 June 2027**. This transition period was agreed upon in consultation with industry stakeholders and sector representative bodies.

As a result, **new entrants** and existing property practitioners **not yet certified** against the legacy qualifications by **30 June 2024** are now required to complete the **new occupational real estate qualifications**.

EXTENSION OF THE FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE: REAL ESTATE (NQF LEVEL 4) TO 30 JUNE 2026

However, in **March 2025**, an extension was approved allowing **enrolment in certain legacy qualifications**, including the Further Education and Training Certificate: Real Estate, until **30 June 2026**, with a final certification deadline of **30 June 2029**. This extension provides a grace period for those still wishing to follow the older educational route.

Candidates choosing to enrol for the **Further Education and Training Certificate: Real Estate** must ensure they register with a **Skills Development Provider (SDP)** that is **authorised to deliver** the qualification during the extended period. Prospective learners are encouraged to verify the

accreditation status of their chosen SDP by consulting the **QCTO database** at www.qcto.org.za/databases-of-sdps.html. It is important to note that while the **PPRA does not accredit** training providers directly, candidates remain responsible for confirming their provider's qualifications to offer the course.

EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE: REAL ESTATE (NQF LEVEL 5) TO 20 JUNE 2026

To date, no official communication has been issued regarding the extension of the **National Certificate: Real Estate (NQF Level 5)**. Should such an update be received, the **PPRA** will notify all stakeholders without delay. In the interim, the only available qualification for **aspirant principal estate agents** is the **Higher Occupational Certificate: Principal Real Estate Agent**, which is geared toward those who already hold full status as **non-principal practitioners**.

DEFINITIONS OF KEY LEARNING COMPONENTS

- **Practical Training** refers to a **structured, workplace-based program** introduced on **1 July 2024**. It consists of **six modules** covering essential industry topics such as compliance, ethics, marketing, financial principles, and real estate operations. This program mainly applies to candidates who have been granted **equivalency exemptions** and must be completed within **180 days** of registration. It replaced the now-defunct logbook system.
- The **Logbook** system was used under the **2008 Regulations** and required candidates to complete a **12-month internship**, recording their workplace learning under the supervision of a mentor or principal. This requirement applied only to those who registered **before 1 July 2024**, and the system was officially **phased out on 30 June 2024**.
- **Workplace Experience** forms part of the new **Occupational Certificate: Real Estate Agent (NQF 4)**. It includes **real-world, on-the-job learning** completed under mentorship and is integrated into the qualification alongside theoretical and practical training. Candidates are required to pass the **External Integrated Summative Assessment (EISA)** to complete the qualification. Those undergoing this route do **not** need to complete the separate practical training modules.

IN SUMMARY

1. **Aspirant and already registered candidate property practitioners and non-principal practitioners** who have **not yet registered** for the new occupational qualifications may still enrol for the **legacy Further Education and Training Certificate: Real Estate (NQF Level 4)**—provided this is done within the extended enrolment period—and be certified by the extended deadline. Importantly, this route remains valid under the current compliance framework of the **Property Practitioners Regulations, 2022**.
2. **Candidate property practitioners and full-status non-principal practitioners** who fail to comply with the educational requirements by the time their **Fidelity Fund Certificate (FFC)** expires will be **ineligible for renewal** until compliance is achieved.

3. Those who have already **enrolled for the new occupational qualifications** must complete **all components**—including knowledge, practical skills, and workplace experience—before their **FFC expires**, or they risk losing their registration.
4. Candidate practitioners still required to **complete both logbook and practical training** must ensure all obligations are fulfilled **before their FFC expires**, failing which, they too will be **unable to renew** their certificate.
5. The PPRA only accepts **certified copies** of:
 - Previous qualifications;
 - Statements of results or transcripts;
 - Letters confirming the completion of the internship;
 - Logbooks and documentation evidencing **work-based or practical training**.

Successful certification and documented proof of completion of these requirements remain the **eligibility criteria** for any person wishing to register for the **Professional Designation Examination (PDE)**.

Issued by the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority

Education, Professionalisation and CPD department

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