

SAQA Qualification ID: 77063 National Certificate: Construction Health and Safety NQF Level 03 Minimum Credits 133

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Learners will be equipped to work in the construction industry with a broad understanding and knowledge of Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental legislation and controls. They will be able to deal with health and safety problems and issues on construction sites.

Qualifying learners will be able to responsibly, independently and effectively manage themselves on construction sites regarding generic health and safety issues. Learners will be able to identify and evaluate occupational safety, hygiene and environmental factors in occupational environments which may have a detrimental effect on the health and safety of people in such environments. Learners credited with this Qualification will be able to perform essential functions that promote a culture of health and safety on construction sites.

Learners credited with this qualification will be capable of:

- Using verbal, electronic and written modes to communicate in the workplace and apply mathematical processes to solve everyday numerical problems in the mitigation of identified construction workplace hazards and/or risks.
- Explaining the requirements of current, relevant legislation and accepted theories impacting on Health, Safety and Environmental issues in the construction environment.
- Recognising, assessing and reporting health and safety hazards and situations on the relevant construction site.
- Administering various functions required to ensure health and safety on construction sites to encourage safety awareness and behaviour.

Rationale:

Learners credited with this qualification are likely to be working mainly in the occupational safety discipline although interaction with the occupational health and environmental management disciplines is likely to take place. Learners are required to integrate practical skills with essential knowledge, to be able to take proactive and reactive measures in order to maintain a healthy and safe environment.

There is currently a shortage of qualified occupational health, safety and environmental practitioners with specific construction industry knowledge. Due to the dynamic nature of all construction projects as opposed to the more static nature of factories and mines, as well as the fact that construction sites pose hazards more orientated towards safety than health, or hygiene specifically, it was felt that greater emphasis should be placed on occupational safety content rather than occupational hygiene and environmental management. As the currently registered National Certificate: Occupational Safety and Hygiene, NQF Level 3 contains 44% credits from

the core, focused on Occupational hygiene, this clearly did not suit the training requirements identified for the construction safety practitioner.

Occupational hygiene is the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of conditions arising in or from the workplace or occupation, which may cause illness or adverse health effects to the employee. These conditions, also referred to as occupational hygiene stress factors, are generally grouped as physical (such as noise, vibration, lighting, ventilation and others), chemical, ergonomical, biological and psychological stressors. The nature of the measurement and management of these also requires a very scientific and methodical approach, which is not generally applicable to construction project environments. The level of academic qualifications required to be able to perform occupational hygiene measurements and manage these are also much higher than the level three entry of this construction- specific qualification. This further supports the need for a more occupational safety orientated qualification at this level.

The need is for the qualifying learner to have knowledge and skills focussing on occupational safety. Where the learner then identifies a risk due to any of the occupational hygiene stressors, the services of an Occupational Hygiene Approved Inspection Authority, registered with the Department of Labour, who are the only people allowed to practice legally in occupational hygiene, would be called in.

The qualification of learners through this programme will increase the number of qualified practitioners available for construction sites.

Construction Health and Safety practitioners will contribute to providing safer construction sites in the Republic of South Africa.

According to figures of the Federated Employers Mutual Association which acts as the licensed Compensation agent for approximately 40% of the registered construction companies in South Africa, they have paid out R109,94m in the period from January 2009 to October 2009, and there are currently R126,74m of outstanding claims for the same period. This would indicate that the statistics for the other 60% of the construction industry would bring these figures to an astounding R591,7m in claims for the whole of the construction industry. Qualified practitioners will lead to a reduction in occupational related injuries and disease reducing the above compensation claims costs. Improved health and safety awareness will flow down to off-the-job attitudes improving due to more knowledge. Their contributions will improve environmental controls on sites which again will flow down to the broader community thus improving environmental management.

The construction industry has experienced a boom over the last five years, unfortunately along with this increase construction related injuries and fatal incidents have continued at an alarming rate. The social and economic impact of occupational, health, safety and environmental incidents is immense. Direct costs that result from poor construction safety, hygiene, health, and environments include human and economic costs. Indirect costs are also incurred and can include, inter alia, poor morale, poor productivity and downtime. Improved construction health, safety and environments could influence the South African economy in direct costs alone to the value of millions of Rand each year. This qualification aims to meet the demand for learners who

are able to facilitate a safe and productive occupational environment.

This qualification is the entry level to a career path in construction health, safety and environmental management. There are generic components which will allow maximum mobility within the field of application. Skills, knowledge, values and attitudes (competencies) reflected in the qualification are building blocks towards a NQF Level 4 qualification.

Qualifying learners will be able to show responsibility, and independently and effectively manage themselves in the workplace regarding generic and construction specific health, safety and environmental issues. Learners will be able to identify and evaluate and take appropriate action on occupational safety factors in the construction environment which may have a detrimental effect on health and safety of people in construction. Learners credited with this Qualification will be able to perform essential measurements and functions that promote a culture of health and safety in the workplace.

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES

1. Use verbal and written practices to communicate in the workplace and apply mathematical processes to solve everyday numerical problems in the mitigation of identified construction workplace hazards and/or risks.
2. Explain the requirements of current legislation and accepted theories impacting on health, safety and environmental issues in the construction environment.
3. Recognise, assess and report health and safety hazards and situations on the relevant construction site.
4. Administer various health and safety functions on construction sites to encourage safety awareness and behaviour.



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