

## **SAQA US ID: 58395 QUALIFICATION TITLE: National Certificate: Project Management NQF Level 5 Credits 120**

### **PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION**

The purpose of the qualification is to develop in learners the following competencies to enable them to operate effectively as project managers of small to moderately complex projects. A learner completing this qualification is able to:

- Manage a simple to moderately complex project whilst:
  - > Operating in a project context in a variety of routine and non-routine contexts, under general supervision.
  - > Selecting from a wide choice of procedures ranging from standard and non-standard.
  - > Taking full responsibility for the nature, quantity and quality of output.
  - > Taking responsibility for group output as required/possible.
  - > Showing possession of a wide range of scholastic and/or technical skills applicable in the field of Project Management.
  - > Demonstrating of a broad knowledge base of project management with substantial depth in some areas.

The use of the term project manager is widespread and inconsistent in interpretation. In some organisations, project manager is a position with the title, while in others, it is a temporary assignment. Whether a full-time position or a part-time assignment, the term Project Manager is linked with a wide variety of responsibilities:

- A project manager could be responsible for all aspects of the feasibility, design, construction, and commissioning of a power plant with a budget of well over 10 Billion Rand.
- A project manager could be responsible for the development of a research report with a budget of less than 100 hours.
- A project manager could be responsible for a subproject that is an element of a larger project or program.

Regardless of the range of responsibilities, project managers at the threshold level of competence are expected to produce essentially the same result outputs and outcomes that are acceptable to relevant stakeholders. However, increasing complexity requires additional competence skills and judgement ability.

The purpose of this qualification is to address the project and general threshold competencies required to manage simple to moderately complex projects. A Project Manager who is competent at managing a project at NQF Level 5 may not be able to produce the expected results in the context of a higher level competency project (NQF Level 6). The Global Project Management Standards Initiative has developed an approach to differentiating projects based on their management complexity. This is used as input to the specification of the South African project management qualifications and standards.

A project manager operating at NQF Level 5 may act as a full time manager or be involved in the product design and development work as well as the project management work. i.e technical specialist and project manager. They tend to be hands on often with little or no administrative

support in the project management processes and resultant outcomes. Typically, the organisation will have set up expectations and rules and procedures to be used on the project before it is given to the project manager. The project manager may well be working with a more senior person with regard to interfaces with clients and stakeholders, gate reviews and closure of the project. Their projects are of a simple to moderately complex nature, the ranges below describe this further:

### **SPECIFIC OUTCOME**

- Conduct effective communication, while working on a project.
- Plan the project.
- Execute and control the project.
- Qualifying learners working on a project will have the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to function more effectively and in a professional manner, add value to their job and enhance their ability to follow and implement policies and procedures.
- On achieving the competencies, included in this Qualification, the learners may advance further into Project Management, Project Support Services or General Management within an organisation, across all sectors.



**GOLD**  
**CLASS GROUP**