

**DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**NO. 3973**

**20 October 2023**

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

**DETERMINATION OF THE PHASE OUT DATE OF NATED REPORT 191 N1 – N3  
PROGRAMMES.**

In terms of section 42(1)(a) read with 43(1) of the Continuing Education and Training Act, 2006 and further read with section 8(2)(b) of the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) hereby notifies the public of its intent to phase out the NATED Report 191 N1 - N3 programmes as from **01 January 2024**.

The last date of enrolment on the NATED N1 - N3 programmes is **31 December 2023**.



**Dr BE Nzimande, MP**

**Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation**

**Date: 25/08/2023**

Stakeholder feedback, research reports and curriculum evaluations have repeatedly indicated that the curriculum structure, design and content of the NATED N1 – N3 programmes have become outdated and do not sufficiently align with other qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

### **Trade Test regulations**

In May 2015 the then Minister of Higher Education and Training published Trade Test regulations in Gazette 38758 after consulting with the National Skills Authority (NSA) and the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). These trade test regulations highlight the following:

- An Artisan qualification is defined as an “occupational qualification approved by the Minister for the purpose of certifying a person as an artisan”.
- Curriculum components of an artisan qualification means the knowledge, practical and structured work experience components of a curriculum.

The transitional arrangements regulation (regulation 11) indicates that:

(1) A trade test centre accredited by a SETA prior to the commencement of these regulations for a trade occupational qualification not registered on the National Qualifications Framework will be deemed to be accredited by the QCTO until the occupational qualification is registered.

(2) A trade test centre must apply to NAMB for a trade test serial number before allowing a candidate to proceed for a trade test unless NAMB gives approval for the trade test centre to conduct trade tests without applying for a trade test serial number.

(3) Until the QCTO determines the entrance requirements contemplated in regulation 2(2)(b) the minimum level of education for access to a trade test will be the successful achievement by a learner before, during or after an artisan learning programme of:

- a) N2 Certificate including the four relevant subjects of maths, engineering science and a fourth subject as required by the trade; or
- b) Technical trade theory programs quality assured by a SETA deemed to be equivalent to NQF level 3; or
- c) Relevant Engineering NCV Certificate with seven subjects at NQF level 3; or
- d) Technical Grade 11 with Maths, Science, Language and related trade theory subject; or
- e) Relevant (directly related to the trade theory subjects) N6 certificate or National Technical Diploma (T, S or N stream.)

In addition to the above mentioned minimum level of educational qualification the applicant must also have:

a) successfully completed all off the job practical training unit standards (in the case of learnerships) or modules (in the case of an apprenticeship) of an artisan learning program at an accredited training provider as verifiable by training records.

b) satisfied the requirements of the structured workplace, on the job, learning for a minimum period of 12 months verifiable through a workplace learning record (e.g logbook) unless any other workplace period has been contractually specified before the date of publication of this Regulation .

(4) The minimum level of knowledge for recognition of prior learning referred to in regulation 2(3) is a 50% pass in a written knowledge assessment that is an integral part of a recognition of prior learning toolkit approved by NAMB.

(5) Until such time as the occupational curricula and /or RPL toolkits for a specific trade are developed, candidates who have not gone through a formal artisan learning program but possess relevant years of work experience in the related trade may be granted access to a trade test if they have completed:

(a) N2 Certificate including the relevant trade theory subjects and a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience; or

(b) Technical trade theory programs quality assured by a SETA deemend to be at NQF level 3 and a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience; or

(c) Relevant Engineering NCV at NQF level 3 and a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience; or

(d) Relevant engineering NC(V) 4 plus completion of all relevant work experience modules and a minimum of 18-months relevant work experience; or

(e) Technical Grade 12 with Maths, Science and related trade theory subject and a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience; or

(f) Grade 9 and a minimum of 4 years relevant work experience; or

(g) Relevant (directly related to the trade theory subjects) N6 certificate or National Technical Diploma (T,S or N stream.) with 18 months relevant work experience.

The DHET published the list of 125 trades through Gazette No.35625 on 31 August 2012. The full list of trades will be developed into occupational qualifications which will be offered at TVET Colleges guided by industry within the footprint of the TVET College. This will ensure fit for purpose programme qualifications mix as well as differentiate each TVET College.

TVET Colleges currently offer 13 (thirteen) Occupational Qualifications which are registered on the NQF. The 13 (thirteen) are as follows:

	Trade/Occupational Qualification	Revised Name	NQF Registered	Trade Test
1	Bricklayer		Registered	Yes
2	Carpenter		Registered	Yes
3	Plumber		Registered	Yes
4	Pipe Fitter		Registered	Yes
5	Welder		Registered	Yes
6	Boiler Maker		Registered	Yes
7	Rigger		Registered	Yes
8	Fitter and Turner		Registered	Yes
9	Automotive Motor Mechanic	Occupational Certificate: Automotive Engine Fitter	Registered	Yes
10	Mechanical Fitter		Registered	Yes
11	Diesel Mechanic		Registered	Yes
12	Electrician		Registered	Yes
13	Millwright		Registered	Yes

An additional 49 (forty-nine) trade Occupational Qualifications have been registered by QCTO and will be offered by TVET Colleges. The 49 (forty-nine) are as follows:

	Trade/Occupational Qualification	Revised Name	NQF Registered	Trade Test Approved
1	Chef		Registered	Yes
2	Hairdresser		Registered	Yes
3	Stonemason		Registered	No
4	Refractory Mason		Registered	No
5	Glazier		Registered	No
6	Gas Practitioner		Registered	No
7	Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic		Registered	No
8	Refrigeration Mechanic		Registered	No

9	Painter		Registered	No
10	Vehicle Painter		Registered	No
11	Moulder		Registered	No
12	Toolmaker		Registered	Yes
13	Locksmith		Registered	No
14	Patternmaker		Registered	No
15	Metal Machinist		Registered	No
16	Saw Maker and Repairer	Occupational Certificate: Saw Doctor	Registered	No
17	Motorcycle Mechanic		Registered	No
18	Automotive Engine Mechanic	Occupational Certificate: Automotive Engine Fitter	Registered	No
19	Aircraft Maintenance Mechanic		Registered	No
20	Aircraft Structures Worker	Occupational Certificate: Aircraft Structures Technician	Registered	No
21	Diesel Fitter		Registered	No
22	Small Engine Mechanic		Registered	No
23	Heavy Equipment Mechanic		Registered	No
24	Tractor Mechanic		Registered	No
25	Musical Instrument Mender or Repairer		Registered	No
26	Goldsmith		Registered	No
27	Diamond and Gemstone Setter		Registered	No
28	Paper Sheetfed offset Lithography Technician	Sheetfed Lithography Technician	Registered	No
29	Coldset Rotary Offset Lithography Technician	Coldset Rotary Offset Lithography Printing Technician	Registered	No
30	Rotary Printing and Re-reeling Flexographic Machine Technician	Occupational Certificate: Packaging Rotary Printing and Re-reeling Flexographic Machine Minder	Registered	No

31	Binder and Finisher	Using OFO Code Mechanised Soft Cover, Book Binding Technician	Registered	No
32	Mechatronics Technician		Registered	No
33	Lift Mechanic		Registered	Yes
34	Weapon Systems Mechanic		Registered	No
35	Armature Winder		Registered	No
36	Electrical Line Mechanic		Registered	Yes
37	Avionics Mechanician	Occupational Certificate: Avionics Mechanic	Registered	No
38	Instrument Mechanician		Registered	Yes
39	Radiotrician		Registered	No
40	Data and Telecommunications Cabler		Registered	No
41	Telecommunications Line Mechanic		Registered	No
42	Panelbeater		Registered	No
43	Vehicle Trimmer		Registered	No
44	Boatbuilder and Repairer		Registered	Yes
45	Survival Equipment Fitter		Registered	No
46	Melter		Registered	No
47	Electroplater		Registered	No
48	Plastics Manufacturing Machine Setter		Registered	Yes
49	Upholsterer		Registered	Yes

The balance of 63 (sixty three) trades still to be developed as Occupational Qualifications will be offered by TVET Colleges as they become registered and trade tests are developed for each. The 63 (sixty three) is as follows:

	Trade/Occupational Qualification	Revised Name	NQF Registered	Trade Test Approved
1	Carpenter and Joiner			No
2	Joiner			No

3	Wall and Floor tiler			No
4	Plasterer			No
5	Fitter-Welder			No
6	Sheet Metal Worker			No
7	Metal Fabricator			No
8	Structural Plater			No
9	Blacksmith			No
10	Gunsmith			No
11	Die Sinker			No
12	Industrial Machinery Mechanic			No
13	Forklift Mechanic			No
14	Precision Instrument Maker and Repairer			No
15	Watch and Clock Maker and Repairer			No
16	Scale Fitter			No
17	Glass Maker			No
18	Optical Mechanic			No
19	Signwriter			No
20	Engraver			No
21	Pre-Press Technical Worker			No
22	Electronic Originator			No
23	Gravure Cylinder Preparation Technician			No
24	Process Engraver			No
25	Printing Machinist			No
26	Screen Printer			No
27	Metal Sheetfed Offset Lithography Technician			No
28	Monoblock Offset Machine Technician			No
29	Roll Label Machine Technician			No
30	Headset Rotary Offset Lithography Technician			No

31	Rotary Printing And Re-Reeling - Gravure Machine Technician			No
32	Stationery Machine Technician			No
33	Craft Bookbinding Technician			No
34	Mechanised Hard Cover Bookbinding Technician			No
35	Guillotine Operator	Registered as a Part- Qualification, not as a Trade		No
36	Electrical Equipment Mechanic			No
37	Transportation Electrician			No
38	Cable Jointer			No
39	Radar Mechanic			No
40	Business Machine Mechanic			No
41	Electronic Equipment Mechanic			No
42	Special Class Electrician			No
43	Computer Engineering Mechanic / Service person			No
44	Telecommunications Technician			No
45	Butcher			No
46	Confectionary Baker			No
47	Pastry Cook			No
48	Confectionery Maker			No
49	Cabinetmaker			No
50	Wood Machinist			No
51	Wood Turner			No
52	Cooper			No
53	Tailor			No
54	Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Leather Processing Machine Mechanic			No
55	Farrier			No



56	Vehicle Body Builder			No
57	Shipwright			No
58	Ammunition Fitter			No
59	Diamond Cutter			No
60	Reinforced Plastics and Composite Trades Worker			No
61	Packaging Manufacturing Machine Minder			No
62	Integrated Manufacturing Line Machine Setter			No
63	Railway Track Master			No

#### **Repeal of policy and transitional arrangements for the National Senior Certificate (Colleges) Programmes NATED Report 190/191**

In April 2019, Umalusi, the Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training Sub-framework published a *repeal of policy and transitional arrangements for the National Senior Certificate (Colleges) Programmes NATED Report 190/191* in *gazette 42380*. The implications of the phase out of NSC (Colleges) by Umalusi are the following:

- N3 Engineering subjects cannot be combined with two (2) Business languages (Business English & Sake Afrikaans) to obtain an equivalent of the NSC with effect from 01 January 2021.
- N3 subjects cannot be combined with Senior Certificate subjects to obtain a Senior Certificate with effect from 01 January 2021.
- The last date of examination of the two (2) Business languages subjects was November 2020

### Ministerial determination of the Sub-frameworks

In the Ministerial determination of the sub-frameworks that comprise the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) which was published in December 2020 in *Gazette 44031*, the following dates are provided in respect of the NATED programmes:

- Registration end date for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the Occupational Qualifications Sub Framework (OQSF) and General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub Framework (GFETQSF) is 30 June 2023.
- The last date of first-time learners enrolling for pre-2009 qualifications and unit standards registered on the OQSF and GFETQSF is 30 June 2024.
- The last date of achievement for pre-2009 qualifications on the GFETQSF is 30 June 2025
- The last date of achievement for pre-2009 qualifications on the OQSF is 30 June 2027.

Pre-2009 qualifications referred to in this determination include NATED Report 191 programmes.

### Government Notice for public comments

With the developments brought about by the publishing of the *trade test regulations 2014*, Umalusi's *repeal of the policy and transitional arrangements for the National Senior Certificate (Colleges) Programmes NATED Report 190/191 2019* and the *ministerial determination of the NQF sub frameworks 2020*, the DHET published in November 2020, a Government Notice for public comments in gazette 43872.

This Government Notice sought to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to TVET Colleges programmes. These changes included the proposed phase out of NATED Report 191 N1 - N3 programmes. Comments were received from the public and other stakeholders including, TVET Colleges, Private Institutions, Quality Councils (Umalusi and the Quality Council for Trade and Occupations (QCTO)), academics, employers, employer organisations and others until April 2021. The analysis of the received comments revealed an overwhelming support for the phase out of N1 - N3 programmes.

**Approval of phase out of NATED N1 - N3 programmes**

In September 2021, the Minister of Higher Education Science and Innovation approved the phase out of NATED N1 – N3 programmes together with the establishment and terms of reference of a task team to oversee the planning and implementation of the phase out. The NATED N1-N3 Phase Out Task Team (NPOTT) was then established in February 2022.

**Transitional arrangements**

With the phase out of N1 – N3 programmes, there is a need to retain some of the N1 – N3 subjects which currently serve purposes for which there are no alternatives. These subjects will be retained in the interim for non-qualification purposes i.e. learners who complete these subjects will receive statements of results from the DHET.

**Subjects retained for articulation into the NATED N4 Engineering Studies and other Engineering programmes**

The following subjects will continue to be offered for the purposes of providing articulation and as a second chance to learners who have completed the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and would like to pursue studies towards N4 Engineering studies but did not meet the performance level required for admission:

- Mathematics N1, N2 and N3
- Engineering Science N1, N2 and N3
- Engineering Drawing N1, N2 and N3

Only students who have passed the NSC / Grade 12 may be allowed to complete these subjects for articulation purposes.

**Subjects retained for trades that do not have occupational qualifications developed yet.**

The following subjects will continue to be available for the purposes of providing access to artisanal training in those trades that currently do not have occupational qualifications and trade tests developed:

- Armature Winding Theory N2
- Electrical Trade Theory N2

- Industrial Electronics N2
- Engineering Drawing N2
- Instrument trade Theory N2
- Logic Systems N2
- Fitting and Machining Theory N2
- Refrigeration Trade Theory N2
- Diesel Trade Theory N2
- Diesel Earthmoving Mechanics Theory N2
- Motor Trade Theory N2
- Motor Bodywork Theory N2
- Motor Electrical Theory N2
- Moulders' Theory N2
- Aircraft Metalwork Theory N2
- Aircraft Maintenance Theory N2
- Aircraft Electrical Theory N2
- Welding Theory N2
- Plating and Structural Steel Drawing N2
- Plumbing Theory N2
- Painting and Decorating Theory N2
- Sheet Metal Workers Theory N2
- Rigging Theory N2
- Gunsmith Trade Theory N2
- Toolmaker's Theory N2
- Patternmaker's Theory N2
- Knitting Theory N2
- Electronics N2
- Electromechanics Theory N2
- Vehicle building Theory N2
- Bricklaying and Plastering Theory N2
- Building Drawing N2
- Building Science N2
- Carpentry and Roofing Theory N2
- Furniture Design N2
- Woodworkers Theory N2
- Mathematics N2

- Engineering Science N2
- Plater's Theory N2

Employees who are sent to improve their knowledge by their employers or as part of their development in the workplace will also be allowed to enroll in the above subjects.

The flexibility brought by the N1, N2 and N3 programmes for the employed learner(s) is essential, where employed learners can enroll on these programmes per trimester sporadically. This will be retained by skills programmes that will cover module groups for registered occupational qualifications. Subjects will be replaced by skills programmes in accordance with the Occupational Qualification Sub Framework.

The retained NATED N1 – N3 subjects will be prioritised for realignment to skills programmes or part qualifications for the purpose of articulation, providing access to artisanal training and providing foundational learning to engineering related Occupational Qualifications. The naming convention shall be retained to eliminate confusion, and to encourage articulation as well as parity of esteem with phased out NATED programmes e.g skills programmes replacing Engineering Science N1, N2 and N3 should be Engineering Science N1 Skills Programme, Engineering Science N2 Skills Programme etc.