

CONFIRM THAT A TRAINING PROVIDER OR PROGRAMME IS ACCREDITED

Many employers and learners have been taken for a ride by Training Providers who allege that they are accredited to facilitate certain learning interventions, namely accredited skills programmes and learnerships.

It is important to differentiate between NQF/Accredited training and Non-accredited training, before we can unpack the criteria for an Accredited Training Provider and / or programme.

Accredited training is regulated by the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA), in that it must meet or exceed the standards as set out by SAQA. The learner will receive credits towards a full or part qualification that is aligned with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The learner will be required to complete a Portfolio of Evidence that will be submitted to the Sector and Education Training Authority (SETA), after being assessed and moderated by the Training Provider. The learner will be issued with a Certificate of Competence. Over and above all, the accredited training can be claimed and will contribute towards the Employers BEE scorecard.

On the other hand, non-accredited training is not regulated by SAQA and is not NQF aligned. Therefore, there is not recognition from a BEE and career development as well as enhancement perspective. The training does not count toward the BEE scorecard and the learner will only receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Due to the benefits of accredited training, it is critical that an employer is able to verify that the provider or programme is verified. ***“Provider accreditation can only be with one SETA, but the provider can have the approval to train different programmes in different SETA’s. These programmes have to be approved by the relevant SETA who gave them the approval to train these programmes”***

Here are some guidelines for verification:

- Request the Provider’s accreditation number or certificate from the SETA. The SETA logo on the Provider’s documents do not mean that they are accredited.
- Contact the SETA to confirm whether or not the Provider or training programme is accredited with them.

- Retrieve feedback from the SETA to confirm if the Provider has exited learners from the particular training programme or if they have received serious complaints from the Provider.
- Request the Provider to furnish you with references from clients that they have done work for.
- Ensure that the Training Provider is registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training
- Ensure that the Provider has assessors and moderators on their books.

Accreditation provides the Employer and the learner with the certainty that the training offered, is of a high quality and that the institution is guided by exceptional policies and procedures that have been enforced due to the implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS). An NQF/Accredited Provider must always provide the client with ongoing support and documentation as stated by SAQA. Failure to provide necessary services during the learning process must be reported directly to the relevant Education and Training Quality Assurance (ETQA/SETA) or SAQA.

This article is a general information sheet and should not be used or relied on as legal or other professional advice. No liability can be accepted for any errors or omissions nor for any loss or damage arising from reliance upon any information herein. Contact Strata-g Labour Solutions for specific and detailed advice.

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