SAQA NATIONAL VERIFICATION

1. Introduction

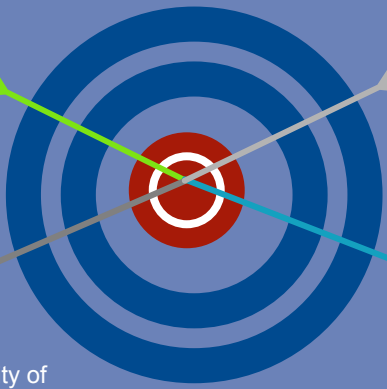
The South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is the custodian of the NQF and oversees its further development and implementation. The NQF is a system that enables communication, co-ordination, and collaboration across education, training, development and work. In advancing the NQF objectives, SAQA embraces diversity, environmental sustainability and social justice.

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a comprehensive system approved by the Minister of Higher Education and Training for the classification, registration, publication and articulation of quality-assured national qualifications and part qualifications. The NQF was established under the South African Qualifications Authority Act (SAQA Act), Act 58 of 1995. After a review, the SAQA Act was amended, giving effect to the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008. This latter Act came into force on 1 June 2009.

The National Qualifications Framework Act, 67 of 2008, was further amended by the National Qualifications Framework Amendment Act No. 12 of 2019. This amendment became effective in 2019, and some sections enforced from October 2023, incorporating additional provisions and updates to the NQF framework.

The objectives of the NQF are designed to contribute to the full personal development of each learner and the social and economic development of the nation at large.

The objectives of the NQF are to:



A. Create a single integrated national framework for learning achievements

B. Facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within, education, training and career paths

C. Enhance the quality of education and training

D. Accelerate the redress of past unfair discrimination in education, training and employment opportunities

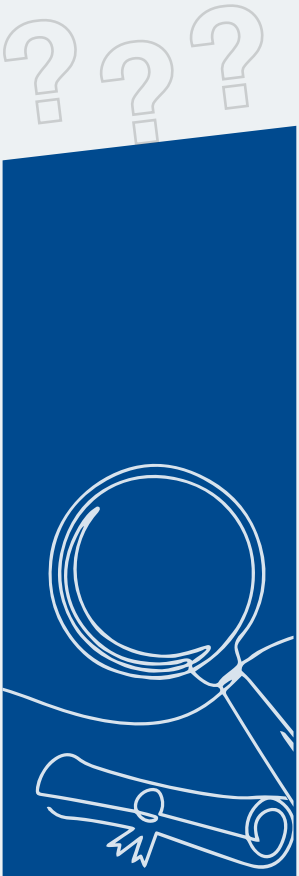
SAQA's Responsibilities.

- Oversee the NQF implementation and collaborate with the Quality Councils
- Develop and implement NQF policies and criteria
- Register qualifications and part-qualifications on the NQF
- Recognise professional bodies and register professional designations
- Undertake research and collaborate with international counterparts
- Maintain the National Learners' Records Database
- Provide an evaluation and advisory service with respect to foreign qualifications
- Provide verification services for national qualifications
- Inform the public about the NQF
- Provide advice to the Minister of Higher Education and Training

Why SAQA's Verification of National Qualifications is important?

As the legislated Qualifications Authority for South Africa, the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) is responsible for safeguarding the quality and integrity of the nation's qualifications. SAQA's sole legal mandate, derived from the National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008 (as amended), empowers it to authenticate and compare qualifications.

SAQA's verification services empower employers and institutions to confidently engage with authentic qualifications. By proactively verifying qualifications, employers and institutions send a clear message that fraudulent qualifications will not be tolerated. SAQA encourages employers and institutions to verify *every* qualification presented to them. Checking with SAQA *before* hiring or enrolling a student is essential to confirm the candidate's credentials and ensure they are being truthful and have integrity.



Enrolling at a registered institution guarantees students a quality education that prepares them for career advancement and mobility within education, training, and employment. A qualification from an unrecognised or fraudulent institution, or worse, a fabricated claim of education, offers no such assurance. Instead of representing genuine knowledge and skills, such a "qualification" is worthless.

SAQA performs evidence-based verification, adhering to the definition of authenticity, by verifying qualifications using factual evidence from reliable sources.

This rigorous process enables us to identify and report both misrepresented qualifications and qualifications issued by fraudulent institutions. Furthermore, SAQA is mandated to establish and maintain separate registers of misrepresented or fraudulent qualifications and part-qualifications. These registers allow us to systematically record and report instances of qualification misrepresentation.

Data Accuracy and Integrity	a robust database of registered qualifications is maintained to ensure data accuracy and integrity.
Quality Assurance	works closely with accredited institutions to ensure that qualifications meet quality standards
Efficiency	verifications are evidence based and strive to meet the needs of stakeholders
Confidentiality	personal information is handled with the utmost confidentiality, adhering to data protection legislation.

2. Comprehensive Verification Process

2.1 Verifications Process

SAQA's verification process involves a series of steps to ensure the authenticity and validity of South African National Qualifications.

SAQA implements the following minimum criteria from the NQF:

The qualification or part-qualification presented for verification must be authentic in that it is:

I. registered on the NQF,
II. offered by a registered, established, declared or merged and accredited education institution or skills development provider in terms of this Act or any other applicable law, and
III. lawfully obtained.

2.2 Key considerations in SAQA's verification process:

Detection	to provide for the establishment and maintenance of separate registers of misrepresented or fraudulent qualifications or part-qualifications.
Prevention	Verify that institutions are accredited to provide the qualifications they advertise and offer. Ensure that these qualifications are registered on the NQF and that learners have lawfully obtained them.
Awereness	raises awareness about the dangers of fraudulent qualifications and encourages stakeholders to verify qualifications before employment.

3. Alignment with National Policies

SAQA's verification is aligned with the objectives of the NQF, by ensuring that the verification services contribute to the broader goals of the South African education and training system. This includes:

- **Facilitate access to, and mobility and progression within, education, training and career paths:** By ensuring the authenticity of qualifications, it facilitates access to higher education, employment, and career opportunities in South Africa and abroad.
- **Enhance quality education and training:** the verification process helps to maintain the integrity and quality of qualifications awarded in South Africa, ensuring that learners receive quality education that is recognised within South Africa and abroad and ensures trust and credibility in the NQF and its qualifications.
- **Accelerate the redress of past unfair discrimination in education, training and employment opportunities:** SAQA contributes to addressing past inequalities in education by ensuring that all learners have equal access to legitimate qualifications and opportunities.

4. Research and Continuous Improvement

SAQA is committed to conducting research and benchmarking to ensure that its verification practices align with global best practices. This involves staying up to date with national and international trends and research findings in the field of qualification verification.

5. Alignment with International Policies

- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs):** As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, there is a growing demand for the verification of qualifications on a global scale. To ensure the integrity of South African qualifications worldwide, SAQA must facilitate access to verification services wherever South African qualifications are presented. This strengthens the confidence of employers, educational institutions, and other stakeholders in the qualifications of individuals who have studied in South Africa and moved internationally. SAQA actively participates in international forums and collaborates with global qualification bodies to align its verification practices with international standards and best practices. Developing and implementing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with other qualifications authorities enables the mutual recognition and verification of qualifications.

- **Participation in International Forums:** SAQA actively participates in international forums and networks, staying informed and aligning with global developments in qualifications frameworks and recognition practices.

6. Public Information and Transparency

SAQA is committed to transparency and provides clear information about its verification processes. This includes easy access to the verifications processes and guidelines through the SAQA website to ensure that our clients are well-informed and understand what to expect and what is expected from them.

7. Advisory Service

SAQA goes beyond its verification services by offering comprehensive advisory services to individuals and organisations by offering a variety of services and awareness on the NQF and student mobility through the verification of qualifications.

8. How to Apply – for Pre–appointment and Verifications Letter

Verification Letter

Visit SAQA Website

- www.saqa.org.za
- Navigate to “Services”
- Click on “Verification of SA Qualifications”
- Click on “Individual Verification Letter”
- Click and Download “Consent Form”
- Complete and Submit the “Consent Form” with required documents

Verificationsletter@saqa.org.za

Third-party Verifications Client

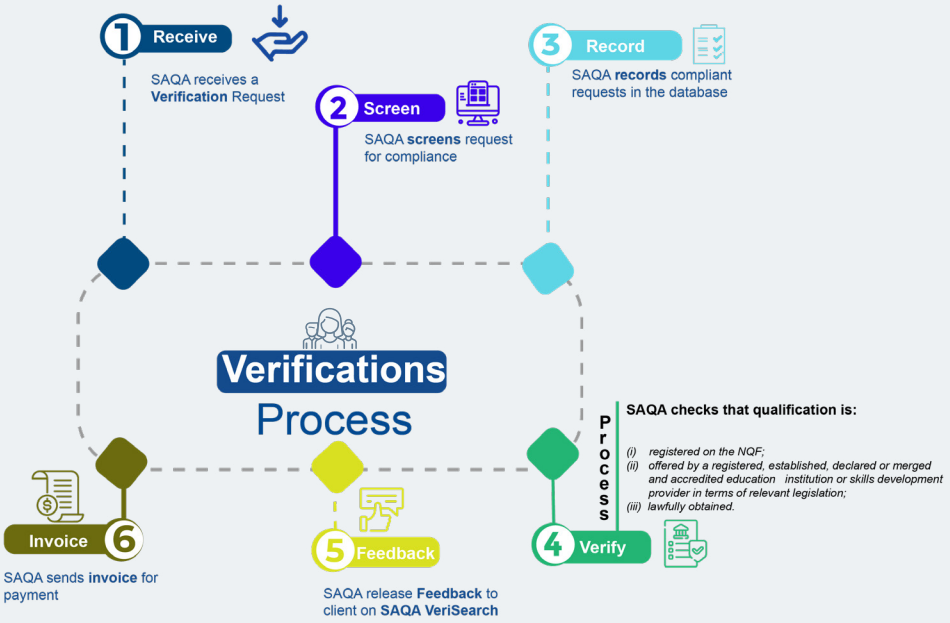
Visit SAQA Website

- www.saqa.org.za
- Navigate to “Services”
- Click on “Verifications of SA Qualifications”
- Click on “Public or Private Client”
- Click and Download the “Verifications Agreement”
- Complete and Submit the “Verifications Agreement”

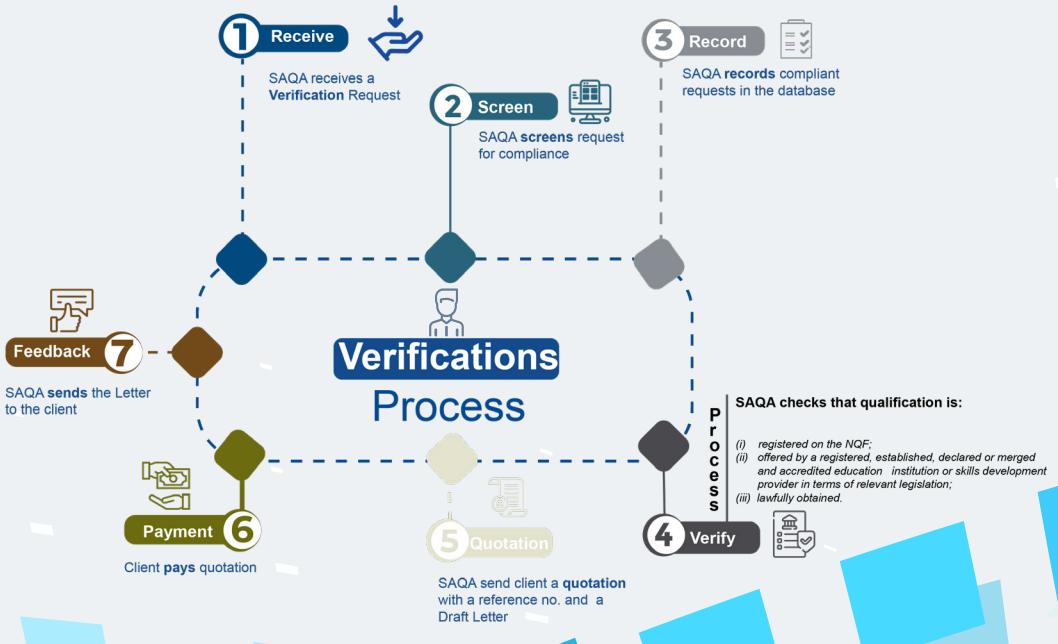
Verifications@saqa.org.za

9. How We Verify Qualifications

Third-party Verification Client



Individual - Verification Letters



SAQA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

+27 12 431 5000

verificationsletter@saqa.org.za | verifications@saqa.org.za
saqainfo@saqa.org.za

www.saqa.org.za