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ADVICE NOTICE

TO: Education and Training Providers in Namibia
Subject: Alignment of the Outcomes of Learning for Courses with the NQF Level and Credit Systems

On 12 November 2009 the NQA Council made decisions regarding the alignment of the outcomes of learning for courses with the NQF Level and Credit systems used in Namibia. These decisions have significance for all providers of education and training in Namibia.

Alignment of Courses with the NQF systems

The Council has resolved that each named course submitted as part of an application for accreditation must be accompanied by Course Statements as detailed in Element 2.2 (2) of the *Accreditation Standard* (Annexure B of the Accreditation Regulations of 2006).

In meeting this requirement, applicants must ensure that the principal outcomes of learning associated with each Course submitted be aligned with an NQF Level Descriptor statement that best applies. Additionally, the effort required by learners to satisfactorily attain the stated outcomes of learning must be expressed in terms of an NQF Credit Value.

These alignment requirements take immediate effect.

Meeting these requirements does not mean that the Courses themselves shall be registered on the NQF should accreditation be granted. Only qualifications resulting from these courses may be eligible for registration on the NQF. However, the alignment of Courses with the NQF Level and Credit systems will assist the registration processes for qualifications. Further, such alignment will also assist in defining Credit Transfer arrangements.

Statements regarding alignment with the NQF

Any alignment of outcomes of learning with the NQF Level and Credit systems must be verified by the NQA before the alignment can be deemed official. Such verification will occur during the accreditation processes and/or during the quality assurance processes associated with qualification registration on the NQF.

Where such verification by the NQA has not been confirmed, providers must ensure that any statements made by them regarding any alignment clearly indicate that the alignment is a 'self determination' only. This is to avoid incorrect or misleading information being made available to learners and other significant stakeholders.

Interpretation of the term 'course'

The Namibia Qualifications Authority Act of 1996 and the Regulations under this Act make reference to the term 'course'. The NQA Council has adopted an inclusive interpretation of this term.

The NQA interprets the term 'course' as referring to any coherent and managed pathway of learning or training and/or component of a specified, coherent and managed pathway of learning. Such a pathway or component of a learning pathway shall be based in clear and consistent aims, content, outcomes of learning and assessment practices relevant to the requirements of a quality assured award(s) and/or qualification(s).

Thus, the NQA interprets the term 'course' as being synonymous with other terms associated with describing learning pathways such as 'programme', 'module', 'unit' (of learning), 'subject', etc.

The NQA does, however, make a distinction between the term 'course' and 'award' and 'qualification'. Whereas 'course' refers to a pathway of learning the latter two terms refer to the certification granted to learners resulting from successful attainment relating to a course or combination of courses.

Assistance from the NQA

Further assistance is available to providers, in aligning their courses with the NQF Level and Credit systems and/or in preparing qualification documents for registration on the NQF. Providers are invited, therefore, to contact the NQA to seek any assistance.

Franz E. Gertze
Director: Namibia Qualifications Authority