

18 March 2011

Dear member and student

New NQF levels

It is important to understand that in South Africa, the Institute is governed by legislation in terms of the registration of its qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) is a Framework on which standards and qualifications, agreed to by education and training stakeholders throughout the country, are registered. It came into being through the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) Act, 1995, which provided for ‘the development and implementation of a National Qualifications Framework’.

In 2008 the SAQA Act was replaced by the National Qualifications Framework Act, 2008. This statute had the effect of changing the NQF levels of previously registered qualifications as outlined in the table below. The structure of the NQF under the SAQA Act, 1995 and the new structure under the NQF Act, 2008 are outlined below:

| NQF Level SAQA Act | Band | Qualification Type | NQF Level NQF Act |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 8 | Higher Education and Training | • Post-doctoral research degrees | 10 |
| | | • Doctorates | |
| 7 | | • Masters degrees | 9 |
| 6 | | • Professional Qualifications | 8 |
| | | • Honours degrees | |
| 5 | | • National first degrees | 7 |
| | | • Higher diplomas | |
| | | • National diplomas | 6 |
| | • National certificates | 5 | |
| Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC) | | | |
| 4 | Further Education and Training | National certificates | 4 |
| 3 | | | 3 |
| 2 | | | 2 |
| General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) | | | |
| 1 | General Education and Training | Grade 9 / ABET Level 4 National certificates | 1 |

In terms of this statute, the qualifications of the Institute are registered at various levels on the NQF. These levels have recently been amended on the SAQA website as follows:

| Name of qualification | Old NQF level | New NQF Level | Known as | Equivalence |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Professional Qualification: Management and Administration | 5 | 6 | CIS programme 1 | 1 year national diploma |
| Professional Qualification: Governance and Administration | 5 | 6 | CIS Programme 2 | 2 year national diploma |
| Professional Advanced Qualification: Governance and Administration | 6 | 7 | CIS Programme 3 | 3 year higher diploma |
| Professional Post-Graduate Qualification: Company Secretarial and Governance Practice | 7 | 8 | Board | Post-graduate (honours level) |

It should be noted that the requirements of the programmes have not changed and this is merely a “cosmetic” change. Therefore holders of qualifications indicating the old NQF levels will continue to receive the same recognition as those who will be awarded their qualifications in terms of the new NQF levels.

Students qualifying this year (2011) will be awarded certificates with the new NQF ratings indicated on them. The Institute will NOT reissue certificates that have been awarded under the old NQF ratings.

Please note that we will change the information in our publicity materials and on our website as soon as we are able to do this.

Best wishes,

Stephen Sadie
(MBA, M. Ed)
Chief Executive Officer



