

## **SAQA Approves the Re-Recognition of ECSA as a Professional Body and the Re-Registration of Its Professional Designations**

The Professional Bodies Committee (PBC) of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) has approved the Re-Recognition of the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) as a Professional Body and the Re-Registration of the following Professional Designations on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) valid from 18 August 2022 to 17 August 2027:

- Professional Engineering Technician (Pr Techni Eng)
- Professional Certificated Engineer (Pr Cert)
- Professional Engineering Technologist (Pr Tech Eng)
- Professional Engineer (Pr Eng)
- Registered Lift Inspector
- Registered Lifting Machinery Inspector
- Medical Equipment Maintainer (Reg MEM)

The approval granted follows a mid-term monitoring site visit conducted in February 2020 as well as the re-recognition site visit conducted in August 2022 to grant recognition to a professional body and the registration of its designations to ensure accountability within the profession and promote pride in association for its professionals.

The review by SAQA is informed by Clause 20 of the Policy and Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008 (as amended, September 2020), which states that “SAQA will re-recognise a professional body for subsequent five (5) year periods, subject to the favourable outcome of a monitoring and evaluation process”.

The monitoring and evaluation process focused on the following business areas of ECSA which serve as criteria for recognising a professional body:

- Legally constituted entity
- Human resources
- Financial resources
- Code of conduct and protection of the public
- Awarding of professional designations
- Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- List of members (Database)
- Submission of data to National Learners' Records Database (NLRD)
- Transformation and unfair exclusionary practices
- Career advice information
- Proliferation of professional bodies

To ensure compliance with the review ECSA submitted the relevant policies, financial reports, processes that guide operations and more importantly, proven compliance with the Engineering Professions Act (46 of 2000) which prescribes the existence, legal confines within which to operate, and outlines the mandate of the Council.

The positive outcome by SAQA certifies and maintains the relevance of the regulatory role of ECSA, as well as acknowledges the importance of its mandate, while protecting the environment for professionally registered persons and thereby, promotion of public safety.