

18 May 2020

Dear Member

PREPARING THE INDUSTRY TO RESUME TRAINING OF LEARNERS AND APPRENTICES AND CONDUCTING OF TRADE TESTS UNDER THE COVID LOCKDOWN GUIDELINES.

NAMB COVID-19 Pandemic Memorandum 1, 07 May 2020 refers

Mr DK Mabusela, Chief Director: National Artisan Development (INDLELA), issued a communication to all accredited Trade Test Centres, all Sector Education Training Authorities (SETAs) Artisan Managers and all Accredited Artisan Skills Development Providers (SDPS), also known as Training Centers, outlining pertinent points to assist them in the preparation required to resume training and testing in terms of lockdown guidelines.

During the months of May and June 2020, all Skills Development Providers and Trade Test Centres must start with the required preparations to ensure readiness for training and testing to commence.

Members need to note when the training and testing commences, the Sector Education Training Authorities (SETAs) will continue to issue serial numbers on behalf of the National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB) and all requests for serial numbers and certification applications by a SETA will be done online.

QCTO COVID-19 Crisis: Opening up of e-learning on the OQSF, 27 April 2020 refers

Mr V Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer: Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), issued a communication to all Skills Development Providers and other stakeholders confirming the QCTO's support to Skills Development Providers during this time of crisis.

Members need to note when the learners and apprentices return to their respective workplaces, all Skills Development Providers and Trade Test Centres should be ready to resume their duties when the learners and apprentice contracts are reinstated. Because most of the training in this Industry is trade related which require face-to-face training, alternative training methods would be required to meet the social distancing requirement. This led to the QCTO's decision to relax the regulations around the mode of delivery for qualifications on the sub-framework to allow for distance and online learning indefinitely.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROVIDERS' AND TRADE TEST CENTRES' ACCREDITATION EXTENSIONS

QCTO COVID-19 Memorandum 2, 30 April 2020 refers

Mr V Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer: QCTO, issued a communication to all QCTO stakeholders, Quality Assurance Partners, Accredited Assessment Centres / Trade Test Centres and Legacy Trade SDPS addressing the extension of accreditation for Trade Test Centres and Skills Development Providers.

Members need to note that, all Trade Test Centres' and Skills Development Providers' whose accreditation expires during 2020, have been granted an extension of their accreditation until 31st March 2021. The National Artisan Moderation Body also informed that no new Trade Test Center and Skills Development Provider accreditation applications will be accepted until travelling for site inspections is allowed under further phasing out of COVID lockdown levels.

This memorandum also does not constitute an approval to commence with trade testing immediately as this will also depend on further specific regulations / guidelines to be issued. No directive has been issued to the Trade Test Centres to date in this regard.

The RMI will make contact with NAMB, the QCTO and merSETA to consult on guidelines to be issued in the near future. Feedback will be provided when it becomes available.

The RMI remains committed to servicing members during this time and encourages members to remain positive.

Training and skills development related matters can be addressed to the **RMI National Director Training, Louis van Huyssteen, at louis.vanhuysteen@rmi.org.za**. Kindly copy your Association Director and Regional Manager in any training-related communication.

