



---

## INDUSTRY CIRCULAR

06 August 2014

Dear Security Service Provider

**COMMUNIQUÉ: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (PSIRA) AND THE SAFETY AND SECURITY SECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING AUTHORITY (SASSETA)**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) regulates the private security industry and exercise control over the occupation of security service provider. This includes statutory functions in connection with the training of security service providers and prospective security service providers to ensure a high quality of training and to set and enforce minimum training requirements for registration as a security service provider.

Further, the SASSETA has been accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) to perform the function as an Education and Training Quality Assurance Body in terms of the SAQA Act and in agreement with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations in terms of the National Qualifications Framework Act in respect of security qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework.

In view thereof, PSIRA and SASSETA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 1 April 2014. The purpose of the MOU is to strengthen collaboration and co-operation in

the enhancement of training in the private security industry based on qualifications registered by SAQA on the National Qualifications Framework and is also founded on a renewed commitment between the two Bodies to improve the quality of training for the private security industry.

## **2. AREAS OF CO-OPERATION IN TERMS OF MOU**

It is PSIRA's intention to replace the training courses made in terms of the Training of Security Officers Regulations, 1992 (grade E to A, armed response, assets in transit, special events, dog handler) with qualifications and unit standards developed and registered by SAQA on the National Qualification Framework.

Whilst the Private Security Industry Regulation Act (Act No. 56 of 2001) stipulates the requirement that all those who fall within the definition of "security service provider" (which includes persons providing training in the security field) must comply with the registration provisions and be registered with PSIRA before becoming active in the industry, SASSETA will, in terms of the MOU, quality assure qualifications and skills programmes registered on the National Qualifications Framework in terms of its accreditation by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations.

## **3. NEW PROPOSED STATUTORY TRAINING STANDARDS FOR THE PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY**

As you may be aware, PSIRA developed, in conjunction with stakeholders within the industry, new training standards for all the categories or classes of security service providers which will ultimately replace the current courses as prescribed in the Training of Security Officer Regulations, 1992.

The new proposed training standards (skills programmes) were compiled from, *inter alia*, the following SAQA registered qualifications:

### **(NC – National Certificate / FETC – Further Education and Training Certificate)**

- NC : General Security Practices (Level 3)**
- FETC : Specialist Security Practices (Level 4)**
- FETC : Use of Firearms (Level 4)**
- FETC : Firearm Training (Level 4)**

**FETC : Dog Handling (Level 4)**  
**NC : Locksmithing (Level 3)**  
**NC : Close Protection (Level 5)**  
**FETC : Electronic Security Installation Practices (Level 4)**  
**FETC : Generic Management (Level 4)**  
**NC : Generic Management (Level 5)**  
**NC : Resolving of Crime (Level 5)**  
**NC : Policing (Level 5)**

The skills programmes include, *inter alia*, training standards for the following categories or classes of security service providers:

- **Guarding Sector (grades E –A)**
- **Generic Management and Management for all the particular categories or classes of security service providers**
- **Consultants / Advisors**
- **Reaction Officers**
- **Assets in Transit**
- **Retail Security**
- **Special Events**
- **Close Protection**
- **Electronic security which includes CCTV, Alarm Systems, Access Control, Fire Detection, X-Ray Inspection, Metal Detection, Bomb Detection, Monitoring / Interception Devices and Satellite Tracking**
- **Locksmith and Safe Technicians**
- **Private Investigators**
- **Dog Handlers**
- **Training Instructor / Facilitator**
- **National Key Point Officers**
- **Facilitators / Assessors / Moderators**

The above skills programmes for each of the categories or classes referred to above can be viewed on PSIRA's and SASSETA's websites at [www.psira.co.za](http://www.psira.co.za) and [www.sasseta.org.za](http://www.sasseta.org.za) respectively. A copy thereof will also be e-mailed to all interested persons on request.

#### **4. CURRENT STATUS ON ACCEPTING TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF REGISTRATION AS A SECURITY SERVICE PROVIDER**

At this stage, those who fall within the definition of "security service provider" requiring registration with PSIRA have the following options:

➤ **OPTION 1**

Completion of the grade training in terms of the Training of Security Officers Regulations, 1992.

➤ **OPTION 2**

Completion of a formal training course at a SASSETA accredited training provider, accredited to offer specific unit standards / qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework within the security industry as per the skills programmes developed.

➤ **OPTION 3**

Should the candidate have previous learning and experience howsoever obtained as a "security service provider" they can undergo a recognition of prior learning assessment process. Such candidate must approach a SASSETA accredited training institution (not SASSETA) listed on SASSETA website ([www.sasseta.org.za](http://www.sasseta.org.za)) which are accredited to offer specific unit standards within which recognition is required.

- A learner has to undergo assessment through RPL with an accredited training provider before he can be declared competent against a specific unit standard /s qualification.
- The results will be forwarded to the SASSETA who will issue a certificate of achievement

The SASSETA learner achievement certificate or statement of result will be accepted by PSIRA as a requirement before an individual can be registered as a security service provider.

PSIRA recognition will obviously be given in respect of the skills programmes referred to in paragraph 3.

#### ➤ **OPTION 4**

The new categories or classes of security service providers may apply to PSIRA for Recognition of Prior Learning. This will only be accepted in the case where there are no SASSETA training providers accredited to assist with RPL against the skills programmes and subject to terms and conditions determined by PSIRA.

### **5. WAY FORWARD**

PSIRA and SASSETA have been mindful of the demands and impacts of the system that change brings and acknowledges that reform to the minimum statutory training standards for the private security industry, is not to be implemented hastily. However, in also considering the risks associated with continuing with the existing PSIRA curriculum and in the absence of any statutory security training standards for the new categories or classes of security service providers, *PSIRA on a balance believes it is now time for change*. Furthermore, throughout previous consultative sessions in developing the skills programmes, it has been evident that there is a strongly shared view across most stakeholders on the need for change to the minimum statutory training standards in order to assure the integrity of training and improve the competency of security officers, although concerns have been raised in respect of the costs and time associated with new NQF based programmes.

PSIRA and SASSETA is further conscious of the impact of the proposed changes on the private security sector and is committed to consider all options to mitigate against any potential unintended consequences, especially as far as existing registered security officers are concerned who have completed the current non NQF aligned grade courses. This will provide for the new training standards not to have an immediate impact on the existing registered security officers and a phase-in-approach will be implemented and also in line with a credible recognition of prior learning solution. However, the transition will also have to recognise that the new categories or classes of security service providers, who registered as security service providers on irrelevant statutory training standards for their occupation, will have to complete the new programmes over a prescribed period.

Statutory NQF training standards for the private security industry has been a long time in preparation, and is certainly overdue given the state of the current training standards in

general within the private security industry. It is PSIRA's expectations that the NQF based programmes will bring about the necessary coherence and impetus to ensure a drive for better qualified security service providers for all the different categories or classes.

PSIRA and SASSETA will in due course consult with the industry on the new proposed training standards and any regulations to be made in terms of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act, 2001 in respect thereof. Further communication in respect of the foregoing will follow. *We look forward to working together with private security industry and all stakeholders in making this transition a success.*

If you have any enquiries or for any issues of clarity in respect of this communique, kindly contact the offices of PSIRA and / or SASSETA on the contact details here below:

**PSIRA**

Physical: Eco Glades 2 Office Park,  
Block B  
420 Witch-Hazel Avenue  
Highveld, Ext 75  
**CENTURION, 0157**

Tel. : +27 12 003 0500 / 0501 (Switchboard)  
Email : [infor@psira.co.za](mailto:infor@psira.co.za)

Postal: Private Bag x 817  
  
Pretoria  
  
0001

**SASSETA**

Physical: Riverview Office Park  
  
Janadel Avenue  
  
Halfway Gardens  
  
**MIDRAND**

Tel. : +27 (0) 11 347 0200 (Switchboard)  
Email : [callcentre@sasseta.org.za](mailto:callcentre@sasseta.org.za)

Postal: P.O. Box 7612  
  
Halfway House  
  
1685

Yours faithfully



---

**MS MPH O MOFIKOE**  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR: COMMUNICATIONS, CRM AND TRAINING**  
**012 003 0483 / 083 993 6120**  
[mpho.mofikoe@psira.co.za](mailto:mpho.mofikoe@psira.co.za)