

20 January 2014

RE: ARTISAN CERTIFICATION PROCESS DELAYS

To whom it may concern:

This serves to inform all FP&M SETA stakeholders, including learners, that FP&M SETA is currently experiencing delays with the issuing of artisan certificates.

The main reason for this is due to process changes which affect the turnaround time for the issuing and distributing of artisan certificates.

The new process is as follows:

1. Once a learner is declared competent, the full portfolio of evidence is sent to the National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB);
2. NAMB evaluates the evidence and if criteria are met, they recommend certification to the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO);
3. The QCTO then create and sign the certificate; and
4. The signed certificate is sent back to NAMB who will thereof send it back to FP&M SETA for distribution.

The above process, resulting in SETAs no longer issuing certificates but merely distributing certificates, was scheduled to commence on 1 October 2013.

During October 2013, FP&M SETA was informed by the QCTO that SETAs were to submit all the portfolios of evidence to NAMB for evaluation and to recommend certification to the QCTO.

On Friday, 17 January 2014, all applications for artisan certificates submitted to NAMB were returned to the FP&M SETA, as further information was required by NAMB to process the certification request. Hard copy certificates were returned by NAMB with a notice that QCTO are required to create, print and sign certificates according to the original agreement. This has now created a further delay.

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We apologise for the delays and we are working closely with NAMB to try and resolve it.

The FP&M SETA will keep you updated with regards to progress and will inform stakeholders affected by this process if any support is required in this regard.

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ETQA Manager

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