



All qualifications and part qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework are public property. Thus the only payment that can be made for them is for service and reproduction. It is illegal to sell this material for profit. If the material is reproduced or quoted, the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) should be acknowledged as the source.

SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

REGISTERED QUALIFICATION:

Higher Occupational Certificate: Sound Operator

SAQA QUAL ID	QUALIFICATION TITLE							
120748	Higher Occupational Certificate: Sound Operator							
ORIGINATOR								
Development Quality Partner - MICT SETA								
PRIMARY OR DELEGATED QUALITY ASSURANCE FUNCTIONARY	NQF SUB-FRAMEWORK							
QCTO - Quality Council for Trades and Occupations	OQSF - Occupational Qualifications Sub-framework							
QUALIFICATION TYPE	FIELD	SUBFIELD						
Higher Occupational Cert	Field 02 - Culture and Arts	Music						
ABET BAND	MINIMUM CREDITS	PRE-2009 NQF LEVEL	NQF LEVEL	QUAL CLASS				
Undefined	168	Not Applicable	NQF Level 05	Regular-ELOAC				
REGISTRATION STATUS	SAQA DECISION NUMBER	REGISTRATION START DATE	REGISTRATION END DATE					
Registered	EXCO 0614/23	2023-03-08	2028-03-08					
LAST DATE FOR ENROLMENT	LAST DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT							
2029-03-08	2032-03-08							

In all of the tables in this document, both the pre-2009 NQF Level and the NQF Level is shown. In the text (purpose statements, qualification rules, etc), any references to NQF Levels are to the pre-2009 levels unless specifically stated otherwise.

This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by any other qualification.

PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION

Purpose:

The purpose of this qualification is to prepare a learner to operate as a Sound Operator. A Sound Operator sets up and operate audio equipment to record, edit, mix, and amplify sound in support of live, recorded and broadcast productions, performances or events.

A qualified learner will be able to:

- Apply Knowledge of principles and practices of audio to ensure satisfactory quality sound.
- Prepare audio sound equipment for use.
- Operate equipment to record, edit, mix, enhance/ amplify/ master sound to ensure satisfactory quality.
- Perform basic equipment maintenance.
- Practice basic business management.

Rationale:

The need for this qualification was established through the MICT sector skills planning process and the occupation of Sound Operator is reflected as one of the top 5 hard to fill vacancies in the Film and Electronic media sub-sector according to the 2021 MICT Sector Skills Plan.

The re-alignment of this qualification was necessitated by the changing nature of the world of work, and its resultant impact on the required outcomes relevant to operating as a Sound Operator today. For this reason, the qualification outcomes embed the use of electronic systems as well as business skills to support electronic communication in an interconnected world.

Other than the qualifications to be replaced, there are no similar qualifications registered on the OQSF, however qualifications exist in the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-framework. It is envisaged that this occupational qualification will provide an entry pathway into the Higher Education qualifications.

This qualification will contribute to the economy by producing Sound Operators who are able to operate as freelancers with a foundational understanding of business skills, including marketing of services as well as business communication. These freelance or 'gig workers' are a growing phenomenon globally but has been a prevalent practice in the Sound industry as professionals tend to be contracted for their services in terms of production projects. This qualification also contributes to society by enabling the decentralised development of audio skills that have traditionally been developed in more urban/ metropolitan areas, thereby distributing the critical skill more equitably across the country. The qualification will also support the employment pipeline for media entities operating in the space and may therefore address issues of unemployment. The qualification also provides a bridge between the related sub-sectors of Film, Television and Multi-media which has traditionally had limited entry points.

The qualification will accommodate school leavers and qualifying learners with no work experience as well as existing workers in the industry who want to progress. Qualifying learners will be able to operate as Sound Assistants, Junior Sound Technicians, Sound Technicians and will meet the educational requirements for accessing the professional designation pathway from the South Africa Communications Industry Association (SACIA) who were part of the development process.

LEARNING ASSUMED TO BE IN PLACE AND RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):

- Learners will gain access to the qualification through RPL for Access as provided for in the QCTO RPL Policy. RPL for access is conducted by accredited education institution, skills development provider or workplace accredited to offer that specific qualification/part qualification.
- Learners who have acquired competencies of the modules of a qualification or part-qualification will be credited for modules through RPL.
- RPL for access to the external integrated summative assessment:

Accredited providers and approved workplaces must apply the internal assessment criteria specified in the related curriculum document to establish and confirm prior learning. Accredited providers and workplaces must confirm prior learning by issuing a statement of result.

Entry Requirements:

The minimum entry requirement for this qualification is:

Any NQF Level 4 qualification.

RECOGNISE PREVIOUS LEARNING?

Y

QUALIFICATION RULES

This qualification consists of the following compulsory Knowledge, Practical Skill and Work Experience Modules:

Knowledge Modules:

- 352103-000-00-KM-01, Theory of Sound, NQF Level 5, 18 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-KM-02, Sound Equipment Principles, NQF Level 4, 8 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-KM-03, Characteristics of Audio Hardware and Software, NQF Level 5, 4 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-KM-04, Electronic Maintenance Theory, NQF Level 5, 12 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-KM-05, Basic Principles of Business Management, NQF Level 5, 8 Credits.

Total number of credits for Knowledge Modules: 50

Practical Skill Modules:

- 352103-000-00-PM-01, Apply Theory of Sound, NQF Level 5, 34 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-PM-02, Apply Understanding of Features and Functions of The Sound Equipment, NQF Level 4, 4 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-PM-03, Operate Prepared Audio Equipment for Production, NQF Level 5, 20 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-PM-04, Maintain Sound Equipment, NQF Level 5, 8 Credits.
- 352103-000-00-PM-05, Apply Effective Business Management Skills, NQF Level 5, 12 Credits.

Total number of credits for Practical Skill Modules: 78

Work Experience Modules (Select only Elective A or B):

Elective A

- 352103-000-00-WM-01, Live events, NQF Level 5, 40 Credits.

Elective B

- 352103-000-00-WM-02, Recorded events, NQF Level 5, 40 Credits.

Total number of credits for Work Experience Modules: 40