



27 July 2020

Dear EWSETA Skills Development & Training Providers, Implementing Partners

Risk adjusted strategy for phased-in return of skills development activities

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a major source of disruption to life and business activities internationally. In South Africa, from a skills development perspective, Covid-19 and the resultant lockdown has impacted the ability of skills development training providers and implementing partners to roll out of various skills development activities.

A Government Gazette (No 43486, Notice No 355 of 2020) issued on 29 June 2020 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, outlines directions for the reopening of institutions offering qualifications registered on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) as part of the risk-adjusted strategy for a phased-in return of skills development activities.

Notwithstanding the date of publication of the Notice in the Government Gazette, these Directions come into effect on 1 June 2020

There are key factors raised in the Gazette that must be read and adhered to by all our implementing partners, in the continuation and implementation of project deliverables and set milestones.

Continuation of Service Level Agreement implementation –

1. Review of Implementation plans for approval of outstanding deliverables in both classroom and work-based training for purpose of reviewing SLA timelines
2. Learner rotational training schedules, which adhere to the set maximum of 33% of the learner population at the time

Site readiness –

3. Health and safety protocols must be observed by both staff and learners in line with set Covid-19 regulations, availability of the PPEs: face-masks, sanitisation areas, screening on arrival, observance of social distancing on site by all, daily record of staff and learners on site, daily reporting of underlying health conditions (declaration) for learners and students
4. A plan in place of processes to ensure adherence to regulations by staff and learners, that is reviewed regularly and that can be verified by EWSETA quality assurance as and when required
5. Conduct learner orientation on Covid-19 safety measures prior to commencement of any training (workplace based, classroom training and trade test assessments).

Demographic considerations –

1. Monitoring of learner progress reports that must include attendance registers, submission of the learner scheduling plans, learner virtual learning plan – in line with milestone requirements
2. Learner assessment plans for both classroom and workplace based training – this should give clarity for learners' access to online/virtual/remote learning platforms that will be put in place by SDPs
3. Issuing of travel permits on set dates and in line with training schedules for staff and learners in order to allow learners and staff to travel, according to the **Risk Adjustment Strategy Alert: Level 3** see section 9 of the attached copy of **Gazette No 43486, Notice No. 355 of 2020**
4. Submission of a special recovery plan in those areas that have been identified as high risk areas in line with the Department of Health statistical Covid-19 reports, and in instances of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the workplace based/or training centres.

As a country we face unprecedented times, but rest assured that the EWSETA will continue to work with its stakeholders in driving energy and water sector skills development.

Take care and stay safe



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Chief Operations Officer