

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL:**

**TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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**TVET NUMBERED CIRCULAR TC 0134 (B)**

**DATED: 15 OCTOBER 2025**

**To:** **Acting/TVET Colleges Principals/Deputy Principals: Academic**  
*[Distribution of circular by the office of the DDG: TVET]*  
**Management Staff at all TVET Colleges** *[Distribution of circular by the principals]*  
**Private Colleges** *[Distribution of circular by the CD: Programmes and Qualifications]*  
**Acting/TVET Regional Manager/TVET Directors** *[Distribution of circular by the office of the DDG: TVET]*  
**Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA) CEOs**  
*[Distribution of circular by the CD: Programmes and Qualifications]*  
**Industry role-players** *[Distribution of circular by the CD: Programmes and Qualifications]*

**RE: EXTENTION PROVISION FOR THE TEACH OUT OF THE NATED REPORT 191  
NATIONAL N DIPLOMA INCLUDING N4 – N6 PROGRAMMES.**

Dear College Principals

The Ministerial Determination of 2012 indicated that all qualifications registered on the eight-level NQF will not be re-registered and must be replaced with qualifications as per the sub-framework policies. All pre-2009 qualifications allocated to the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF) were to reach their registration end date on 30 June 2015. The Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) requested extension until 30 June 2018 as it was a newly established council, and not enough occupational qualifications were developed to replace the pre-2009 qualifications, at the time. The QCTO thereafter requested the re-registration of the pre-2009 qualifications until 30 June 2023 to allow for the development and implementation of the new occupational qualifications. Currently there are more than 800 Occupational Qualifications and Part Qualifications registered on the Occupational Qualifications Sub-Framework (OQSF).

On 03 June 2024 the Minister issued the directive on the implementation and transitional arrangements for all pre-2009 qualifications (Under the SAQA Act, 1995) published in Government Gazette 50742 which extend the last date of enrolment for pre-2009 qualifications for a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years for qualifications that are in the process of realignment, development, evaluation and recommended to SAQA for registration. The NATED Report 191 programmes are part of these 374 qualifications.

The Department of Higher Education and Training issued a TVET numbered circular TC 0134 in July 2025 guiding TVET colleges on the teach out timeframes for the NATED Report 191 National N Diploma in accordance with the directive. Several TVET colleges have approached the DHET requesting an extension to the teach out period of the National N Diploma, mainly due to delays in the implementation of their plans for transitioning to occupational qualifications.

A process was undertaken to consult with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) as the Quality Council responsible for the OQSF.

Below is the amended guiding teach-out schedule which provides the last enrolment and examination dates of the different N-levels for the **last cohort** of students on N4 – N6 programmes. Students will have a maximum of two chances to complete each level during the teach out period.

| <b>NATED REPORT 191: BUSINESS AND SERVICES STUDIES</b> |                          |                              |                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>N-Level</b>                                         | <b>First opportunity</b> | <b>Repeating opportunity</b> | <b>Last date of National Examination</b> |
| N4                                                     | Semester 2 2026          | Semester 1 2027              | Semester 1 2027                          |
| N5                                                     | Semester 2 2027          | Semester 1 2028              | Semester 1 2028                          |
| N6                                                     | Semester 2 2028          | Semester 1 2029              | Semester 1 2029                          |

| <b>NATED REPORT 191: ENGINEERING STUDIES</b> |                          |                              |                                          |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>N-Level</b>                               | <b>First opportunity</b> | <b>Repeating opportunity</b> | <b>Last date of National Examination</b> |
| N4                                           | Trimester 2 2026         | Trimester 3 2026             | Trimester 3 2026                         |
| N5                                           | Trimester 1 2027         | Trimester 2 2027             | Trimester 2 2027                         |
| N6                                           | Trimester 3 2027         | Trimester 1 2028             | Trimester 1 2028                         |

Note the following:

1. This provision is available to assist TVET colleges that are behind in transitioning to occupational qualifications, it is not **COMPULSORY**. Those TVET colleges that have already transitioned to occupational qualifications may not use this provision.
2. Students who complete the N-level programmes by 30 June 2026 will receive the QCTO accredited certificates as per current practice.
3. Students who complete the N-level certificates after 30 June 2026 will be issued with Statements of Results from the DHET.
4. The Statements of Results issued after 30 June 2026 will remain eligible for obtaining the National N Diploma.
5. **No new students may be enrolled in National Introductory Certificate N4 programmes from January 2026.**
6. From January 2026 TVET colleges are directed to desist from conducting institutional graduations for students who complete the N6 part qualification. Graduations may be conducted for the complete National N Diplomas.
7. **Public TVET colleges** making use of this provision are required to submit to the DHET their 2026 plans for the transition to occupational qualifications by **Friday 21 November 2025**. These should be submitted to [Vele.T@dhet.gov.za](mailto:Vele.T@dhet.gov.za).

Colleges must continue conducting strategic and forward-looking reviews of their Programmes and Qualifications Mix (PQM) to align with the skills needs of industry and society and proactively address the planned phase-out of NATED Report 191 programmes in line with the transitional arrangements.

**For further inquiries on the matter, please contact Mr. Thivhudziwi Vele at [Vele.T@dhet.gov.za](mailto:Vele.T@dhet.gov.za).**

Yours sincerely



**Mr S. Zungu**  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Technical and Vocational Education and Training**  
**Date: 16 October 2025**