



Newsletter No 121 of 2025

SASSETA / QCTO – Final Industry Update for 2025

12 December 2025

Dear Stakeholders,

As we close out 2025, we would like to share our final update for the year. You will already have received Newsletter No. 117, which confirmed our office closure dates for 2025 and reopening in 2026.

The year began on 15 January 2025 with a stakeholder session for the QCTO Verification of the realigned firearm skills program. The SAPFTC attended as observers, representing the majority of recognized firearm subject matter experts (SMEs) in South Africa.

Our credentials as industry experts are well established, representing more than 1,263 registered firearms instructors, from newly certified instructors to some of the most advanced tactical trainers in the country. As the delegated quality assurer for firearms since 2013, the PFTC's leadership in firearm education, standards, and continuous professional development remains undisputed.

For more than two decades, our industry has played a central role in shaping national policy and professional standards for firearm training. The realigned qualification has been developed in partnership with the QCTO and informed by true subject matter experts from across the firearms industry. We extend our sincere thanks to all contributors, including representatives from SASSETA, QCTO, and the broader SME community, for their dedication and expertise throughout this process.

Towards the end of 2024, we resubmitted the realigned full qualification, SAQA ID 50480, for re-evaluation by the QCTO and have updated the curriculum documents as required. Time was not on our side and the assessment verification portion of the session was not completed. On 09 December 2025, we met again with the QCTO to work on this portion. Attendees agreed that the session was productive and positive but there was not enough time to complete the exercise. The meeting will reconvene on 15 January 2026, after which we will provide a further update.





Regarding the SASSETA Skills Development Program and its potential impact on firearm trainers: our last formal engagement was during the QCTO online verification session held on Friday, 10 October 2025. No conclusive decisions were reached, and several queries remain unresolved. To date, the SAPFTC has not received any further feedback on the program.

As we look toward 2026, we anticipate further clarity on the broader national transition from Unit Standards to realigned Qualifications and part qualifications, a shift that will affect multiple industries. For now, this is the current status of all ongoing processes.

We wish you, your teams, and your families a safe and joyful festive season. We look forward to reconnecting in the new year when we reopen on Monday, 05 January 2026.

Warm regards,

