



Newsletter No 60 of 2026

Update on Firearm Training

13 May 2026

Good day Training Providers and Members,

1. The PFTC has noted that there has been a great deal of social media activity in the last two weeks concerning the continuation of firearm training for the legal possession of firearms.
2. The factual position is, that according to the South African Qualification Authority ("SAQA") website, qualification 50480 for firearm training expires on the 30th of June 2026 and thereafter no person will be able to register for firearm training under this qualification.
3. This was in fact confirmed by SASSETA bulletin dated the 29th of April 2026.
4. At present, there is no replacement qualification and should the current 50480 qualification not be extended after the 30th of June 2026, no one will be able to undergo training and to be able to apply for a new competency certificate to possess firearms.
5. This is exactly the same situation that occurred in June 2024, and which culminated in the PFTC obtaining a court order against, *inter alia*, the Minister of Higher Education, the QCTO, SASSETA and the South African Qualifications Authority who consented to an order extending the qualification.
6. The PFTC has, through its attorneys, asked the four abovementioned parties to again extend the qualification, which is also the subject matter of pending litigation. The attorneys acting for the SASSETA and the QCTO have indicated that:





"5 We are instructed that the QCTO and SAQA have engaged the Minister of Higher Education and Training regarding several pre-2009 qualifications facing a 30 June 2026 enrolment deadline, including qualification 50480, and have recommended to the Minister, that the enrolment date for these qualifications, including qualification 50480, be extended for a further period, pending their replacement or realignment.

6. Our clients anticipate that the Minister will make a timely announcement regarding the matter and that there will be no enrolment interruption in respect of these qualifications. "

7. However, there is no definitive indication when the Minister will come to this decision.
8. The PFTC has placed the Minister of Higher Education, the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations, the South African Qualification Authority and SASSETA on terms, that should they not and by close of business on Monday the 18th of May 2026 extend this qualification, there will be a further urgent court application served on those parties requesting the High Court to yet again extend the qualification pending its proper, procedural and lawful replacement.
9. Further information will follow as and when it becomes available.

Kind regards,

