



# South African Qualification and Certification Committee for the Fire Industry

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## **SAQCC FIRE - AGM – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT– THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

SAQCC-Fire is a registration authority. Our committees consists of representatives of DOL, persons elected from amongst our membership and persons nominated by industry organisations to represent their interests. Our primary objectives, in short, are to register persons in categories of registration, to determine registration categories, to determine training and practical experience required for every registration categories, to ensure training is available in the industry and to ensure training requirements remain effective and in line in terms of the relevant published legislation and industry standards, protection of our MOI and organisation and, disciplining our members in respect of the disciplinary code. We report back yearly to our membership via road shows and report when information becomes available, on all important matters for everybody to read on our web-page.

It should be noted that the industry is represented at SAQCC-Fire by the industry organisations and association representatives who have seats on the committees. They play a very important role as they represent both the companies and employers in the industry. Having said that, I was contacted by a number of company owners after the call went out for nominations to the new committees.

Virtually all these calls seems to support a notion that SAQCC-Fire must not only report back via the representatives to industry, but also needs to set up an industry wide meeting with owners/employers to report back to them specifically. Almost to a man they told me that they do not have the time to read whatever SAQCC-Fire sends them nor to attend SAQCC-Fire meetings which they understand, they can request to do. There clearly seems to be a total lack of understanding of what SAQCC-Fire are doing.

Apart from one or two who were not members of an industry organisation, they were all members of the IFE, IFTA, FDIA, FFETA, FPA or SAESI. My first reaction was, you will continue to be in the dark if you do not actively pursue what is available and partake in your industry organisation. However, I do believe the new committee should take note of this lack of knowledge and I do suggest they address it in an appropriate manner.

SAQCC-Fire’s primary objective is the registration of approved persons and everything related thereto. I believe that our committees effectively manage our objectives. I can tell everyone, without a doubt in mind, that the committee work requires dedication and continued application. This work requires, inter alia, regular communication and report back to DOL, discussions with QCTO, ECSA, SABS, SACAS, SANAS, other SAQCC bodies, etc., attending SABS standard writing meetings, developing and discussing specific challenges faced by industry, and the promotion of registration.

We started the last term with hopes to establish a formal qualification for registered persons and after a very arduous road, we are currently busy with the QCTO process to realise the dream. There are still a number of stumbling blocks in the way but we hope that the process will be completed before the end of the term of the newly elected committee. This means members will have an official qualification in terms of the National Qualification Framework. Acknowledgement for what they have achieved.

We have broadened the original scope of registration from the registration of 1475 persons to include detection and gas and in principle agreed to extend the scope again when the vehicle systems and kitchen systems standards are eventually agreed and published.

For report back purposes, we now register a total of 2916 approved persons – these being comprised of 1 660 1475 competent persons with 249 Trainees and 1 256 D&GS authorised persons over all the categories with 34 trainees – a category only just established.

For the year 2017/2018 we had 7 disciplinary hearings and 2 appeals. The outcomes are published on the website – and I would like to thank those who participated in the disciplinary process as a member of the committee, which is never a pleasant experience.

SAQCC Fire had moved to temporary lodgings within Helvetia house some 18 months ago, but earlier this year, we moved into our new permanent accommodation where we are holding this meeting today. Our staff comprise Rosemary Cowan, our administrator along with Meryl and Craig, the administrative officers for the two registration areas. They all work incredibly hard and with the yearly registration, work long hours to ensure everybody is registered in time. I must thank them profusely for what they are doing and we must all realise that we cannot do anything without them.

Our financial statements will be discussed later. We received a clean audit as a management team. The treasurers of the committees are real scrooges and have very short arms and long pockets. We were therefore able to keep the increases announced earlier this year to the minimum. While the committees clearly try to keep expenses at bay, it should be noted that there are expected expenses. For one, SAQCC-Fire is currently financing the QCTO process and we have up till now, not appointed more personnel. Committee members are not remunerated for the time they spend working for SAQCC-Fire. Only proven and approved expenses are paid.

Moreover, the board members are doing the work that is normally associated with that of a General Manager as it was decided not to appoint a General Manager as it was believed we could not afford a competitive salary. However, as said, it should be noted that things may change later and that the requirements may require additional financial requirements that may influence the fee structure in years to come. My thanks for the work done by the auditors.

The one thing we spend quite some money on, is the road shows. We try to ensure that it is an event where our members can learn something apart from just reporting back on what SAQCC-Fire is doing. These shows have grown considerably over the year. I can remember when Rosemary Cowan and I started the roadshows on behalf of the 1475 committee, we were very happy in the first two years to have 20 persons at every show.

The Cape Town road show this year alone had more than 200 1475 and D&GS personnel attending and the report back from the members from both sides, is that it was fantastic. What helps make these shows so great, is that Department of Labour have at least one senior official at every show and they participate in proceedings.

It needs to be said that DOL have attended our meetings regularly particularly on the 1475 side. The team is led by Mr. Jakes Malatse, the executive Director of DOL – mechanical and electrical engineering. Matlala Sathekge and Omtj Chauke and from time to time officials from other provinces also attend meetings with us. This make a vast difference as our mandatory body, who advise, propose and approve the direction we are going in and what we are doing. Apart from that, they help when required. They are very actively driving the PER processes and are available as much as they can be. We also officially report quarterly to them at the PER Forum meeting. Thank you for your interest over and above your official duties in respect of our industry.

There are unfortunately some institutions that have continued to misrepresent what SAQCC-Fire are doing and publish their views on various social media platforms. SAQCC-Fire has taken legal advice and are pursuing an interdict against one such organisation in an effort to resolve the issue.

To the committees headed by Laura Swart and Lizl. You have lead your teams very well and with your teams, managed your areas of registration superbly. Thanks to you and your team members. You have all done well.

I wishes to extend my sincere thanks to Duncan Boyes and Matt Kielty, who served with me as directors. We were able to manage our fiducial duty in terms of the companies Act as a team and not as individuals. Thank you for being prepared for every meeting and putting in the hours.

I also wishes to thank individual registered members for their cooperation and dedication to the industry. You are the reason why we exist.

The registration process was started as we did not need accidents in our industry caused by the lack of information and training. We therefore need everybody to work according to the legal requirements and commitment to deliver work to industry of high quality.

Thank you to every registered individual who does their work with diligence. We salute you.

Last but certainly not least, I wishes to thank Brett Jones who will act as returning officer of the elections.

**TOM DREYER**  
**CHAIRMAN – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**SAQCC FIRE**