

## **POLICY ON THE RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) FOR AWARDING MEMBERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The legacy of unfair discrimination in terms of access to work and education, in particular, is still prevalent in South Africa today and, consequently, positive measures must be taken by all institutions to enable the formerly disadvantaged members of society to take their rightful place in society and the workplace. These measures are also applicable to people from all groups in our society whose personal circumstances such as poverty and disability have prevented them from gaining the type of education and qualifications they need to enter and/or progress in their chosen careers.

One such measure is the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) which is an underlying principle of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008 requires SAQA and the Quality Councils to develop a national policy and sub-framework policies respectively for RPL. [Sections 13(h)(iii) & 27(h)(ii)] These policies must be implemented in the development of and the admission and the assessment of the competency of learners in NQF registered qualifications [SAQA: *Policy and Criteria for the Registration of Qualifications and Part Qualifications on the NQF*: Sections 26 & 38(m) and the *National Policy for the Implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning*.]

RPL must be included as a general requirement in the awarding of professional designations by professional bodies [SAQA *Policy and Criteria for the Recognising of Professional Bodies and the Registering of Professional Designations for the Purposes of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008*: Section 42(viii) and the *National Policy for the Implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning*: Sections 26, 30, 32 & 53]

SARIPA as a SAQA-recognised professional body is committed, specifically, to the implementation of RPL for the awarding of membership to the Association and for the awarding of its professional designations and, in general, to the requirements for professional bodies as specified in the SAQA Policy on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The policy states in section 53 that SAQA-recognised professional bodies must:

- “1. *Comply with the national SAQA Policy and Criteria for the Recognition of Professional Bodies and the Registration of Professional Designations (2012).*
2. *Include an RPL route as an integral requirement for attainment of its professional designations as stipulated in the SAQA Policy and Criteria for the Recognition of Professional Bodies and the Registration of Professional Designations (2012).*
3. *Collaborate with SAQA, the Quality Councils and the relevant providers to incentivise and advance quality RPL provisioning in the sector.*
4. *Progressively develop and enhance its capacity to initiate and support RPL provision in accordance with this policy.”*

## IMPLEMENTATION OF RPL FOR MEMBERSHIP AND THE AWARDING OF PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

1. A general requirement for the granting of membership of SARIPA and the awarding of one of its professional designations is the possession by the applicant of one of the prescribed qualifications related to the profession as described in the criteria for the awarding of each professional
2. There are many people working in the sector, or who wish to work in the sector, who do not have one of the prescribed NQF registered qualifications, but wish to be members of SARIPA, or who require one of the professional designations to be able to practice in the sector.
3. Most importantly, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) in notice 30 of 2017, addressed to members, dated 26/4/2017, stated in regard to business rescue practitioners that, *“Practitioners and aspiring practitioners are advised to belong to a legal, accounting or business management profession recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)”* and “ that after 1 October 2017 *“no person will be licensed as a business rescue practitioner unless he/she belongs /is a member in good standing of a legal, accounting or business management profession”* Such body must registered (sic) with SAQA.
4. Members and prospective members of the profession who have the requisite number of years’ experience, but not the prescribed qualification, may apply for membership and/or a professional designation, but must undergo the SARIPA competency assessment. Such applicants must formally request in writing to undergo the competency assessment and indicate what the purpose is viz. for membership and/or to be awarded one of the professional designations.
5. Applicants who are successful with the assessment are required to complete the membership/professional designation application form and submit it to the SARIPA administrative office attaching the results of the competency assessment.
6. The procedure as for non-RPL applications will be followed and the appeals procedure is applicable, if necessary.
7. In addition SARIPA will:
  - ensure RPL is a focus area for the association;
  - collaborate with SAQA, the Quality Councils and relevant providers of education and training to incentivise, advance and promote RPL and its quality provisioning as well as knowledge the NQF in the sector; and
  - progressively develop and enhance its capacity to initiate and support RPL implementation in accordance with this policy.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR RPL RECOGNITION

**Designation Title:** Business Restructuring Professional (BRP)

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION
<b>Application of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)</b>	<p>RPL is applied in the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any member or prospective member of SARIPA who does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, but who is/was registered/licensed as a BRP by CIPC prior to the implementation of this designation; or</li> <li>• Any member or prospective member of SARIPA who does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, but who has been operating as a BRP or turnaround professional for at least ten years, having regard to the requirements of Section 138 and Regulations 126 and 127 of the Co’s Act.</li> </ul>

**Designation Title:** Insolvency Practitioner (IP)

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Application of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)</b>	RPL is applied in the following cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any member or prospective member of SARIPA who does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, but who is/was registered/licensed as an Insolvency Practitioner on the national panel of the Master; or</li><li>• Any member or prospective member of SARIPA who does not hold one of the prescribed qualifications, but who has been operating as an Insolvency Practitioner for at least 5 years and who has successfully completed an NQF registered part qualification recognised by SARIPA.</li></ul>