

## Frequently Asked Questions on NSQF

### 1. What is the NSQF?

The National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) is a framework that organises qualifications according to levels. The NSQF has 10 levels: level 1 is the most basic and level 10 is the most advanced.

### 2. What are levels?

Each level as per the NSQF is described by learning outcomes based on the following level descriptors:

1. Professional knowledge – what the person must know at that level
2. Professional Skills – what the person should be able to do at that level
3. Core skills – which include soft and interpersonal skills
4. Responsibility – the degree of supervision that needs to be exercised over the person while doing the job, or the degree of supervision that person is capable of exercising over others.

### 3. What are learning outcomes?

Learning outcomes are what a learner knows, understands and is able to do after undergoing a training/education programme.

### 4. Why is the Government establishing the NSQF now?

In India, general education and vocational education and training have been operating as separate verticals, with very little interaction between the two. This has led to hesitation amongst the youth in opting for vocational education and training as it is presumed that this avenue would preclude the concerned individual from being able to acquire higher degrees and qualifications. In order to facilitate mobility from vocational to general education, and vice-versa, a qualification framework for India, i.e. the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) will help make qualifications more understandable and transparent.

### 5. How will the NSQF be implemented?

Bodies responsible for qualifications will be required to turn their qualifications into a format based on learning outcomes and assessed accordingly. Each qualification will be placed at a level on the NSQF. This is a new approach in India.

The qualification bodies will bring forward these revised qualifications for inclusion in an NSQF Qualifications Register.

### 6. What is a Qualifications Register?

A Qualifications Register is a national database where all NSQF compliant qualifications would be listed.

Qualifications in the Register will have to meet four criteria to be NSQF compliant. They are that the qualification:

- meets a genuine economic or social need
- contains well-founded standards based on appropriate research and/or consultation
- will be awarded using quality assurance arrangements which guarantees the validity and reliability of the training and assessment
- matches to a level of the qualification framework and meets the other requirements of the Framework

Approval for inclusion in the Register will be given by the National Skills Qualification Committee.

The qualifications will be submitted using a new Qualification File which will bring together evidence that the qualification meets the criteria.

The qualifications register will be made available on a web portal and regularly updated. Every institution offering an NSQF-aligned qualification will have to keep details of its training programmes updated on the portal.

#### **7. What do the States have to do?**

The States would have to align all qualifications offered by institutions/bodies under the control of the respective State Governments to the NSQF by entering its qualifications in the Register.

#### **8. What levels and what types of education does the NSQF cover?**

Any degree or diploma can be aligned to the NSQF – once the competencies being created through that formal qualification are defined. It is intended to cover all economic sectors and academic disciplines.

#### **9. What practical benefits will the NSQF have?**

The NSQF is intended to support labour market mobility in India and enable a better match between supply and demand for qualifications. The NSQF should make it easier for employers to interpret the qualifications of individuals and individuals should be better able to chart their own progress in lifelong learning.

#### **10. What is the role of the National Skill Development Agency (NSDA)?**

The role of the NSDA is to anchor and operationalize the NSQF and ensure the quality and standards of the contents of the Register. The NSDA will facilitate the operationalization of the Framework, by bringing together the key stakeholders sector-wise through the National Skills Qualifications Committee (NSQC). The NSQC is Chaired by the NSDA, and includes representatives of the key Ministries of the Government of India which are involved in skill development, representatives of State Skill Development Missions, sectoral representatives from industry and heads of all relevant regulatory bodies and selected training bodies/agencies pertaining to the sector.

#### **11. What are the deadlines for implementation?**

Para 14 of the Gazette Notification provides for a three and five year implementation schedule.

After the third year of notification, Government funding would not be available for any training/ educational programme which is not NSQF-compliant. The recruitment rules of all Government bodies would define eligibility criteria in terms of NSQF levels. The State Governments shall also be encouraged to amend their recruitment rules on above lines.

After the fifth year of the notification date, NSQF alignment would be mandatory for all programmes.

#### **12. Is there an NSQF curriculum?**

No. It is important to understand that there is no one curriculum to be followed. Institutions/training providers are free to design innovative teaching methodologies/curricula as long as the standards agreed for a particular job role at a specific NSQF level, are met.