



The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions

— CONSTRUCTING NEW PERSPECTIVES —

Industry Notice: 28 July 2025

SACPCMP Announces Commencement of Limited Special Dispensation (Exemption Period)

The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) has gazetted the 1st of August 2025 as the effective date of commencement of the Council's new Rules for Registration and the implementation of a Limited Special Dispensation.

This will enable the transition from previous registration requirements to the new SACPCMP Rules for Registration.

The Limited Special Dispensation is the culmination of more than three years of work in collaboration with industry stakeholders to develop a path for professionalisation within the Construction Industry without prejudicing those seeking certification in the sector. The purpose of the Dispensation is to exempt applicants and registrants under the Project and Construction Management Professions Act 48 of 2000 (PCMP Act) from specific qualification and competency requirements stipulated in the SACPCMP Rules for Registration *(which can be viewed via www.sacpcmp.org.za, under the POLICIES tab).*

What is the Limited Special Dispensation?

The Limited Special Dispensation is a two-year period that the SACPCMP has put in place with a set of exemptions related to professional registration, in conjunction with skills development-requirements, to allow better industry access for all. It will commence as of 01 August 2025 and conclude on 30 July 2027.

When asked why the SACPCMP put this in place, Council's Chief Operations Officer (COO), Ms Sindiswa Kwenaithe said: "The Construction Industry is known for being an

absorber of unskilled to semi-skilled labour; it offers various avenues for people to develop themselves into higher levels of employment, but often, these are not aligned to the national education requirements for specific professions. As such - and to allow the industry to develop the relevant qualifications and upgrade skills levels – we, as a Council, had to appreciate the status quo at the time, while simultaneously forging a path to professionalisation for the future”.

“That time has now arrived to ensure that the SACPCMP does not leave anybody behind in this development. We will endeavour to support individuals in their journey towards professionalisation within the Built Environment, contributing to the transformation of our sector and the continued protection of the public through structured candidacy and competency development, amongst other initiatives.”

Developing the Limited Special Dispensation

The process for developing such an inclusive and forward-thinking mechanism was not without its challenges. The SACPCMP underwent an arduous process, spanning more than three years, gaining industry input as well as expert guidance, and consulting with the public and key stakeholders to put all of the foundational blocks in place so as to develop the necessary support structures for the mechanism.

These ‘foundational blocks’ were necessary to direct all registration-related processes, especially those relating to assessments, away from an over-reliance on peer review to a more scientific, competency-based approach. This change allowed applicants to have better guidance and structure regarding the competencies required for professionalisation in order to improve the success rate.

It also enabled the Council to streamline its assessment-required documentation so that applicants could have a clearer understanding of what to include in their application/submissions.

The Time to Move Forward

“As much as the ‘rules’ pertaining to registration must be aligned to national requirements, the Council understood that it would create barriers to entry for historically disadvantaged individuals who did not have the same opportunities afforded to them to meet those requirements,” said Kwenaitse.

“Thus, the Council prolonged preferential access through cascading levels of requirements to support the status quo in the industry. However, the time has come to move forward - hence the new Rules for Registration. We have collaborated with

institutions of higher learning to ensure that the relevant qualifications were created as well as aligning with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) policies.”

How will the Limited Special Dispensation (Exemptions) Work?

The SACPCMP has a ‘standard’ registration route and process for the categories it currently registers (Construction Health and Safety, Construction Project Management and Building Inspectors). The Dispensation allows for a reduction of registration entry requirements, for a limited period.

The Dispensation outlines three exemptions (from requirements noted under the Rules for Registration) that will apply for the limited two-year period, as gazetted by the SACPCMP. These are:

1. Qualification Exemption

The first exemption pertains to qualification requirements. **For example:** where the new Rules for Registration indicate a minimum qualification level of NQF Level 8 (to register as a PrCPM), the Council will, under the exemption, accept an NQF Level 7 qualification. However, this will only be for a period of two years, ending on 30 July 2027.

2. Competency Exemption

In relation to the SACPCMP’s competency assessment process, the standard 60% pass-mark for exams and interviews will be placed at 50% for the period of two years only.

3. Suspension of Qualification-gap Requirements

Applicants with recognised qualifications that are not SACPCMP-accredited will not be required, during the Dispensation, to do initial professional development modules (IPDM) prior to registration. Rather, they will be required to do this during their first CPD cycle only.

Not a Blanket Exemption

“It must be noted that this not a ‘blanket exemption’. Those individuals who are registered under the listed exemptions will be provisionally registered and are required to meet the conditions stipulated in the Dispensation notice,” said Kwenaitse. “This only applies to applicants who are approved under the exemption-guidelines and provisionally accepted. These applicants will have to complete various requirements for CPD, outlined in their outcome letters during the Dispensation period”.

Taking Responsibility as a Professional

The implementation of the Dispensation (exemptions) may raise questions regarding the competency and adequacy of 'new' professionals coming into the industry. The Council has worked hard to put measures in place to address any skills gaps. In addition, the SACPCMP has placed emphasis on the importance of adhering to the Professional Code of Conduct.

"To ensure that the Limited Special Dispensation (exemptions) does not result in the compromising of competence, quality or safety within the Built Environment, the SACPCMP notes a stringent condition under the Dispensation," said Kwenaitse.

For those who do not meet the conditions of their provisional registration under the Dispensation, they will be at risk of deregistration after three years (starting from the beginning of their CPD cycle).

Over the next months, the SACPCMP will continue to engage with its stakeholders to roll out the Special Dispensation and Exemption. The Council has established a variety of avenues to assist applicants and Registered Persons 'fill in' any gaps in their competencies under the two-year period. These avenues are:

A Breakdown of CPD (Special Dispensation-specific) Programmes

- The Maselulekane Programme (see the Shape Shifter magazine via www.sacpcmp.org.za)

The Development of an SACPCMP-skills partners list & qualifications

- PMI-CP courses to address Project management gaps for non SACPCMP-accredited Built Environment qualifications (for example, engineering, architecture and quantity surveying); visit www.sacpcmp.org.za for details.
- University of Johannesburg short learning programmes (for Construction Health and Safety, Building Inspectors and Construction Project Management); visit www.sacpcmp.org.za for details on the applicable learning programmes.

For more details on the Special Dispensation and Exemption, the Council will also present information via:

- Applicant workshops
- Open Days with the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Team

- SACPCMP Roadshows
- The Shape Shifter Magazine
- SACPCMP website (www.sacpcmp.org.za)

Ends

For More Information: To view the associated gazetted documents and policies, visit: www.sacpcmp.org.za; contact admin@sacpcmp.org.za for SACPCMP-related queries.

About the SACPCMP

The South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP) is empowered by section 18 of Act No.48 of 2000 to certify, register and regulate the Project and Construction Management Professions. For more information on the SACPCMP, visit www.sacpcmp.org.za or contact admin@sacpcmp.org.za

