



NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION ACT (passed in Slovenia in the year 2000) - a summary

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

This act regulates the procedures and bodies or organs and organisations responsible for the preparation of and passing vocational standards and catalogues of professional knowledge and skills standards, and conditions and procedures for the acquisition of national vocational qualifications.

Definition of vocational qualification

A vocational qualification under this act is a working vocational or professional qualification necessary for the exercise of a profession or individual sets of responsibilities within a profession at a specified level of difficulty.

A vocational qualification acquired in accordance with this act is recognised as a national vocational qualification.

Acquisition of national vocational qualification

An individual acquires a national vocational qualification:

- by acquired vocational or professional education for all professions which are in accordance with the professional standard covered by an educational or study programme,
- under parts of education programmes for the acquisition of vocational or professional education,
- under programmes for vocational or professional training,
- under parts of study programmes for the acquisition of higher education or under advanced study programmes,
- if he or she proves to have knowledge and skills determined by the catalogue passed in accordance with this act.

Study programmes

Study programmes under which vocational qualifications are acquired, are passed and accredited in accordance with the legislation regulating higher education.

Publicly valid education

By vocational qualification acquired in a way that individual proves to have knowledge and skills determined by the catalogue passed in accordance with this act, it is not possible to acquire the title of vocational or professional education which, otherwise, could be acquired under publicly valid educational or study programmes passed in accordance with acts and other regulations regulating vocational, professional and higher education.

Authentic instrument

A national vocational qualification is demonstrated by authentic instrument acquired after education. The form and content of this document are determined by the labour minister.

II. PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ORGANS, BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational and Technical Education proposes vocational standards and catalogues, passes a methodology for the preparation of vocational standards and catalogue, passes priorities for the creation of vocational standards and catalogues on the basis of the long-term needs of the labour market, proposes training programmes for members of commissions for the licence acquisition.

Professional, technical and other tasks in the field of vocational standards and catalogues are, for the relevant council of experts, performed by the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training (NIVET).

In the field of acquisition of vocational qualifications chambers, employers' association, professional associations, non-governmental organisations, trade unions and relevant ministries perform, as social partners, first of all the following tasks: giving initiatives for new vocational standards and catalogues, giving initiatives for passing study programmes (by higher education institutions) which make possible the acquisition of vocational qualification under parts of study programmes for the acquisition of higher education or under advanced study programmes.

Developmental and consulting work and professional work concerning development of vocational standards in the field of vocational qualifications and concerning creation of catalogues are performed by NIVET - which, in performing its tasks, cooperates with professional institutions in the field of education and employment in Slovenia and abroad.

The National Examinations Centre first of all takes care for the development of methodologies and procedures for assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications, organises trainings for candidates for members of assessment and recognition commissions, awards licenses to the members of assessment and recognition commissions, monitors the work of these commissions.

Procedures for assessment and recognition can be performed by inter-company education centres, schools, organizations for adult education and chambers performing publicly valid education programmes and fulfilling material and personnel conditions determined by the catalogue of professional knowledge and skills and by other acts.

III. VOCATIONAL STANDARD, CATALOGUE

An initiative for the preparation of vocational standard is a document which includes the title of the profession, key tasks, an assessment of needs regarding the long-term activity development, rules regulating the activity in the Republic of Slovenia and in the European Union, and international comparability.

An initiative for the preparation of vocational standards can be submitted to the NIVET by any legal or natural person.

A catalogue - a document which determines entry conditions, the content of assessment and recognition at a certain level of difficulty and defines the methods and criteria for assessment, criteria for particular questions and tasks, examples of tasks and questions, credit points and material conditions, which have to be fulfilled by institutions performing procedures for assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications, and personnel conditions, which have to be fulfilled by commission members - is formed on the basis of a vocational standard and passed by a minister on proposal of the relevant council of experts.

IV. CONDITIONS FOR ACQUISITION OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

Vocational qualification under this act can be acquired by persons at least 18 years of age. Exceptionally, a vocational qualification under this act can be acquired by persons who are under 18 years of age, if they have lost the status of apprentice or student and demonstrate adequate work experience.

Vocational qualification is proven: by direct assessment of professional knowledge, skills and competences determined by a catalogue, and on the basis of documents acquired under education programmes, or by other means.

V. ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION PROCEDURES

Assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications is performed by commissions for assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications.

On the basis of a public tender from the National Examinations Centre the minister responsible for labour determines the list of commission members for each catalogue separately.

President and members of commission must have a licence from the National Examinations Centre which has to be renewed every four years.

VI. PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF CANDIDATES

A candidate has the right to appeal within three days following the receipt of the commissions' decision. Appeals are submitted to an appeal commission which has to assess the justification of the appeal within three days. The recognition of the justification is followed by the nomination of a commission which determines new estimation.

A person who loses a certificate, or his/her certificate is destroyed or stolen, must send immediately a request for the publication of a certificate cancellation.

The institution performing the assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications must issue to the holder a replacement certificate, if he/she proves the publication of a certificate cancellation.

Damaged certificate is returned by its holder to the institution performing procedures of assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications to be destroyed.

VII. SUPERVISION

Supervision of the legality of the work of institutions performing assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications and of legality and professionalism of the work of commissions is performed by the Labour Inspectorate.

VIII. EVIDENCES

For the needs of monitoring the situation in the field of vocational qualifications, for the needs of assessing, regulating and implementing the rights and commitments of the individuals, and for the needs of deciding on these rights and commitments, the following evidences or registers are kept:

- evidence of vocational standards,
- evidence of catalogues,
- evidence of certificates issued,
- evidence of licence holders,
- register of institutions performing procedures for assessment and recognition of vocational qualifications.

IX. FUNDING

Upon filing their applications for the acquisition of a vocational qualification, candidates are obliged to settle the costs of the procedure for the acquisition of a certificate.