

FAQ - PPEO | 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

on

How to become a recognised professional principal executive officer in the
retirement fund industry



Retirement fund Principal Executive Officers (PEOs) are now recognised as professionals in their own right. Batseta is the only professional body in the retirement fund industry which is registered by SAQA to pioneer this brand new profession. Members of Batseta are the first generation of Principal Executive Officers who can rightfully be considered to be the founding members of the profession.

Pension funds law already requires that Principal Executive Officers must be fit and proper. In other words, they must be persons of good character; be competent, honest, financially sound, of good reputation and reliable; and they must discharge, or be likely to discharge, their duties fairly. Recognizing the Principal Executive Officer as a professional validates the importance of the role in the industry.

The purpose of this document is to provide you with more information on what it means to be a professional person and what steps you could take to join this community of experts.

What is a professional person?

A professional person is someone who:

- is formally certified by a professional body as belonging to a specific profession;
- meets the criteria determined by the professional body to indicate that the person has achieved a certain level of proficiency which is required for him or her to practice;
- completes a required course of studies to achieve certification;
- maintains his or her competencies which can be measured against an established set of standards;
- subscribes to a code of conduct that serves as an ethical and behavioural compass; and
- may be awarded a professional designation by the professional body if the person meets the necessary predetermined criteria.

What criteria must a Principal Executive Officer meet to be regarded as a professional person?

Batseta may award professional designations to eligible Principal Executive Officers. There are two designations that Principal Executive Officers may apply for i.e. Associate Principal Executive Officer (APEO) or Chartered Principal Executive Officer (CPEO).

The eligibility requirements broadly include the following:

- Membership fees must be paid up;
- Must adhere to a code of conduct;
- Must meet the Fit and Proper Requirements as prescribed by the FSB's Directive no 5;
- Must have at least a matric qualification;
- Must have more than one year's work experience;
- Must complete a prescribed board assessment; and
- Must follow a Continuous Professional Development Programme (CPD) ([Click for more info](#))

What are the benefits for principal officers to be professional persons?

The following benefits are evident:

- Adhere to high values and principles;
- Improve reputation and credibility with the board of trustees, members of the fund and pension funds industry at large;
- Validation of the currency of the skills of the principal officer;
- Increase confidence in the principal officer's skills and leadership abilities;
- Independent benchmark of the quality of training and development initiatives for the principal officer;
- Valuable employees that may command and justify higher salaries and employment benefits.
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What is a professional designation?

A professional designation can be called a “warrant of competence”. Batseta has registered two designations with SAQA (the APEO and the CPEO). A Principal Executive Officer must meet certain eligibility requirements which serve as an indication that he or she is knowledgeable and competent to practise.

Once a designation has been awarded, the particular Principal Executive Officer may use the assigned designated titles. Batseta is accountable for the certification process. Designations may be revoked should a Principal Executive Officer no longer meet the eligibility requirements.

What is Continuous Professional Development all about?

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) obligations are common to most professions. CPD is a means for Principal Executive Officers to maintain their knowledge, skills and competence. Designated Principal Executive Officers must complete between 50 and 60 hours of Continuous Professional Development over a 24-month period to retain their designations.

Principal Executive Officers may develop their own CPD plan or follow the Batseta events programme as a default. CPD plans must be submitted for approval.

How to become a pioneer of the new profession

Join us now to benefit from this opportunity to professionalise your role as a Principal Executive Officer. It is easy to do so. Please complete the on-line membership form.

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