



The South African  
Council *for* Planners

S A C P L A N

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External Circular

# SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR PLANNERS

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## EXTERNAL CIRCULAR – 1/2019

### SACPLAN CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) Amendment of CPD Point Allocation

The South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN) adopted a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Policy and Procedure with the implementation date being 1 April 2018.

Following the comments and inputs received by SACPLAN on the publication of the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) policy, the Council in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), held a number of workshops in the different provinces to engage on the comments and issues raised. During these workshops the DRDLR discussed the proposed amendments to the Planning Profession Act, 2002 (Act 36 of 2002) (PPA). SACPLAN discussed the various queries and concerns on the CPD policy, as well as the manner in which the three year transitional period (for the implementation of the policy) will be managed.

It was generally agreed that CPD is good and necessary for the planning profession. SACPLAN evaluated the comments and inputs received through the CPD Workshops as well as electronically.

Main concerns raised during the CPD Workshops can be categorized in the following main points:

- Work Reservation that is not in place.
- Aspects related to cost (financial and time) for CPD activities.
- The range of possible CPD activities.
- Travelling costs especially in relation to workshops, conferences.
- The actual CPD points allocated for activities.
- The type of activities e.g. sitting in tribunals.
- Capacity of SACPLAN to administer the CPD process.

#### Point allocation

Following from the evaluation of the comments received, SACPLAN looked at the CPD points required from the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), the American Planning Association (APA), and the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA). Based on the above SACPLAN identified a number of principles that formed the basis of the revised point allocation as included in the revised CPD Policy document.

The principles underlying the amendments are:

- Change the allocation of points from 0.5 points per hour to 1 point per hour.
- Reduce the minimum number of points per year to 25 points.
- Reduce the minimum number of points per cycle to 75 points.
- Any number of points more than 25 points may be carried over to the following year within a cycle.
- If a planner has already met the minimum of 25 points per cycle due to a carry over, the planner must do a minimum of 5 points worth of CPD activity(ies) during that year.
- A maximum of 25 points may be carried over to the next cycle.
- Candidate Planners are not required to report of CPD activities attended.
- Technical Planners and Professional Planners must do at least one ethics course within the three-year cycle.
- Technical Planners and Professional Planners must do at least one (planning) law course within the three-year cycle.

A summary of the amendments is listed in the annexure attached titled “SACPLAN CPD Policy – Amendments”.

In addition to the amendments to the CPD Policy SACPLAN will develop a schedule of CPD activities which will include:

- Activities e.g. seminars, workshops, etc. that can be attended to earn CPD points;
- SACPLAN will contact the following institutions to provided lists of planned activities that can serve as CPD activities:
  - DRDLR;
  - Planning Schools;
  - DCOG;
  - DHS; and
  - SALGA
- SACPLAN will identify courses (online) offered by institutions such as WBI and Coursera as CPD activities; and
- SACPLAN will provide links to online courses as well as planning related courses.

The revised point allocation will be applicable as from 1 April 2018. SACPLAN will update all Scorecard submissions received prior to 1 June 2019. All new submissions must reflect the new point allocation.

*Signed Electronically*

**MP LEWIS Pr. Pln, MRTPI**

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**REGISTRAR**