

REGISTRATION AND RECOGNITION UNIT

EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION(S) FOR PROFESSIONAL BODIES ALREADY RECOGNISED BY SAQA

Name of Professional Body	Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa – IITPSA
Statutory or Non-Statutory Body	Non-Statutory
Application Approved by Board/Council	Yes
Application Signed by CEO / Registrar/ Board Chairperson	Yes
Registered Designations	PMIITPSA - Professional Member
Designation Applied for	Professional Chief Information Officer (CIO) - (Pr.CIO®)
Date of Re-recognition	27 September 2017
Date of Gazette Notice	

BACKGROUND OF THE PROFESSIONAL BODY

The Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa (IITPSA) formerly known as the Computer Society of South Africa (CSSA) was established in 1957. IITPSA aims to further the study of the science of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT's), by maintaining and promoting the code of conduct and ethics for the members. IITPSA also promotes the formulation of policies on ICT related matters as well as extend the knowledge and understanding of ICTs in the community.

MOTIVATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF THE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATION(S)

IITPSA identified a need to recognise and accredit ICT practitioners at the highest level in the profession, that being at the Skills Framework for the Information age (SFIA) Level 7. The introduction of the new designation Pr.CIO® (Professional Chief Information Officer) in South Africa signifies qualifying Chief Information Officer CIOs' professional competencies at the highest levels, and organisations gain the assurance that a candidate with this designation has the appropriate levels of learning and experience to take on the role of CIO.

The Pr.CIO® designation is awarded to those ICT professionals who have met global standards for competence, ethical issues, social implications, legal considerations, and, most importantly, have the required skills and experience, at the appropriate level of seniority. This means that they have chosen to specialise, at the highest leadership level, in the field of Information and Communications Technology and commit to continually developing themselves and striving for excellence at this level. The designees would typically currently hold a senior CIO position (or equivalent) and have done so for some time already.

CRITERIA FOR RECORDING A PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

The criteria for the awarding of the additional professional designation below comply with the SAQA Policy & Criteria for Recognising a Professional Body and Registering a Professional Designation for the Purposes of the National Qualifications Framework Act, Act 67 of 2008 (As amended, 2020) and the designation complements the one already registered, creating a designation pathway.

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION(S)

2.1 Designation Title: Professional Chief Information Officer (Professional CIO (Pr.CIO®))

Short description

The Pr.CIO® designation is awarded to those ICT professionals who have met global standards for competence, ethical issues, social implications, legal considerations, and, most importantly, have the required skills and

experience, at the appropriate level of seniority. This means that they have chosen to specialise, at the highest leadership level, in the field of Information and Communications Technology and commit to continually developing themselves and striving for excellence at this level. The designees would typically currently hold a senior CIO position (or equivalent), and have done so for some time already.

AWARDING CRITERIA

Underlying NQF Registered Qualification/Part-Qualification

A relevant Bachelor Honours Degree (e.g. BSc Hons (Computer Science), or a four-year Professional Bachelor's Degree (e.g. BSc Eng (Elect) in Software or Information Engineering) at NQF Level 8.

Experience/ Practical Experience/Experiential Learning

This is measured in months and the required minimum is dependent on the level of Academic Achievement referred to above. If the candidate presents the equivalent of a Bachelor Honours Degree, or a Professional Bachelor's Degree (at NQF Level 8), then 102 months of relevant professional experience is required. As the value of the qualification increases (e.g., Masters or Doctorate), so the number of months of required experience decreases commensurately.

Since this designation is awarded at the highest level in the profession, applicants are expected to already be in a Chief Information Officer (CIO) role (or similar) in the organisation at the time of application for the designation

Competency Assessment/Board Examination

- Currently there are no specific board exams, but applicants for Professional CIO are required to: attend a peer review interview (competency conversation) with at least two members (peers) of the IITPSA / CIO Council, and, demonstrate a suitable level of familiarity and competence with a broad spectrum of ICT knowledge across the ICT field, and, complete a Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) self-assessment which is evaluated in combination with the outcomes of the peer review.
- Professional CIOs should broadly satisfy SFIA Level 7 requirements in terms of Responsibility Level, and, have at least two years of continuous membership of the Institute prior to application for the professional designation.
- This requirement may be waived with the support of the CIO Council and / or the IITPSA.

Designation RPL Statement

IITPSA awards this designation through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), as per the IITPSA RPL Policy. The standard IITPSA membership admission criteria allow for RPL at all membership levels, if required.

Ideally 48 points should be attained for the candidate's academic qualification [cognate NQF 8 Bachelor's degree with honours or Professional Bachelor's degree] and 102 points for relevant work experience.

However, where a candidate does not have such a qualification, the candidate would be required to show and verify prior learning experience for that number of points on the table in the IITPSA RPL policy (copy attached) that the candidate needs to prove prior learning for. Non-cognate (or not fully cognate) qualifications with relevant ICT content are considered according to the quantum of ICT content, per the IITPSA qualifications grading framework.

In terms of assessment, the candidate would need to submit documentary evidence of any qualifications / certifications achieved, courses attended, papers produced and published, and detailed work experience undertaken – essentially a 'portfolio of evidence'. The IITPSA assessors evaluate this submission against the IITPSA RPL policy and the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) framework, at SFIA Level seven (the level set for the Pr.CIO® designation). Any queries of content or clarity would be addressed with the applicant, either via email or telephone, or the queries would be held over until a scheduled Professional CIO peer review interview, when these queries could be addressed.

The outcome of the assessment, peer review interview and the submission of two confidential references by the candidate's nominated referees, determine whether the candidate is awarded the Professional CIO designation. They may be offered the SAQA registered IITPSA Professional Member designation (PMIITPSA®) if they meet the criteria for that designation, but do not meet the criteria for the Professional CIO designation. All IITPSA membership and designation award decisions are open to appeal.

Designation Competencies:

- Develop long-term strategic relationships with customers, partners, industry leaders and government.
- Formulate and implement strategy.
- Demonstrate a deep understanding of the industry and the implications of emerging technologies for the wider business environment.
- Foster a culture to encourage the strategic application of generic and specific bodies of knowledge within own area of influence.
- Communicate the potential impact of emerging practices and technologies on organisations and individuals and assess the risks of using or not using such practices and technologies.
- Ensure that the organisation develops and mobilises the full range of required skills and capabilities.
- Champion security within own area of work and throughout the organisation.

RETAINING CRITERIA

To ensure the currency of professional knowledge and to retain the grade and designation of Professional CIO, members must always ensure that their membership fees are paid and that they are complying in terms of their CPD.

Code of Conduct

Professional CIOs must always abide by the IITPSA's Code of Conduct and Code of Practice.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Professional CIOs are required to accumulate 72 CPD units in a three-year period which may be claimed from their participation in the range of accredited activities listed in the IITPSA CPD policy document.

Fees

Professional CIOs shall ensure that their annual membership fee is paid.

Professional Designation Progression Pathway

Professional Member (PMIITPSA)

Professional Chief Information Officer (Professional CIO (Pr.CIO®))

Website designations

Professional Member (PMIITPSA)

Professional Chief Information Officer (Professional CIO (Pr.CIO®))

For more information on this Professional Designation, please visit the website at

<https://www.iitpsa.org.za>