
GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 249 OF 2010

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

Call for comment on standard SC008 – Data Quality Standard for Surveys, 2010

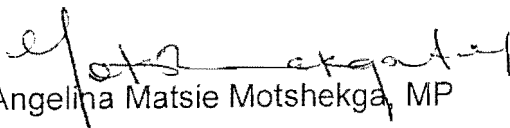
I, Angelina Matsie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, after consulting with the Council of Education Ministers, hereby publish the standard in the Schedule for comment.

All interested persons and organisations are invited to comment on the standard in writing and to direct their comments to:

The Director-General, Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, for attention: Ms H Herbst, tel. 012 312 5093, email herbst.h@doe.gov.za, fax 086 513 4240.

Kindly provide the name, address, telephone and fax number and email address of the person or organisation submitting the comments.

The comments should reach the Department within 30 days from publication of the standard for comment.


Angelina Matsie Motshekga, MP
Minister of Basic Education

Date: 17 February 2010

DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION**SC008: DATA QUALITY STANDARD FOR SURVEYS**

I, Angelina Matsie "Angie" Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education, after consultation with the Council of Education Ministers and in terms of section 3(4)(a) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act No. 27 of 1996), as read with section 59 of the South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act No. 84 of 1996) amend the Education Information Policy as read with paragraph 62 of the Education Information Policy published in Government Gazette No. 26710 of 27 August 2004, hereby publish the standard SC008: Data Quality Standard for Surveys as set out in the schedule.

ANGIE MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION

SC008, Data Quality Standard for Surveys

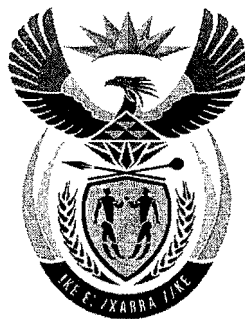
SCHEDULE

SOUTH AFRICAN EDUCATION INFORMATION STANDARDS

SC008

Data Quality Standard for Surveys

December 2009



basic education

Department:

Basic Education

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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*SC008, Data Quality Standard for Surveys***1. Purpose of the Data Quality Standard for Surveys****1.1 Outline of contents**

Although it may seem easy to make a general statement about the perceived quality of a dataset, to provide a comprehensive assessment of the quality of a dataset can be quite challenging. This is because such a comprehensive assessment requires one to take into account more than just the accuracy of measurements contained in the data. Data quality is contextual: to provide a true assessment of the quality of a specific dataset, this dataset must be assessed in terms of the data collection protocol to determine whether it does in fact measure that which it was intended to measure. Therefore, although the title of this document refers to data quality in datasets, it addresses the wider context of data collection accuracy and the end result of such data collection, namely the statistical product produced as a result of the data collection and from the collected dataset.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) developed an instrument, which may be used to assess the quality of statistical products obtained via data collection, namely the South African Statistical Quality Framework (SASQAF). Not only was SASQAF developed to ensure comparability between different data sets collected in South Africa in terms of quality, it was also guided by international standards, such as the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, provided by the United Nations' Statistics Division.

Using SASQAF would present the following advantages to any department or agency:

- SASQAF provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating quality. It focuses on issues pertaining to how accurately the data represents that which it was intended to measure, but also considers aspects such as relevance and accessibility.
- SASQAF is already a fully developed standard, and it is more practical to use an existing set of standards than to develop an entirely new set.
- Since SASQAF is available to all agencies in South Africa via Stats SA, using SASQAF could facilitate coherence between various national datasets.
- The indicators provided by SASQAF for assessment of quality are also intended as specifications for the approval of statistics as official statistics. Official statistics are those statistics that were certified by the Statistician-General as being official in terms of section 14(7) (a) of the Statistics Act [No 6 of 1999]. If the intention is to obtain classification as official statistics for a statistic produced by a government department or agency outside Stats SA, a necessary step would be to align the statistic with the requirements set in SASQAF.

The assessment in SASQAF places a specific statistic in one of four categories, namely:

- Quality statistics;
- Acceptable statistics;
- Questionable statistics; or
- Poor statistics.