



**CREATING A PROUDLY SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT AND INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Is the ISACA SA Chapter recognised as a professional body?**

A: Our application is in progress - The ISACA SA Chapter intends to be recognised as a professional body by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) to register Information Systems Audit and Information Security Management Professionals in South Africa in terms of the NQF Act, Act 67 of 2008.

**Q: Are the ISACA South Africa Chapter designations recognised by SAQA?**

A: The ISACA SA Chapter has applied to SAQA for two designations to be registered – **Information Systems Audit Professional - ISAP (SA)** and **Information Security Management Professional – ISMP (SA)**.

**Q: What is the difference between a designation, certification and qualification?**

A: A *certification* refers to the ISACA Global course whereby an exam is offered by ISACA Global and subsequent application is made to ISACA Global to become certified. Currently, ISACA Global offers a member of certifications including CISA®, CISM®, CRISC®, CGEIT®, CSX-P® and CDPSE®.

Whereas, a *designation* refers to an occupational qualification and the professional status conferred on an individual by the ISACA South Africa Chapter once they meet certain requirements as stipulated in the ISACA SA Policy on Awarding and Revoking Professional Designations.

**Q: How do I apply for a designation?**

A: Only members in good standing that have signed the Code of Ethics and meet the minimum underlying qualifications, certification and experience can apply for designations. The underlying qualifications, certification and experience are listed in the Policy [HERE](#). To apply for the designation status, use the form available [HERE](#).

**Q: I have recently lost my job due to COVID-19. How will the Chapter assist me if I meet the designation application criteria but I cannot afford to pay the designation application fee?**

A: The ISACA SA Board of Directors is considerate of the current economic circumstances in our country and across the world. For this reason, we have waived the initial application fee for the designation. There is therefore no cost to the application for a limited time period.

**Q: Do I have to write an exam before I can be registered?**

A: You do not have to write an exam to achieve designation status. These designations are awarded based on the verification and assessment of your membership, qualifications, certification and experience.

**Q: Can I still become a member if I do not have the required qualifications and / or experience?**

A: Yes. ISACA SA membership is separate to the designation application process.

- ISACA Membership application – access [HERE](#).

- ISACA SA Chapter designation application – access [HERE](#).

**Q: How can ISACA SA Chapter afford to waive the designation application fee and have such low designation fees?**

A: Our professional body aspiration is a strategic initiative and objective for the Chapter; and noted as such in our Annual Report for the past 2 years. The budget for this initiative was approved by the Board of Directors and membership at the Annual General Meeting. We are prudent in our spending; and are managing the budget accordingly. We are therefore able to pass the financial benefits to ISACA SA Chapter members at little to no cost; as part of our ISACA SA Chapter member value proposition.

**Q: Is my ISACA SA Chapter designation internationally recognised?**

A: ISACA South Africa intends to become recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as a professional body and use the professional designations as registered by SAQA. SAQA and the NQF are recognised worldwide.

**Q: I am not a member of the ISACA SA Chapter. Can I still apply for the designation?**

A: Membership to the ISACA SA Chapter is a pre-requisite for applying for the designation

**Q: Can I maintain my ISACA certifications (CISA, CISM) without applying for the ISACA SA Chapter professional designations?**

A: The CISA and CISM credentials are *certifications* that are administered and maintained by ISACA International. This requires an annual certification renewal fee. E.g. You could hold a certification and write your name as Mr. Joe Bloggs, CISA.

The ISAP (SA) and ISMP (SA) credentials are *designations* that are administered and maintained by the ISACA SA Chapter. The designation application fee is free at this stage, as noted above. E.g. You could hold a certification and a designation and write your name as Mr. Joe Bloggs, CISA, ISAP (SA).

With the distinction between certification and designation in mind, yes it will be possible to maintain your certification without applying for the designation.

**Q: Can I apply for the designation if I have any of CDPSE, CRISC, or CGEIT certifications?**

A: No, we are taking a phased-in approach to registering of designations with SAQA. At present, the designations we have applied to register with SAQA are associated with/ linked to, the CISA and CISM certifications which the most are commonly held certifications amongst the members of ISACA SA Chapter. Designations linked to other certifications might be considered by the Board of Directors as a future initiative over the longer term.

**Q: I would like to know more. Who can I contact at the ISACA SA Chapter?**

A: We appreciate all feedback received. You are welcome to get in touch with us at [saca@isaca.org.za](mailto:saca@isaca.org.za).