



For **South African learners** doing an EcoTraining Field Guide Course

EcoTraining and SASSETA (Sector Education and Training Authority)

Due to the legal and professional requirements of being a Field Guide, there are certain steps that any student wishing to do firearms training is required to do. It is a lengthy process to get everything accredited and certified with the correct institutions, but these need to be done as you could be held responsible if anything happened to go wrong and you do not have the correct paperwork. Also, there are requirements that have to be met before being allowed to attend the EcoTraining courses.

It is your responsibility to obtain the correct certification through a SASSETA accredited institution in terms of rifle handling before you start your Field Guiding course with EcoTraining. By the time it comes to you looking for employment, you are free of any worries and will be able to apply for the job that you want and show your well-earned credentials to the company looking at your CV. This will also allow you to complete your Advanced Rifle Handling during your Trails Guide course if you decide to do this course.

NB: If any students want to do rifle handling on an EcoTraining course, then a SASSETA certificate is a **MUST!** Students can still attend the courses if they don't have SASSETA, but will not be able to participate in the rifle handling.

Certification by an accredited training provider

The process of becoming legally certified by an accredited training provider and the S.A.P.S (South African Police Service):

1. Find an accredited training provider. They must be accredited with SASSETA and the SAPS. You may find one on www.sasseta.org.za. They must also be a registered assessor – ask for an assessor number.
2. **TO BE DONE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR ECOTRAINING COURSE:** At the SASSETA office you need to successfully complete the following:
 - a. A test on the law, unit standard no.117705 – Demonstrate knowledge of the firearms control Act 60 of 2000.
 - b. Then you must decide which categories you want i.e. Handgun (119649), Shotgun (119652), manually operated/Carbine (123519), and Self-loading Rifle/carbine (123511). For the EcoTraining courses you need to have the Basic Handling of a Rifle - Manually operated (119651). (Bolt Action rifles).
3. At a later stage, once you have started employment, the lodge might require you to complete the following: business purpose unit standards, and in the same categories as in 2(b)

- a. To get maximum flexibility and diversity it is advised to do as many unit standards as possible.
4. Once you have a training provider certificate (SASSETA) in your hand, you are ready to attend any EcoTraining course.

SASSETA Certificates at SAPS

PLEASE NOTE:

After you have obtained your SASSETA Certificate, you can go to the SAPS for your competency certificate although it is not compulsory for your EcoTraining course and may take some time to obtain. We do recommend getting your competency certificate if you are going to be working professionally at a lodge in South Africa. We have also included information below on the steps to be followed in obtaining this certificate:

1. Your next step is the SAPS. Your information will be uploaded (by SASSETA) on the system with a learner achievement certificate.
2. Through the SAPS you need to get a 'competency certificate'. This is only to check whether the person is "competent" to use or work with a firearm. They do a background check on you for the following:
 - a. if you are stable
 - b. over 21 years old
 - c. a South African citizen
 - d. has no criminal record
 - e. not dependant on drugs or alcohol.
3. The SAPS will issue a competence certificate, which looks like a credit card type license that is valid for 5 years. This competence certificate is what you need for your firearm renewal, or the application of a new firearm license, and is verification that the person can work with that specific firearm that he/she has been issued by that company of employment.
4. The issuing of the firearm by the responsible person must check which category of firearm the employee has competence for.

