

Workshop on the Implementation of a National Quality Assurance Framework for Official Statistics in countries of the Africa Region

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-18 October 2019

Quality Assurance in the case of different data sources

Certification of statistical outputs and providers

Portia Molalagotla - South Africa
17 October 2019



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Contents

- Background
- SASQAF Process
- Outputs



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SASQAF identifies

9

dimensions of quality



Each dimension has associated quality indicators, standards and benchmarks.

Chapter 1: Prerequisites of quality

1.1 Description

The prerequisites of quality refer to the institutional and organisational conditions that have an impact on data quality. It defines the minimum set of necessary conditions that have to be met in order to produce good quality statistics. It therefore serves as the foundation on which all other dimensions of data quality should be premised on.

1.2 Key components

- Legal and institutional environment (including Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) or Service Level Agreements (SLAs))
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Commensurability of resources
- Quality as the cornerstone of statistical work

1.3 Quality indicators, standards and benchmarks

Indicator	Standards	Assessment Levels			
		Quality Statistics Level 4	Acceptable Statistics Level 3	Questionable Statistics Level 2	Poor Statistics Level 1
1.1 The responsibility for producing statistics is clearly specified.	1.1.1 A legal arrangement exists that explicitly mandates the production of statistics.	A law or legal arrangement exists that explicitly provides the mandate for the production of statistics.	A law or legal arrangement exists that implies that statistical production is part of its mandate.	No law or legal arrangement exists, but an informal agreement exists for statistical production.	No arrangement exists.

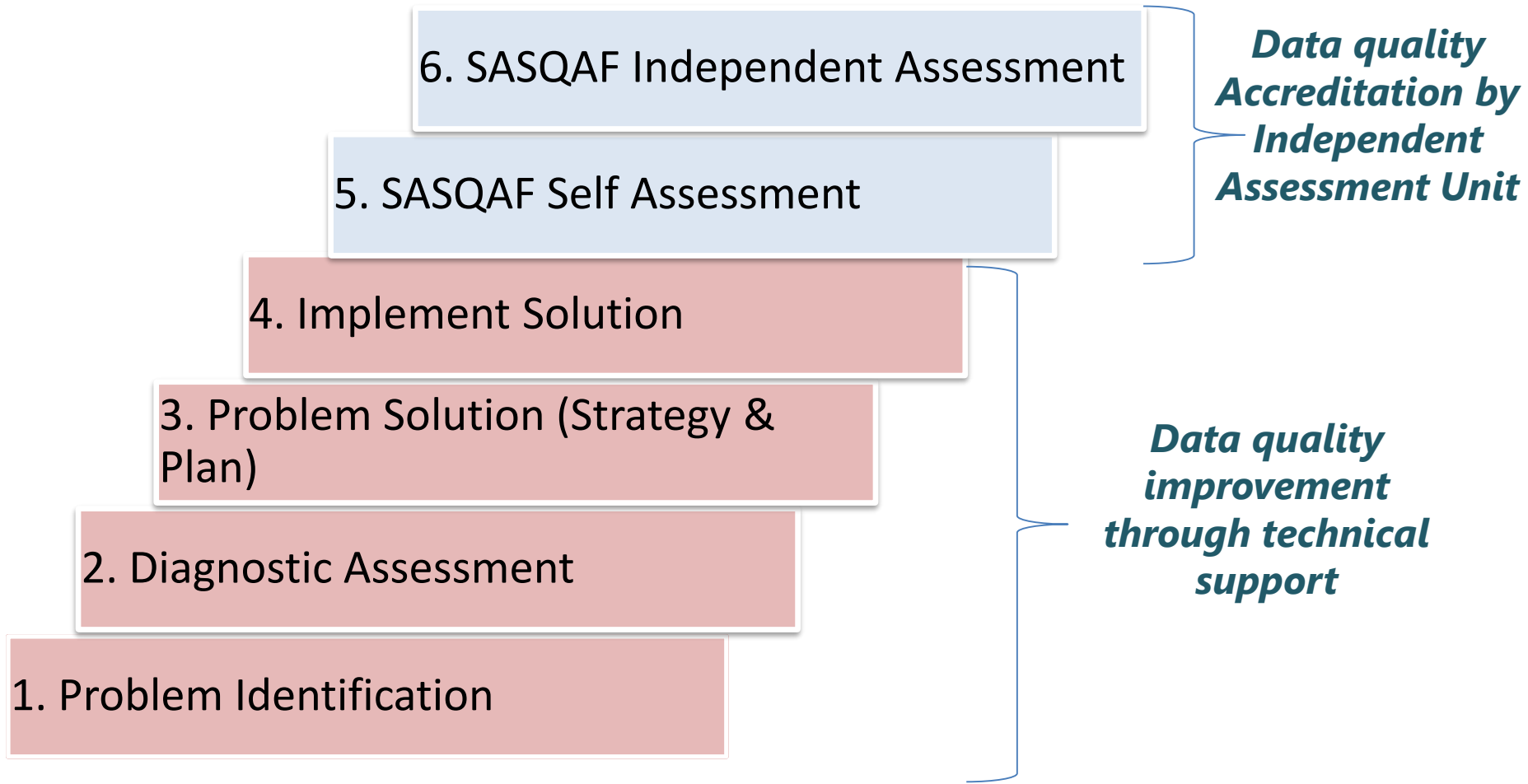


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SANSS Phases Of Engagement



SASQAF Process

Independent Assessment

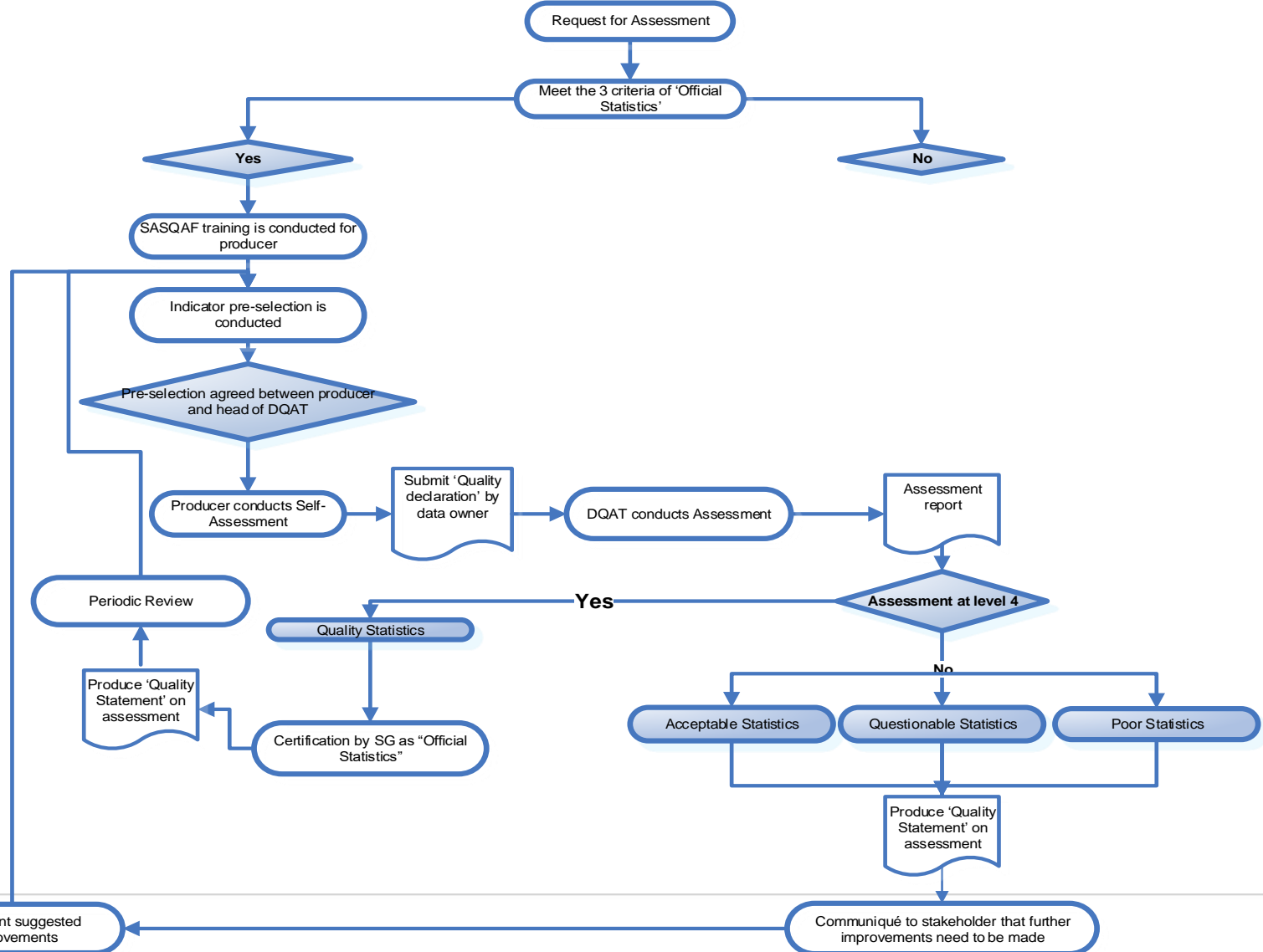


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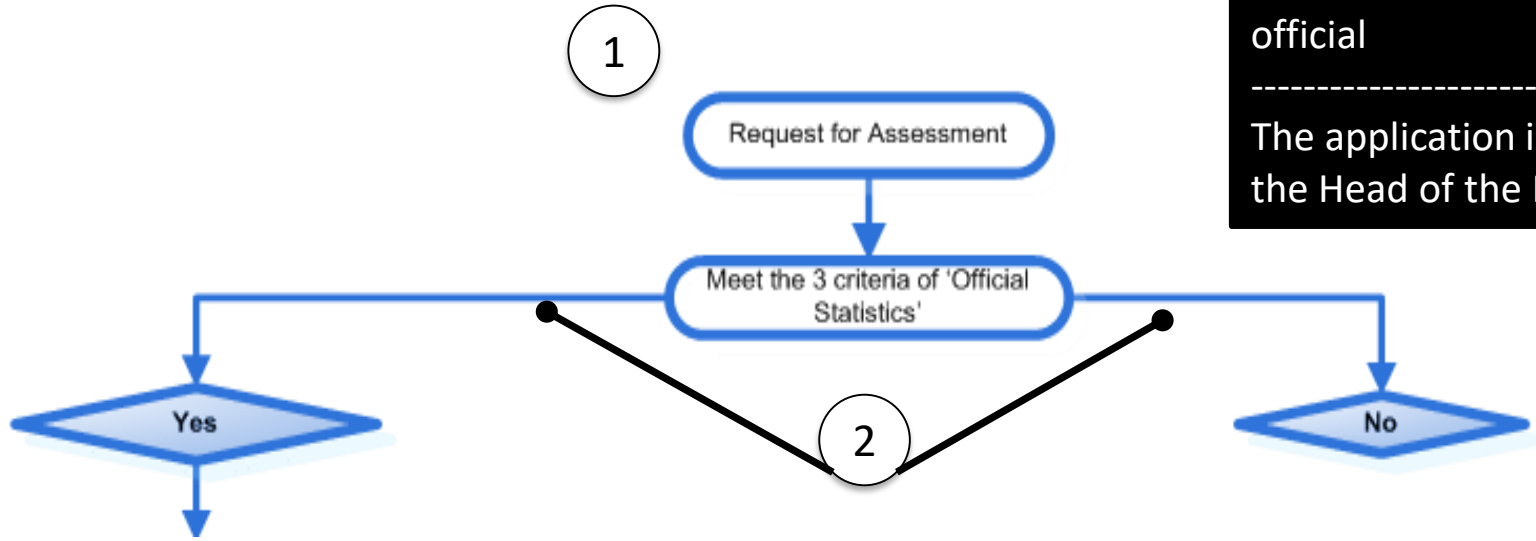
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Procedure for assessing statistics



Procedure for assessing statistics



1
The producer of the statistics applies to the SG to have their statistics declared official

The application is referred to the Head of the NSS

2
The producer of the statistics and the product must meet the three criteria of statistics in order to be assessed.

STOP



**You need to
pass criteria**

3

- The producing agency should be a member of the NSS
- The statistics need to meet user needs beyond those specific and internal to the producing agency; and
- The statistics produced should be part of a sustainable series, not a once-off collection.



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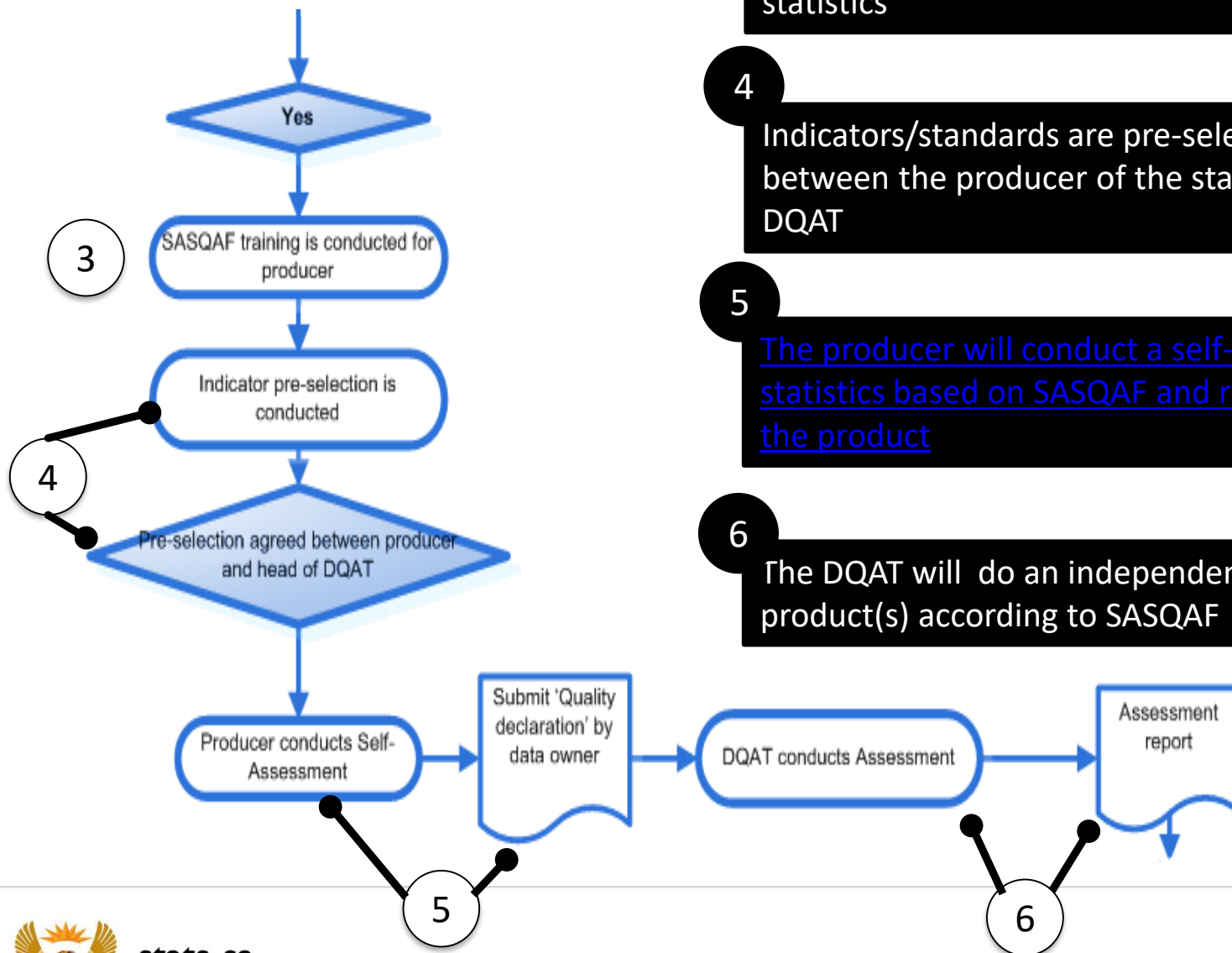
If you meet the criteria, we
can now proceed



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3

SASQAF training is conducted for the producer of the statistics

4

Indicators/standards are pre-selected and agreed upon between the producer of the statistics and the head of DQAT

5

The producer will conduct a self-assessment of the statistics based on SASQAF and recommend a score for the product

6

The DQAT will do an independent assessment of the product(s) according to SASQAF



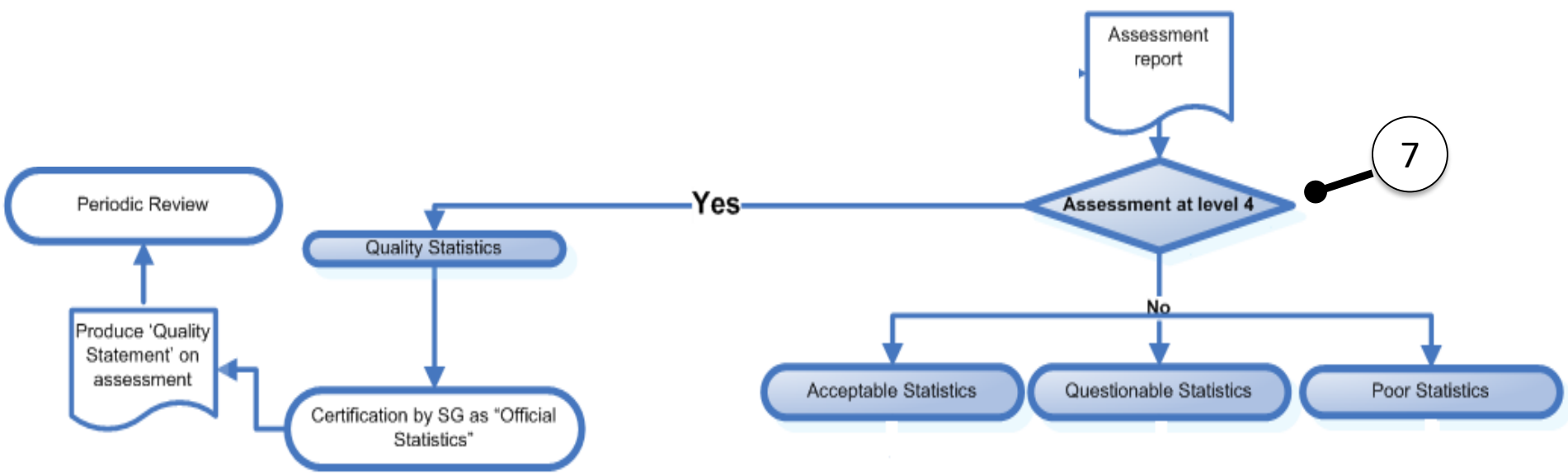
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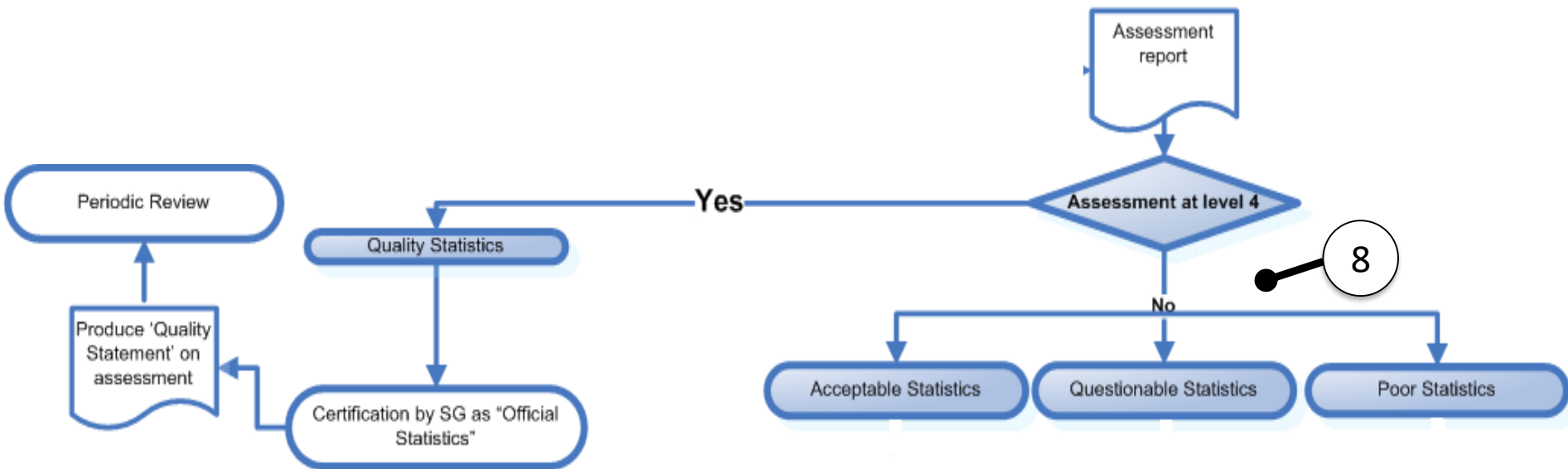
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DQAT will recommend the overall SASQAF level of the product to the SG



8

If the product(s) do not meet the criteria for 'quality statistics', the DQAT will advise the producer on areas of improvement



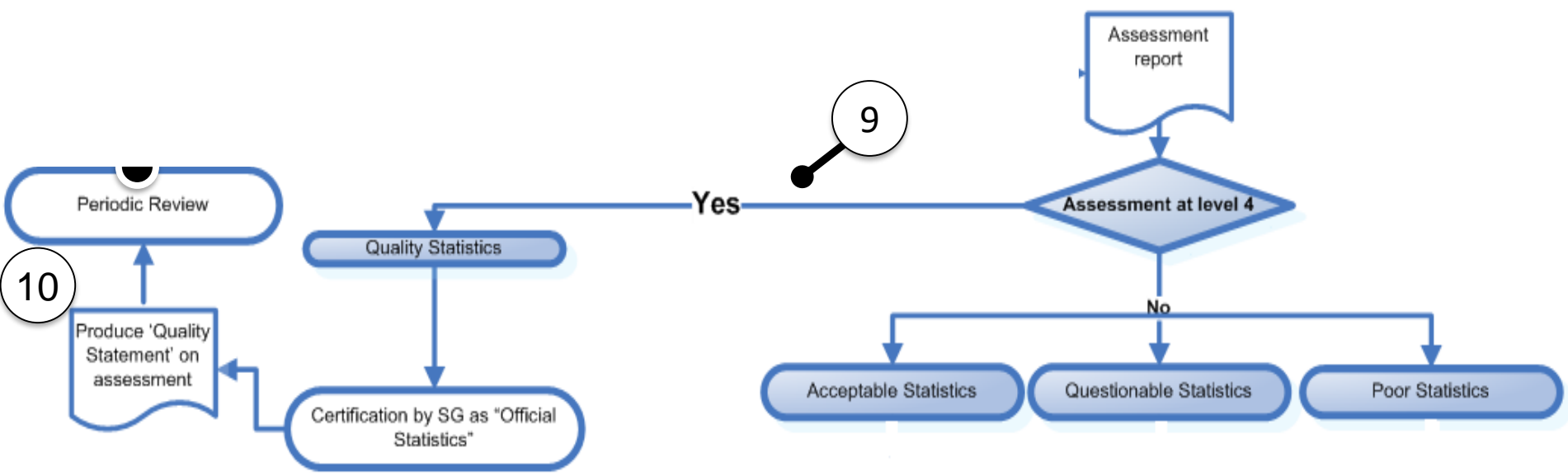
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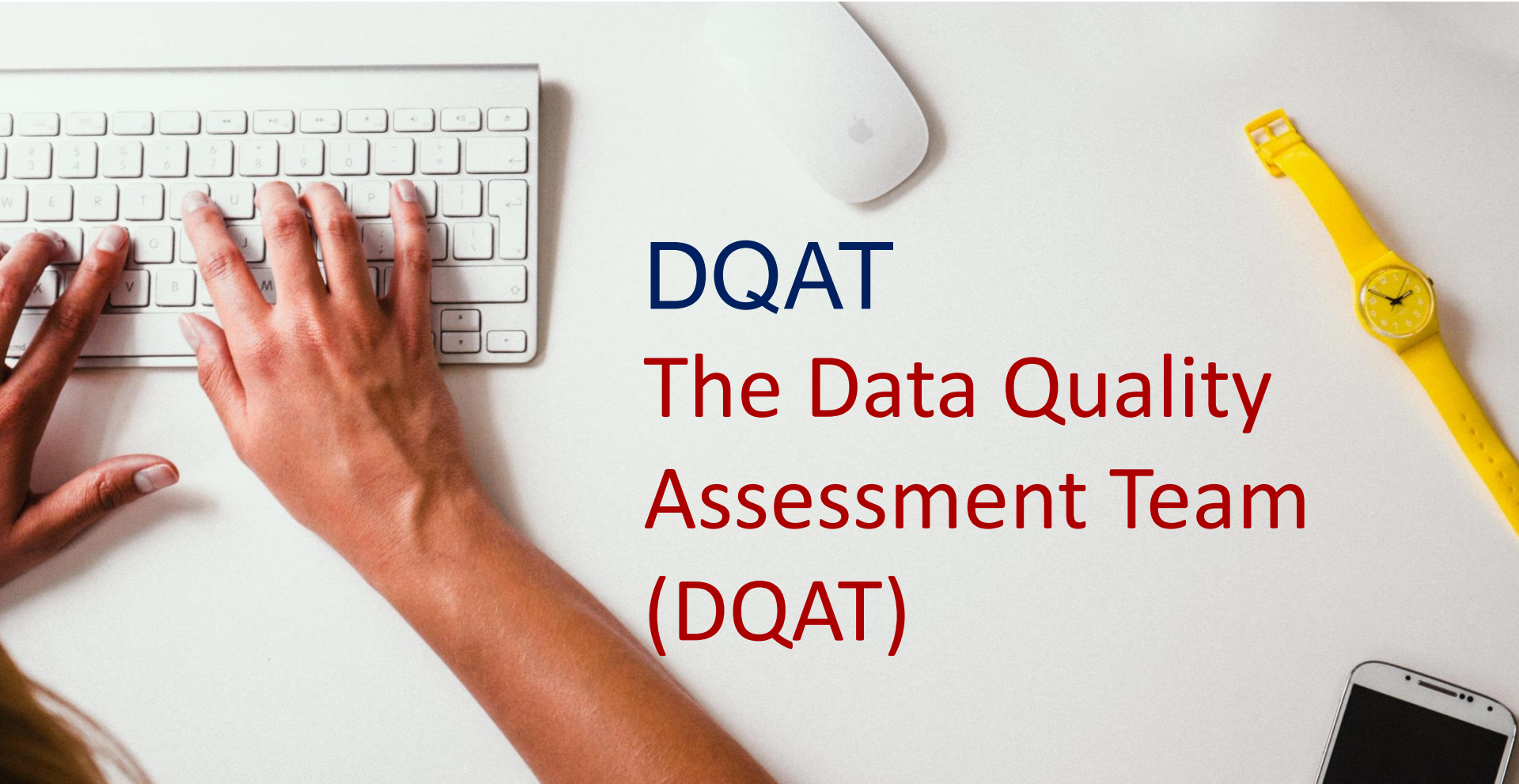
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9 If the product(s) meets the criteria for 'quality statistics', the product will be certified as "Official Statistics" by the Statistician General (SG)

10 It will be published with the SG's official seal of quality approval
The product will then be subject to periodic reviews





DQAT

The Data Quality Assessment Team (DQAT)



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The Data Quality Assessment Team (DQAT)

Set up according set procedures for SG to designate official statistics

Constituted by the SG,
drawn from:
Statistics South Africa
Applicant (product owner)
Subject-matter expert(s)
(recommended by product owner and/or the SG)
Users of the statistical product
Statistics Council member

Chair of DQAT: Head of the South African National Statistical System



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The Data Quality Assessment Team (DQAT)

Newly appointed for each product

Constituted of:

- A core team (technical team)
- An expanded team (moderating team)

Sign terms of reference for the review and an oath of confidentiality

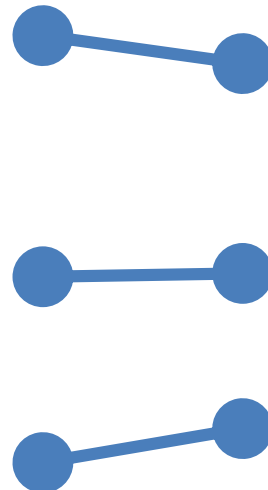


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The Assessment



Assessment based on metadata provided by data owner

Scheduled work sessions: technical team

Scheduled work sessions: DQAT



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Example of an assessment

Indicator	Standard	Quality Statistics	Acceptable Statistics	Questionable Statistics	Poor Statistics	Findings and recommendations
		Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	
1.1	1.1.1	X				Findings explain the given score Recommendations provide areas of improvement needed
1.2	1.2.1		X			
	1.2.2					
1.3		X				
1.4						
1.5					X	
Dimension Score						=(sum of scores)/(number of standards scored)



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Example of an assessment (cont.)

Quality dimension	Assessment Score
1: Pre-requisites of quality	3.76
2: Relevance	4
3: Accuracy	3.5
4: Timeliness	4
5: Accessibility	4
6: Interpretability	4
7: Coherence and Comparability	4
8: Methodological soundness	3.5
9: Integrity	4
Total Score (out of 36) :	34.76
Average Score (out of 4):	3.86



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Assessment metadata template

Indicator	Standard	Meaning of Standard	Relevant Document	Comment
The responsibility for producing statistics is clearly specified	A legal arrangement exists that explicitly mandates the production of statistics	Stats SA has been clearly mandated to produce X product as per the legislation and as indicated in its annual work program: identified 10 areas of priorities include X statistics	1. Statistics Act 1999 2. Stats SA work program 2010/11: Program 2, subprogram: X	1. Sections 5 and 7 of the Act 2. Stats SA work program 2010/11 p.25 & p.67



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Example of an improvement plan

Agreements	Specific task
Agreement 1:	<p><i>Put in place a new memorandum of understanding between X and Y detailing not only mandate of data production but also ownership with regards to the data:</i></p> <p>X and Y to sign a MoU that clearly defines the mandate of the Survey, each party's roles and responsibilities, as well as its dominion</p> <p>16 August 2011</p>
Due date:	
Agreement 2:	<p><i>Develop and adopt a statistical value chain (svc) and related policies:</i></p> <p>X has to adapt the standard SVC to bits data production process and develop related policies to each of the process</p>
Due date:	21 March 2011

Outputs of the Assessment



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Assessment report



Confidential document, not circulated or published



Contains details outlining findings and recommendations by the DQAT



Contains scores by standards, dimensions and overall



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Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Data Quality Assessment Report

15 February 2017



Data quality report



Public document, available both online and hard copy



Contains quality statement about the product



Contains agreed upon areas of improvement



Signed by both SG and data owner



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SASQAF Quality Assessment Report



General Household Survey Statistics South Africa

Assessment Report - 5

September 2015



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Statistical Release

- Published with the SG's seal of approval
- Contains a foreword by the SG



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National Survey of Research & Experimental Development (R&D) 2006/07

Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators

(CeSTII)

Human Sciences Research Council

for

the Department of Science and Technology

March 2009



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Assessment plan

Activity	Meetings Dates
1 st Core-DQAT review meeting	05 - 06 December 2016
2 nd Core-DQAT review meeting	08 February 2017
3 rd Core-DQAT review meeting	11 December 2017
DQAT review meeting	13-14 March 2018
Final Assessment report	
Core-DQAT Quality planning meeting	
DQAT Quality planning meeting	
Quality plan and draft quality statement report	
Final quality statement report	
Publication of quality statement report	



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Thank you



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