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Qualification needs of SMEs and strategies of the Chamber of Skilled Crafts for vocational education and training

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Latvian Chamber of Crafts' main task:

providing clients with a quality service from a qualified performer.

This applies to both individual workers (craftsmen, journeymen, masters) and companies.



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Law on Craftsmanship (02.02.1993.)

Article 1. Craftsmanship activities

For the purpose of the present Law craftsmanship activities include professional activity of any person who is accepting orders or working in professions named in the list approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Craftsmanship activities include:

- 1) commercial activities of a natural person;
- 2) establishment of craftsmen enterprises;
- 3) working in a craftsmen enterprise on the basis of employment contract.

(As amended by the law of 24.04.2008 taking effect on 28.05.2008.)



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Qualifications

- Craftsman (Craftsman Card)
- Journeyman
 - Journeyman practice certificate
- Master craftsman
 - Master practice certificate
- Master craftsman with academic education



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- **Craftsman card** – document, which *confirms the craftsman's skills in a certain part of the craft and is handed out for a certain period of time.*
- **Journeyman** – 3-4 years of practical work experience (including vocational education or working with a master) + qualification examination. *Journeyman diploma is a confirmation of the qualification of the craftsman, which is an attestation of the person's competence and the ability to independently perform professional activities in the given craft.*
- **Master craftsman** – 8 years of work experience (including vocational training) + LAK master training + qualification examination. *Master diploma is a confirmation of the qualification of the craftsman, which is an attestation of the person's competence and the ability to organize, perform professional activities and establish a craftsmanship enterprise.*
- **Master craftsman with academic education** – higher education relevant to the profession + qualification examination



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Training of apprentices

Law on Craftsmanship (02.02.1993.)

Article 16. Rights to train apprentices and supervision of their training

Apprentices can be trained by **craftsmen enterprises** evaluated by the Latvian Chamber of Crafts or a territorial craftsmen association or association of a separate branch of craftsmanship authorised by the Latvian Chamber of Crafts.

Master craftsmen or persons considered as such and holding a permit from the Latvian Chamber of Crafts are entitled to train apprentices.

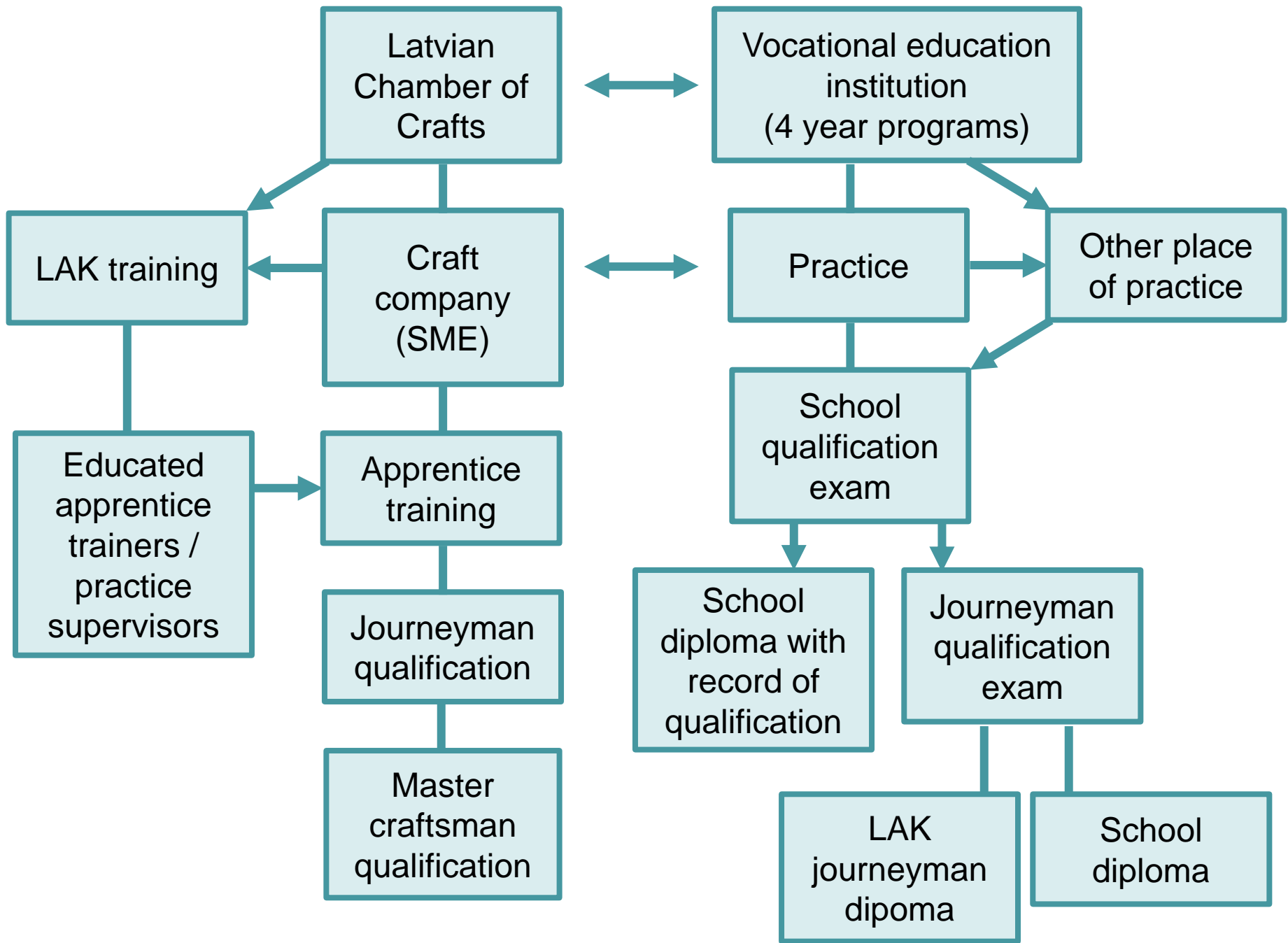
Supervision of training carried out in craftsmen enterprises is ensured by the Latvian Chamber of Crafts.



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**As a result of the training,
the trainer in the company should be able to:**

- train trainees / apprentices in the company;
- prepare a trainee / apprenticeship program and a training plan for the company;
- set criteria and procedures for the selection of trainees / apprentices;
- cooperate with the Chamber of Crafts to agree on the content and organization of trainee / apprenticeship training;
- cooperate with vocational schools in case the trainee is a vocational school student, to be able to agree on study periods;
- prepare a study agreement, to enter into an agreement with a trainee / apprentice and the vocational school if the trainee is studying;
- register a training contract in the Chamber of Crafts.





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The importance of a master's qualification is reflected not only in the Law of Craftsmanship

Article 13, twelfth part, of the Construction Act provides that masters registered with the Latvian Chamber of Crafts, if they conduct construction work in accordance with the «Law of Craftsmanship», are not subject to the requirement of obtaining independent practice in the field of civil engineering or related engineering

This wording confirms the LAK craftsman qualification on the same level of the first level higher education shown in the table of EQF/LQF levels in the next slide



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Qualification level	EQF / LQF level	Craft qualification level * 1
5 th qualification level	6 th - 7 th EQF / LQF level	Master craftsman with academic education
4 th qualification level	5 th EQF / LQF level	Master craftsman
3 rd qualification level	4 th EQF / LQF level	Journeyman
2 nd qualification level	3 rd EQF / LQF level	
1 st qualification level	2 nd EQF / LQF level	

¹ Qualification levels of craftsmen in the craft system regulated by the Law on Crafts are included in the Profession Card in accordance with the recommendations of the Latvian Chamber of Crafts regarding the alignment of crafts levels with professional qualification levels



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The structure of sectoral qualifications is a general description of the professions in the sector, as well as an overview of the specializations and related professions that are included in the sector professions, where levels of professional qualifications for professions and specializations are indicated.

The respective craftsmanship qualifications are indicated next to the LQF and PQL (professional qualification levels) (Data as of May 2019)

Construction industry*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_buvnieciba.pdf

Printing and media technology industry*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_druka.pdf

Energy sector*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_energetika.pdf

Wood industry (forestry, woodworking)*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_kokrupnieciba.pdf



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Design and Creative Industries sector*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_maksla.pdf

Metalworking, mechanical engineering sector (including mechanics)*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_metalapstrade.pdf

Food industry*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_partika.pdf

Beauty industry*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_skaistumkopsana.pdf

Textile, clothing, leather and leather products industry*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_tekstils.pdf

Tourism industry*

https://visc.gov.lv/profizglitiba/dokumenti/nozkval/NKSK_turisms.pdf



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Thank you for your attention!

Diāna Karaša

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