

Office
Pretoria

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EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

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Dear Customs and Excise client

UPDATE ON THE NEW REGISTRATION, LICENSING AND ACCREDITATION (RLA) SYSTEM

Following the communique dated 12 March 2020, SARS confirms that the new Customs Registration, Licensing and Accreditation (RLA) system **will be implemented on 20 April 2020**. However, the amended rules will be published on Friday 24 April 2020, and thus the system will be operationalised when the amended rules are published. Traders can submit applications as of 20 April, but your outcome will be held back until 24 April.

The implementation of RLA is in line with SARS' strategic objectives of making it easy for traders to comply and fulfil their obligations and for SARS to modernise its systems to provide streamlined digital services. The main focus of the rollout on 20 April will be the introduction of eFiling as a channel for submission of **new** registration and licensing applications. This ensures that services continue to be available during the lockdown period in order to minimise face-to-face contact.

The rollout of the system will be enabled for Customs branches from 24 April 2020; however, due to lockdown regulations in which branches are only operating on an appointment basis, we urge clients to make use of eFiling for new applications to register or license for a Customs client type. This first phase of implementation focuses on **new** applications for 45 clients types only, which can be viewed here: [RLA client types](#). **Please take note:** Excise applications are not included in this implementation.

Clients who wish to submit urgent applications to register or license as an importer/exporter of essential goods during the current Covid-19 pandemic, should do the following:

- Submit applications via email to BMvubu@sars.gov.za or NMotete@sars.gov.za or avandermescht@sars.gov.za
- This should include:
 - A completed DA185

- Relevant supporting documents (please keep size to a minimum)
- A commercial Invoice clearly stating the value and the description of goods in question.
- Once this has been processed, SARS will provide the applicant with a client number on an expedited basis.

All applications relating to importing/exporting of essential goods will take priority over all other applications during this lockdown period.

Clients wishing to submit applications on the RLA system are encouraged to register for eFiling in the meantime (if not already registered). Please refer to the following guide: [How to register for eFiling](#).

For more information on RLA, click here: [RLA](#)

Sincerely



BEYERS THERON

HEAD: CUSTOMS BORDER OPERATIONS