



CUSTOMS MODERNISATION

Information for Mozambique trade

On the Customs front, massive changes have taken place under the Customs Modernisation Programme which was launched two years ago. As with Revenue, Customs Modernisation introduces the principles of electronic processing of Customs declarations coupled with automated risk assessments to differentiate between low-risk and high-risk trade. These changes are aimed at facilitating trade by speeding up the movement of trucks through the border posts, replacing stamps and paper with electronic processing and using resources more effectively by centralising declaration processing

Since June 2011, the second phase of the Customs Modernisation Programme was rolled out to all seaports and airports, followed by two land border posts, Lebombo and Beitbridge.

This year Customs Modernisation changes are rolling out to the remaining Customs border posts in SACU countries. This includes most of the changes that were introduced at the abovementioned border posts last year, as well as others unique to land border posts.

The changes that are being introduced at the land borders include the following:

- **New inspection** workflow – declarations will be processed in one of four processing centres (4 major RSA centres), with inspections still being conducted at the particular port/s
- SARS is introducing a new **Customs risk management** approach in dealing with both cargo and passengers
- **All documentation must now be submitted electronically to SARS – including manifests, which will soon become mandatory**
- No commercial cargo will be allowed entry into the port without **pre-clearance**
- A new **passenger processing system for travellers** will be implemented for the declaration of personal goods and Customs payments (non-Commercial)
- In the case of **informal traders** (depending on frequency and value of goods), they will be processed by the new passenger processing system OR the Cargo system
- The gate pass for travellers will be replaced by a new **Traveller Card and/or receipts**. The current stamp process by each OGA for the gate pass will now be done on the Traveller Card.
- Previous special Customs **agreements/concessions** that have existed at SARS ports will no longer exist (eg. no more movement of abnormal loads through the port if not on the manifest)

Some of these changes which are currently being introduced at the SACU borders – which weren't implemented at the "international" ports last year – will now also be implemented at Lebombo on the weekend of 26 May and Beitbridge on the weekend of 2 June. The new passenger processing system, as mentioned above, will be introduced shortly thereafter.



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What does this mean for you?

- The biggest change is that the general code 70707070 will no longer be in use.
- Foreign traders or “foreign principals” (meaning a registered importer, exporter or licensed remover in bond not located in South Africa) will have to undergo a new registration process with Customs. ALL foreign traders that import or export goods to, from and through South Africa need to be registered with SARS and obtain a code for either an Importer, Exporter or Remover of Goods in Bond. Once they have received this code, it must be utilised by an appointed/ nominated Registered Agent
- It is important to note that all foreign traders will have to appoint a “Registered South African Agent” who would accept full accountability for the transaction
- RSA “**Registered Agents**” must go through this **registration** process to ensure that they are accredited to facilitate the processing of foreign trader requirements
- The Agent must have completed the DA185.D registration to link the applicable Foreign Principle Trader
- From **23 May 2012**, a team of registration specialists will be at Lebombo border post assisting with these new registrations. We urge you to take this opportunity to register before the new system comes into effect
- All **foreigners’ deferment accounts will be closed** when the new system is implemented and only registered South African importers, exporters and agents will be considered for deferment facilities.
- On the weekend of 26 May, the **process for clearing cargo** at port will change. There will no longer be any red or green stamps, indicating the arrival or departure of trucks. Now trucks will not be allowed to enter the border post until processing is completed – including any payment due – and a “Proceed to Port” notification is received by the declarant.
- All trucks need to carry a printed Manifest (DA187) to inform the Gate Arrival Officer of the Unique Transport Reference number of the conveyance, as explained on SARS’s ACM website:
<http://www.sars.gov.za/home.asp?pid=558>
- When the truck driver arrives at the entrance, a customs officer will check the status of the declaration on the system and print a **CN1** per consignment and one **CN2** upon clearance of all consignments. This will replace the gate pass. **NOTE:** The declarant will not receive the **clearance status** of the declaration before arriving at the entrance gate at the port.
- The trader must declare to the applicable port of entry or exit to avoid any possible delays.
- Also from the weekend of 26 May, SARS’s **Automated Cargo Management (ACM)** system will go live for the road modality. This means that all road hauliers who import and export cargo at these border posts can now submit manifests electronically via the ACM system. For the initial pilot phase, electronic submission via the ACM system will not be mandatory and SARS will concentrate on the data take-on of electronic Road Freight Manifests at the above border posts. However, after the pilot period (the date of which will still be announced), it will become mandatory for all road manifests at the above border posts to be submitted electronically. If this is not done, trucks will be unable to move across the border until all electronic cargo reporting requirements have been met. Road hauliers/carriers are therefore urged to register for ACM as soon as possible. For more info on this, go to the ACM website: <http://www.sars.gov.za/home.asp?pid=558>