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South African Revenue Service

Dear Customs client

CHANGES TO SARS'S ELECTRONIC MANIFEST SYSTEM AND PROCESSES

On the weekend of 17 June 2016, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) will implement its new Manifest Processing System, which will positively benefit road, air and sea carriers.

After the successes of modernising the declaration processing system over the past few years, a decision was made to modernise the cargo management system – one of the last remaining paper-based processes in Customs.

As part of SARS's strategic plan, the aim is to address non-compliance of cargo report submission, enable effective goods accounting to ensure that all appropriate duty has been paid and achieve meaningful levels of cargo management. As paper acquittal submissions must currently still be done manually by clients, this process also requires automation and optimisation.

The changes on the weekend of 17 June will include a back-end system migration of the current cargo reporting system (ACM) to the Interfront Customs Business System (iCBS), which will have no significant impact on the Customs clearance process. However, there will also be enhancements to the cargo arrival management process at land border posts which will impact road hauliers and truck drivers.

Additionally, SARS will be implementing an electronic acquittal manifest reporting capability for compliant cargo reporters and an interim matching capability for sea and air modalities (only for imports and only at master bill level).

All of these changes will have numerous benefits for trade:

- For road freight users/carriers:
 - Improved gate processes at land borders with the introduction of a barcode and Cargo Reference Number (CARN) – which should lead to faster turnaround times
 - Introduction of electronic entry and exit messaging to declarants and carriers (Cusres 40 and 41)
 - System enhancements for improved transit movement administration
- For air and sea carriers:
 - Clients will be offered paperless benefits (at master level) for compliance with electronic submission of reports (with high data quality).

Those who have not yet registered to use SARS's electronic cargo reporting system are urged to do so as soon as possible as you will not be able to submit manifests electronically without first registering.

Further information about the system, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), as well as the latest CUSCAR Data Mapping Guide (DMG) and downloadable registration forms, are available on the ACM webpage (www.sars.gov.za > Customs > Assessment > ACM). This will be updated with new information on the upcoming changes closer to the go-live. We will be keeping you updated with more information on this implementation in the near future.

Sincerely



JED MICHALETOS
CHIEF OFFICER: CUSTOMS & EXCISE