SARS ONLINE QUERY SYSTEM
## REVISION HISTORY TABLE

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<th>Version</th>
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<td>12-08-2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>The SARS Online Query System (SOQS) is to assist taxpayers who wish to raise queries with SARS without the need to go into a SARS branch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-10-2020</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Updated the guide with a new query Report new estate case query; this query must be used to report the taxpayer as an estate to SARS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-12-2020</td>
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1 PURPOSE

- This guide in its design, development, implementation and review phases is guided and underpinned by the SARS values, Code of Conduct and the applicable legislation. Should any aspect of this guide be in conflict with the applicable legislation, the legislation will take precedence.

- The purpose of this document is to assist taxpayers to understand how to raise queries with SARS on the SARS Online Query System (SOQS) so that they don’t have to go to a branch.

2 INTRODUCTION

- The SOQS is an easy-to-use online platform that is accessible via the SARS Website (www.sars.gov.za).

- The SOQS assists taxpayers who wish to raise queries with SARS without going into a SARS branch.

- To initiate a query, taxpayers simply need to complete the online form by selecting a Query Type; complete a set of required information fields; attach supporting documentation where necessary and submit the data to SARS for processing and review.

- The SOQS currently allows for the following Query Types to be captured:
  - Supporting Document Upload
  - Account Query related to a payment allocation
  - Enquiry on a tax reference number
  - Report new estate case

3 GUIDANCE ON SUBMISSION OF THE QUERIES

- The SOQS is accessible on the SARS website. To access the SOQS taxpayers can visit the SARS website www.sars.gov.za then click on > Contact Us > Send us a Query, or they can use this Direct Link: https://www.sars.gov.za/Contact/Pages/Send-us-a-Query.aspx
Once you click on send us a Query, the SOQS page will open. Click on the link “Click here to open the form in a new window”.

The following “Query System” screen will be displayed:

Take note of the following on the Query System screen:

- The mandatory fields will have a red asterisk “*” next to them.
- The Query Type will default to “Supporting Document Upload”.
The Title will default to “Ms”.  
The ID Type will default to “South African ID Number”.  
The Tax Type will default to “Income Tax”.

4 AVAILABLE QUERY SERVICES

4.1 ACCOUNT QUERY

- Queries relating to SARS allocation of payments in respect of Income Tax, PAYE, and VAT can be submitted using query type Account Query and the Category field will default to Payment Allocation.

- Capture the required mandatory information and you will thereafter be able to attach and submit supporting documents.

- Select Query Type “Account Query”. The Category will default to Payment Allocation.

- Select the Title from the dropdown list. The following can be selected:
  - Ms for women irrespective of the marital status.
  - Mr for men.
  - Mrs for married women.
  - Rev for Reverend.
  - Prof for Professor
  - Dr for Doctor.
  - Adv for Advocate.
  - Hon for Honourable.

- Capture the “Initials” in the Initials field

- Enter the “Name” in the Name field.

- Enter the “Surname” in the Surname field.

- Enter the “Trading Name” if it is a business. This field is optional.

- Enter the “Email” address in the Email address field.
• Enter the “Mobile” number in the Mobile field.

• Enter “Telephone” number in the Telephone number field. This field is optional.

• Select the ID Type from the dropdown list:
  - South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
  - Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
  - Company Registration Number – If the taxpayer is a Company. Only a valid Company Registration number will be accepted.
  - Trust Number – If the taxpayer is a Trust. Only a valid Trust number will be accepted.

• Capture the “ID No” depending on the ID Type selected.

• Select the Tax Type from the drop down list:
  - Income Tax;
  - PAYE; or
  - VAT.

• Enter the “Tax No” relating to the Tax Type selected.

• Add notes in the “Notes” field to explain how the payments must be allocated. Make sure the notes are clear and understandable.

• At any point, the taxpayer can click on the “Reset” button to clear all the captured information on the screen, as well as the attached supporting documents, to be able to start the process again.
  - Please note that the “Reset” button must only be used if all the information on the screen is incorrect.

• Click on the “Documents” button to add supporting documents. The screen for “Documents for Submission” will be displayed as follows:

![Documents for Submission](image)

• Click on “Upload Tips” button to view the following tips for downloading supporting documents, the following message will be displayed:
• Click on “OK” button to close the message.

• Click on “Select” button to browse your PC and locate the supporting documents to be uploaded.

• Once the supporting document is attached, a “Delete” button is enabled next to the attached supporting document.

  ▪ View the list of attached documents to ensure that all the relevant supporting documents have been attached.
  ▪ Count the documents to ensure that the correct number of documents have been attached as indicated on the tips above.
  ▪ Where the taxpayer has attached an incorrect document click on the “Delete” button next to the specific document and delete it.

• Click the “Close” button to go back to the detail screen once the documents have been downloaded and attached.

• Once complete, click the “Submit” button to send the captured details and attached documents to SARS.

• Complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field before the submission is processed. Refer to paragraph 5 below for more details on Captcha screen.
Click on “Validate” button to validate the captured information. Once the CAPTCHA is completed correctly, the submission is accepted and uploaded for processing.

The message: “Thank you for your submission. Correspondence will be issued shortly.” is displayed.

4.2 WHAT’S MY TAX NUMBER?

Taxpayers who are registered for Income Tax and do not know what their tax reference number is can request it via the SQOS system using the What's My Tax Number Query Type.

Supporting documents and tax reference details are not required for this query type.

Select Query Type “What's My Tax Number?”.

Select the channel to receive the tax number from the “Send By” dropdown list:
- Email – if the taxpayer wants to receive the tax reference number via email.
- SMS – if the taxpayer wants to receive the tax reference number via SMS.

Select the Title from the dropdown list. The following can be selected:
- Ms for women irrespective of the marital status.
- Mr for men.
- Mrs for married women.
- Rev for Reverend.
- Prof for Professor
- Dr for Doctor.
- Adv for Advocate.
- Hon for Honourable.

Capture the “Initials” in the Initials field’

Enter the “Name” in the Name field.

Enter the “Surname” in the Surname field.

Enter the “Trading Name” if it is a business. This field is optional.

Enter the “Email” address in the Email address field.
• Enter the “Mobile” number in the Mobile field.

• Enter “Telephone” number in the Telephone number field. This field is optional.

• Select the ID Type from the dropdown list:
  - South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
  - Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
  - Company Registration Number – If the taxpayer is a Company. Only a valid Company Registration number will be accepted.
  - Trust Number – If the taxpayer is a Trust. Only a valid Trust number will be accepted.

• Capture the “ID No” depending on the ID Type selected.

• The taxpayer can click on the “Reset” button at any point to clear all the captured information on the screen and be able to start the process again.
  - Please note that the “Reset” button must only be used if all the information on the screen is incorrect.

• Once complete, press the Submit button to send the captured details to SARS.

• Complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field before the submission is processed. Refer to paragraph 5 below for more details on Captcha screen.

• Click on “Validate” button to validate the captured information. Once the CAPTCHA is completed correctly, the submission is accepted and uploaded for processing.

• If a successful match is made, the taxpayer will be presented with the message “Thank you for your query. Your Tax Reference Number will be issued shortly”.

• If there is no match, the taxpayer will be presented with the message “Thank you for your query. Unfortunately a tax reference number could not be found for the details that you supplied”.

4.3 THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT UPLOAD PROCESS

• Where the taxpayer received a letter from SARS requesting supporting documents, the taxpayer can upload the supporting documents using this function. This service is available for the following tax products:
  - Income Tax;
  - PAYE;
  - VAT; or
  - Transfer Duty.

• In order to submit supporting documents to SARS, the taxpayer is required to upload them, along with a set of mandatory data, using the Supporting Document Upload Query Type.
Select Query Type “Supporting Document Upload”.

Enter the Case Number relating to the supporting documents that must be attached. The system will match the case number, and one of the following outcomes is possible:

- Where the captured case number cannot be matched to the supplied case number but there are other active case numbers. The message “Invalid Case Number. The following case numbers are active for this tax reference number” will be displayed.
  - A list of case numbers will be displayed.
  - Review the list and enter the correct case number.
- Where the captured case number cannot be matched and no other active case numbers exist.
  - The message “Invalid Case Number. There are currently no active cases for this tax reference number” will be displayed.
  - Review the letter received, requesting the supporting documents to be uploaded, to ensure that the correct case number is captured.
- Where the captured case number is invalid. The message “The Case Number captured is invalid” will be displayed.

Select the Title from the dropdown list. The following can be selected:

- Ms for women irrespective of the marital status.
- Mr for men.
- Mrs for married women.
- Rev for Reverend.
- Prof for Professor
- Dr for Doctor.
- Adv for Advocate.
- Hon for Honourable.

Capture the “Initials” in the Initials field.

Enter the “Name” in the Name field.

Enter the “Surname” in the Surname field.

Enter the “Trading Name” if it is a business. This field is optional.

Enter the “Email” address in the Email address field.

Enter the “Mobile” number in the Mobile field.
• Enter “Telephone” number in the Telephone number field. This field is optional.

• Select the ID Type from the dropdown list:
  - South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
  - Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
  - Company Registration Number – If the taxpayer is a Company. Only a valid Company Registration number will be accepted.
  - Trust Number – If the taxpayer is a Trust. Only a valid Trust number will be accepted.

• Capture the “ID No” depending on the ID Type selected.

• Select the Tax Type from the drop down list:
  - Income Tax;
  - PAYE;
  - VAT; or
  - Transfer Duty.

• Enter the Tax No applicable to the Tax Type selected and the case number.

• Click on “Add Documents” button to add the supporting documents. The screen for “Documents for Submission” will display:

![Documents for Submission](image)

• Click on “Upload Tips” button to view the following tips for downloading supporting documents, the following message will be displayed:
- Click on “OK” button to close the message.
- Click on “Select” button to browse your PC and locate the supporting documents to be uploaded.
- Once the supporting document is attached a “Delete” button is enabled next to the attached supporting document.
  - View the list of attached documents to ensure that all the relevant supporting documents have been attached.
  - Count the documents to ensure that the correct number of documents have been attached as indicated on the tips above.
  - Where the taxpayer has attached an incorrect document, click on the “Delete” button next to the specific document and delete it.
- Click “Close” button once the documents have been downloaded and attached to go back to the detail screen.
- Once complete, press the “Submit” button to send the captured details and attached documents to SARS.
- Complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field before the submission is processed. Refer to paragraph 5 below for more details on Captcha screen.
• Click on “Validate” button to validate the captured information. Once the CAPTCHA is completed correctly, the submission is accepted and uploaded for processing.

• The message: “Thank you for your submission. Correspondence will be issued shortly” will display.

• SARS will send an email with a message to notify whether the documents have been successfully received or that there is an error. The emails will provide specific messages relating to the error and the action that is required by the taxpayer.

4.4 REPORT NEW ESTATE CASE

• Queries relating to reporting a taxpayer as an estate in respect of Income Tax, PAYE and VAT, can be submitted using query type Report New Estate Case.

• Capture the required mandatory information and you will be able to attach the supporting documents required for this query.

• Once the query is submitted, the system will determine if there is an existing estate coding case.

  ▪ If there is an existing case SARS will inform the taxpayer of the existing case and the supporting documents submitted will be attached to the existing case.
  ▪ If there is no case, a new estate coding case will be created and the supporting documents submitted will be attached to the case.

• Select Query Type “Report New Estate Case”.

• Select the Category from the dropdown list as follows:

  ▪ Deceased – If the individual is deceased;
  ▪ Liquidation – If the company is liquidated; or
  ▪ Insolvency/Sequestration – If the taxpayer is sequestrated or insolvent. This option is for all the types of taxpayers Individual, Company, Trust or Other.

• Capture Taxpayer (Estate) Details as follows:

  ▪ Capture the Name of the estate taxpayer.
  ▪ Select the “Type” of taxpayer from the dropdown list. The list will be limited as per the Category selected above:
    ▪ If Deceased is selected above, the Type will be limited to an Individual;
    ▪ If Liquidation is selected above, the Type will be limited to a Company;
    ▪ If Insolvency/Sequestration is selected above, all the Types will be available.
  ▪ Select the “Tax Type” from the dropdown list. This list will be limited as per the Type of taxpayer selected above:
    ▪ If Individual is selected, the Tax Type will default to Income Tax.
If Company is selected, the Tax Type will default to Income Tax.
If Trust is selected, the Tax Type will default to Income Tax.
If Other is selected the following Tax Types will be available for selection:
- Income Tax;
- PAYE; and
- VAT.

Capture the Tax No depending on the Tax Type selected.
Select the ID Type from the dropdown list. The list will be limited to the Type of taxpayer selected above.
- If an Individual was selected as Type of taxpayer, the list will consist of a South African ID Number and Passport Number only.
  - South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
  - Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
- If a Company was selected as a Type of taxpayer, the list will consist of Company Registration Number only.
- If a Trust was selected as a Type of taxpayer, the list will consist of a Trust Number only.
- If “Other” was selected as a Type of taxpayer, the ID type and ID Number will be disabled and cannot be completed.

Capture the “ID No” depending on the ID Type selected.
The system will validate that the tax reference number and the ID Number of the estate taxpayer belonging to the same entity. If not, an error message will be displayed on submission.

• Capture Requestor Details (these are the details of the person that is submitting this query to SARS) as follows:
  - Select the Title from the dropdown list. The following can be selected:
    - Ms for women irrespective of the marital status.
    - Mr for men.
    - Mrs for married women.
    - Rev for Reverend.
    - Prof for Professor
    - Dr for Doctor.
    - Adv for Advocate.
    - Hon for Honourable.
  - Capture the “Initials” in the Initials field.
  - Enter the “Name” in the Name field.
  - Enter the “Surname” in the Surname field.
  - Select the Capacity from the dropdown list as follows:
    - Delegated Representative;
    - Tax Practitioner; or
    - Curator / Liquidator / Executor / Administrator (Estates).
  - Enter the PR No: in the PR number field. This field is mandatory if the Capacity is Tax Practitioner. The PR Number and the ID Number of the requestor will be validated to ensure that they belong to the same entity. If not, an error message will be displayed on submission.
  - Enter the “Email” address in the Email address field.
Enter the “Mobile” number in the Mobile field.
Enter “Telephone” number in the Telephone number field. This field is optional.

- Capture Requestor Additional Details as follows:
  - Select the ID Type from the dropdown list:
    - South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
    - Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
  - Capture the “ID No” depending on the ID Type selected.
  - Select the Tax Type from the drop down list.
    - The drop down will only have Income Tax as an option.
  - Enter the “Tax No” for the requestor. This field will be mandatory if the Capacity selected is Tax Practitioner.
  - The system will validate that the ID Number and Income tax reference number of the requestor belong to the same entity where the information has been completed. If not, an error message will be displayed on submission.
  - Capture additional information in the Notes field about the estate that will be useful in coding the estate.
  - Click on “Documents” button to add the supporting documents. The screen for “Documents for Submission” will display:

- Click on “Document Requirements” button the following message will be displayed:
On the SARS website, go to Business and Employers, click on Estates to view the frequently asked questions (FAQs) for Estates and the list of supporting documents required.

- Click on “OK” button to close the message.
- Click on “Upload Tips” button to view the following tips for downloading supporting documents, the following message will be displayed:

**Message from webpage**

- Submissions are limited to 10 documents each less than 5MB in size.
- A total of 10 individual submissions can be made per case number.
- Acceptable document types are:
  - pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx
  - jpg, jpeg, bmp, tiff, png and gif.
- Submitted documents should not:
  - Be password protected
  - Be blank or empty
  - Have the characters ‘;’ or ‘&’ in their file names

- Click on “OK” button to close the message.
- Click on “Select” button to browse your PC and locate the supporting documents to be uploaded.
- Once the supporting document is attached a “Delete” button is enabled next to the attached supporting document.
o View the list of attached documents to ensure that all the relevant supporting documents have been attached.
 o Count the documents to ensure that the correct number of documents have been attached as indicated on the tips above.
 o Where the taxpayer has attached an incorrect document click on the “Delete” button next to the specific document and delete the document.
   ▶ Click the “Close” button to go back to the detail screen once the documents have been downloaded and attached.
   ▶ Once complete, press the “Submit” button to send the captured details and attached documents to SARS.
   ▶ Complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field before the submission is processed. Refer to paragraph 5 below for more details on Captcha screen.
   ▶ Click on “Validate” button to validate the captured information. Once the CAPTCHA is completed correctly, the submission is accepted and uploaded for processing.
   ▶ The message: “Thank you for your submission. Correspondence will be issued shortly” will display.
   ▶ No existing estate coding case - SARS will send an email with a message to notify the requestor that the request to report new estate case has been successfully received with the new case number.
   ▶ Existing estate coding case - SARS will send an email with a message to notify the requestor that the request to report new estate case has been successfully received with an existing case number.

4.5 REQUEST TO BE UPDATED AS THE REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE

- Queries relating to updating of registered representative of a taxpayer in respect of Income Tax, PAYE and VAT can be submitted using query type “Request to be updated as the Registered Representative”.

- This request must be completed by the registered representative.

- The requestor captures the required mandatory information and attaches the supporting documents required for this query.

- Once the query is submitted a case will be created for a SARS official to resolve.

- Select Query Type “Request to be updated as the Registered Representative”.

- Select the Capacity from the dropdown list as follows:
  ▶ Treasurer – If you are treasurer for the entity;
  ▶ Curator – If you have been appointed as the Curator for the taxpayer;
  ▶ Liquidator/ Executor/ Administrator (Estates)
  ▶ Main Partner – If you are the Main Partner in a partnership;
  ▶ Main Trustee – If you are the Main Trustee of the trust;
  ▶ Public Officer – If you a Public Officer of the company;
Main Member – If you are the Main Member of the Close Corporation;
Parent/Guardian – If you are a Parent / Guardian of a child; or
Accounting Officer – If you are an Accounting Officer of the entity.

- Capture Entity Details (these are the details of the taxpayer who will be represented) as follows:

  - Capture the Entity Name.
  - Select the “Type” of taxpayer from the dropdown list. The following can be selected:
    - Individual;
    - Company;
    - Trust; or
    - Other.
  - Select the “Tax Type” from the dropdown list. This list will be limited as per the Type of taxpayer selected above:
    - If Individual is selected, the Tax Type will default to Income Tax.
    - If Company is selected, the Tax Type will default to Income Tax.
    - If Trust is selected, the Tax Type will default to Income Tax.
    - If Other is selected, the following Tax Types will be available for selection:
      - Income Tax;
      - PAYE; and
      - VAT.
  - Capture the Tax No depending on the Type of taxpayer selected above.
  - Select the ID Type from the dropdown list, the list will be limited to the Type of taxpayer selected above.
    - If an Individual was selected as Type of taxpayer, the list will consist of a South African ID Number and Passport Number only.
      - South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
      - Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
    - If a Company was selected as a Type of taxpayer, the list will consist of Company Registration Number only.
    - If a Trust was selected as a Type of taxpayer, the list will consist of a Trust Number only.
    - If “Other” was selected as a Type of taxpayer, the ID type and ID number are not required.
  - Capture the ID No/ Reg No depending on the ID Type selected above.

- Capture Representative Contact (these are the details of the person that must be recorded as the Registered Representative of the taxpayer in the selected Capacity) details as follows:

  - Select the Title from the dropdown list. The following can be selected:
    - Ms for women irrespective of the marital status.
    - Mr for men.
    - Mrs for married women.
    - Rev for Reverend.
    - Prof for Professor
• Dr for Doctor.
• Adv for Advocate.
• Hon for Honourable.
• Capture the “Initials” in the Initials field’
• Enter the “Name” in the Name field.
• Enter the “Surname” in the Surname field.
• Enter the “Email” address in the Email address field.
• Enter the “Mobile” number in the Mobile field.
• Enter “Telephone” number in the Telephone number field. This field is optional.

• Capture Representative Additional Details as follows;
  □ Select the ID Type from the dropdown list:
    □ South African ID Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a South African resident, only a valid ID number will be accepted.
    □ Passport Number – If the taxpayer is an individual and is a foreigner, a valid passport number must be used.
  □ Capture the ID No depending on the ID Type selected.
  □ Select the Tax Type from the drop down list:
    □ Income Tax.
  □ Enter the Tax Number applicable to the Tax Type selected.

• Click on the “Documents” button to add the supporting documents. The screen for “Documents for Submission” will display:

• Click on “Document Requirements” button to view the list of supporting documents required. The following message will be displayed:
Click on the “Upload Tips” button to view the following tips for downloading supporting documents. The following message will be displayed:

- Submissions are limited to 10 documents each less than 5MB in size.
- A total of 10 individual submissions can be made per case number.
- Acceptable document types are:
  - pdf, doc, docx, xls, xlsx
  - jpg, jpeg, bmp, tiff, png and gif.
- Submitted documents should not:
  - Be password protected
  - Be blank or empty
  - Have the characters ` or & in their file names.

Click on the “OK” button to close the message.

Click on the “Select” button to browse your PC and locate the supporting documents to be uploaded.

Once the supporting document is attached, a “Delete” button is enabled next to the attached supporting document.
View the list of attached documents to ensure that all the relevant supporting documents have been attached.
Count the documents to ensure that the correct number of documents have been attached as indicated on the tips above.
Where an incorrect document has been attached, click on the “Delete” button next to the specific document and delete it.

- Click the “Close” button to go back to the detail screen once the documents have been downloaded and attached.
- Once complete, press the “Submit” button to send the captured details and attached documents to SARS.
- Complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field before the submission is processed. Refer to paragraph 5 below for more details on Captcha screen.
- Click on “Validate” button to validate the captured information. Once the CAPTCHA is completed correctly, the submission is accepted and uploaded for processing.
- The message: “Thank you for your submission. Correspondence will be issued shortly” will display.
- SARS will send an email with a message to notify the requestor that the request to be updated as the registered representative has been received successfully with the allocated case number.

5 CAPTCHA SCREEN FOR ALL QUERIES

- In order to ensure that individuals with malicious intent do not flood the SOQS with documents, the taxpayer will be required to complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field for all the queries before the submission will be processed.
- This screen will always display after the “Submit” button is clicked on all the queries.
- Complete an onscreen CAPTCHA field before the submission is processed.
Click on “Validate” button to validate the captured information. Once the CAPTCHA is completed correctly, the submission is accepted and uploaded for processing.

Click on “Refresh” button to clear all the information on the screen, the typed information and the Captcha information will be refreshed. A new Captcha information will be displayed on the screen.

Click on “Cancel” button to close the Captcha screen and go back to the query screen.

6 CROSS REFERENCES

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7 DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

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DISCLAIMER
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- Visit the SARS website at www.sars.gov.za
- Visit your nearest SARS branch
- Contact your own tax advisor/tax practitioner
- If calling from within South Africa, contact the SARS Contact Centre on 0800 00 SARS (7277)
- If calling from outside South Africa, contact the SARS Contact Centre on +27 11 602 2093 (only between 8am and 4pm South African time).