AMOUNTS TO BE WITHHELD WHEN A NON-RESIDENT SELLS IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN SA
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 OVERVIEW</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 WHO QUALIFIES</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 APPLICATION OF TAX DIRECTIVE FOR WITHHOLDING AND RETURN SUBMISSION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 COMPLETION OF APPLICATION NR03 AND RETURN NR02</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 PARTICULARS OF SELLER</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 PHYSICAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 POSTAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 PARTICULARS OF PROPERTY;</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 PARTICULARS OF PURCHASER</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6 PHYSICAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7 POSTAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8 CALCULATION OF AMOUNT TO BE WITHHELD</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9 DECLARATION</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 TAX DIRECTIVE APPROVAL OR REJECTION</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF THE RETURN (NR02)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 PARTICULARS OF SELLER</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2 PHYSICAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 POSTAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (AS PER TITLE DEED)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5 NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICER/TRUSTEE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6 PARTICULARS OF PURCHASER/CONVEYANCER/ESTATE AGENT</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 PHYSICAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8 POSTAL ADDRESS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.9 NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICER/TRUSTEE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.10 NAME OF CONVEYANCER/ESTATE AGENT</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.11 NAME OF CONVEYANCER/FIRM/ESTATE AGENCY</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.12 CALCULATION OF AMOUNT TO BE WITHHELD</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.13 NOTES</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 PAYMENT PROCESS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 COMPLETION OF PAYMENT ADVICE ON ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL TAX IRP6 (3).</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1 PARTICULARS OF TAXPAYER (INDIVIDUAL)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2 PARTICULARS OF TAXPAYER (COMPANY/TRUST)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3 TAXPAYER ESTIMATE (INDIVIDUAL)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4 CALCULATION OF THE TAX PAYABLE FOR THE PERIOD (COMPANIES/TRUST)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.5 HISTORICAL INFORMATION</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6 PAYMENT DETAIL</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 DECLARATION</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 FAILURE TO PAY THE WITHHOLDING TAX ON AMOUNTS PAID BY THE PURCHASER TO NON-RESIDENT SELLERS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 CROSS REFERENCES</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 OVERVIEW

- The withholding tax on amounts paid by the purchaser to non-resident sellers of immovable property situated within South Africa as prescribed in Section 35A of the Income Tax Act came into effect from 1 September 2007.

2 WHO QUALIFIES

- Any person (Purchaser) who must pay any amount to any other person who is not a resident (Seller) or to any other person for or on behalf of that seller, in respect of the disposal by the seller of any immovable property in the Republic must withhold from the amount which that person must so pay, an amount equal to –
  - 7.5% of the amount payable, if the seller is a natural person;
  - 10% of the amount payable, if the seller is a company; and
  - 15% of the amount payable, if the seller is a trust.

Note: Where the value of the property exceeds R2 million, the withholding amount applies to the full purchase price without regard to the R2 million limits.

- The seller may apply to the Commissioner in a format and at the place as the Commissioner may determine, for a directive that no amount be reduced or withheld by the purchaser solely having regard to –
  - Any security furnished for the payment of any tax due on the disposal of the immovable property by the seller.
  - Whether the seller is subject to tax in respect of the disposal of the immovable property; and
  - Whether the actual liability of the seller in respect of tax at the time of the disposal of the immovable property is less than the amount arrived at by applying the percentages of 7, 5%, 10% or 15% as the case may be, stipulated above.

- The amount withheld from any payment to the seller is an advance payment in respect of the seller’s liability for normal tax for the year of assessment during which the property is disposed of by the seller.

- If the seller does not submit a return in respect of that year of assessment within 12 months after the end of that year of assessment, the payment of the amount under subsection (4) is a sufficient basis for an assessment in terms of section 95 of the Tax Administration Act.

3 WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY

- Section 35A of the Income Tax Act does not apply to the following:
  - If the amounts payable by the purchaser to the seller and any other person for or on behalf of the seller, in respect of the acquisition by that purchaser of the immovable property, in aggregate do not exceed R2 million, or
  - In respect of any deposit paid by the purchaser for the purpose of securing the disposal of the property by the seller to that purchaser until the agreement for that disposal becomes unconditional, in which case any amount which would have been required to be withheld from the amount of the deposit must be
withheld from the first following payments made by the purchaser in respect of that disposal.

4 APPLICATION OF TAX DIRECTIVE FOR WITHHOLDING AND RETURN SUBMISSION

- The seller/purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent can download the application and the return by logging onto the SARS website: www.sars.gov.za.
  - On SARS Home Page >Select Types of Tax
  - Select Capital Gains Tax;
  - Below the Top of the Forms tab, select NR03(Tax Directive Application by Non-Resident Seller of Immovable Property in SA) or
  - Select NR02 (Declaration by Purchaser for Sale of Immovable Property in SA by Non-Resident).

- The seller/purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent must -
  - Click on the form;
  - Print the form; and
  - Manually complete the relevant information required.

- The seller/purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent or representative must complete the mandatory information and submit the application for a Tax Directive (NR 03) or the Return(NR02) and the Deed of sale via one of the following methods:
  - Drop box (hand delivery);
  - Post; or
  - Email.

- The details of the Gauteng Central Enforcement Unit to which the applications must be forwarded, are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postal address</th>
<th>Physical Address</th>
<th>Other channel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Bag X187 Rivonia 2128</td>
<td>Corner Witkoppen and Maxwell Drive, Megawatt Park, Sunninghill, Sandton</td>
<td>Email address: <a href="mailto:nres@sars.gov.za">nres@sars.gov.za</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note 1:** The seller or representative is required to request, complete and submit the Tax Directive application by non-resident of immovable property in SA (NR03) and the purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent must complete and submit the declaration By Purchaser of sale of immovable property in SA by Non-Resident (NR02).

**Note 2:** When applying for the Transfer Duty receipt, the conveyancer must select YES at the question ‘Are the provisions of Section 35A of the Income Tax Act 1962 applicable?’ This is found in the Details of Property container. The NR02 or NR03 must be uploaded along with the Deed of Sale.
The processing time for the Tax Directive application (NR02)/Return (NR03) is 21 business days.

When an amount is withheld from a non-resident seller of immovable property, it is expected that the non-resident should submit a return. If a year passes without submitting a return SARS may regard the amount received/payment as a sufficient basis to raise an assessment.

5 COMPLETION OF APPLICATION NR03 AND RETURN NR02

5.1 Particulars of Seller

Complete the following fields for Particulars of Seller:

- First two names;
- Initials;
- Surname/Registered Name;
- Trading Name;
- Income Tax Ref. No;
- ID No;
- Passport No;
- Passport Country (e.g. South Africa = ZAF);
- Passport issue date (CCYYMMDD);
- Company/CC Reg.No,
- If you are non-resident, state country of residence.

5.2 Physical Address

This is the physical address of the business, i.e. the premises the business is trading from.

- If the business is trading from a flat or townhouse, the actual flat or townhouse unit number must be inserted in “unit no”;
- The name of the block or the block of flats or townhouse complex must be inserted in “complex”, and
- Where the business does not trade from a flat, townhouse or complex these fields are left blank;
- Street No;
- Street/Name of farm;
- Suburb/District;
- City/Town; and
- Postal code.
5.3 **Postal Address**

- This is the address that the business would like its post to be sent to. It may be the same as the business address above or it may be a post box number or other address. If it is the same as the business address simply, mark the relevant box with an “X”.

- If the answer is "No", the following fields will be displayed as open and editable:
  - Postal Agency or Other Sub-unit (if applicable) (e.g. Postnet Suite ID);
  - PO Box: Indicate on the applicable tick box if the postal address is ‘P.O. Box’ or ‘Private Bag’;
  - Private Bag: Indicate on the applicable tick box if the postal address is ‘P.O. Box’ or ‘Private Bag’;
  - Other PO Special Service (specify);
  - Number;
  - Post Office;
  - Postal Code;
  - Registered Postal Address indicator.

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5.4 **Particulars of Property**

- Complete the following fields
  - Date of transaction (CCYYMMDD);
  - Reason for directive;
  - Reason for application: Section 35A(2)(a), Section35A(2)(b), Section 35A(2)(d);
  - Description of property as per Title Deed.
5.5 Particulars of Purchaser

- Complete the following fields for Particulars of Purchaser
  - First two names;
  - Initials;
  - Surname/Registered Name;
  - Trading Name;
  - Income Tax Ref. No;
  - ID No;
  - Passport No;
  - Passport Country (e.g. South Africa = ZAF);
  - Passport issue date (CCYYMMDD);
  - Company/CC Reg.NO,
  - If you are non-resident, state country of residence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars of Purchaser</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5.6 Physical Address

- This is the physical address of the business, i.e. the premises the business is trading from.
  - If the business is trading from a flat or townhouse, the actual flat or townhouse unit number must be inserted in “unit no”;
  - The name of the block or the block of flats or townhouse complex must be inserted in “complex”, and
  - Where the business does not trade from a flat, townhouse or complex these fields are left blank;
  - Street no;
  - Street/Name of farm;
  - Suburb/District;
  - City/Town; and
  - Postal code.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit No.</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.7 Postal Address

- This is the address that the business would like its post to be sent to. It may be the same as the business address above or it may be a post box number or other address. If it is the same as the business address simply, mark the relevant box with an “X”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postal Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country code: (e.g. South Africa = ZA)</td>
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</table>
5.8 Calculation of amount to be withheld

- Complete the following fields
  - Gross selling price (only if gross selling price exceeds R2 million);
  - Percentage on gross selling price (Individuals – 7.5%; Companies-10%; Trusts-15%).

5.9 Declaration

- After all the information fields have been completed, the applicant is required to complete, print and sign the declaration on the first page of the application form. Failure to do so will result in the application being rejected.
6 TAX DIRECTIVE APPROVAL OR REJECTION

• If the seller is not registered for income tax, SARS will register the seller, for the purposes of the withholding tax.

• Once the seller has been registered for income tax, SARS will approve/decline the application according to the requirements as stipulated in Section 35A.

• A letter, Tax Directive (NR03) and third Provisional Payment advice (IRP6 (3)) will be issued to the purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent informing him/her of the status of the directive application and the amount payable.

7 COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF THE RETURN (NR02)

• Completion of the Return (NR02)

7.1 Particulars of Seller

• Complete the following fields
  - First two names;
  - Initials;
  - Surname/Registered Name;
  - Trading Name;
  - Income Tax Ref. No;
  - ID No;
  - Passport No;
  - Passport Country (e.g. South Africa = ZAF);
  - Passport issue date (CCYMMDD);
  - Company/CC Reg.NO;
  - If you are non-resident, state country of residence.

7.2 Physical Address

• This is the physical address of the business, i.e. the premises the business is trading from.
  - If the business is trading from a flat or townhouse, the actual flat or townhouse unit number must be inserted in “unit no”;  
  - The name of the block or the block of flats or townhouse complex must be inserted in “complex”, and
  - Where the business does not trade from a flat, townhouse or complex these fields are left blank;
  - Street no;
  - Street/Name of farm;
  - Suburb/District;
  - City/Town; and
7.3 Postal Address

- This is the preferred postal address of the business. It may be the same as the business address above or it may be a post box number or other address. If it is the same as the business address simply, mark the relevant box with an “X”.

- If the answer is "No", the following fields will be displayed as open and editable:
  - Postal Agency or Other Sub-unit (if applicable) (e.g. Postnet Suite ID);
  - PO Box: Indicate on the applicable tick box if the postal address is ‘P.O. Box’ or ‘Private Bag’;
  - Private Bag: Indicate on the applicable tick box if the postal address is ‘P.O. Box’ or ‘Private Bag’;
  - Other PO Special Service (specify);
  - Number;
  - Post Office;
  - Postal Code;
  - Registered Postal Address indicator.

7.4 Description of property (as per title deed)

- Complete the following fields
  - Description of property as per Title Deed.

7.5 Name of Public Officer/Trustee

- Complete the following fields
  - Surname;
  - Initials;
7.6 Particulars of Purchaser/Conveyancer/Estate Agent

- Complete the following fields
  - First two names;
  - Initials;
  - Surname/Registered Name;
  - Trading Name;
  - Income Tax Ref. No;
  - ID No;
  - Passport No;
  - Passport Country (e.g. South Africa = ZAF);
  - Passport issue date (CCYYMMDD);
  - If you are non-resident, state country of residence.

7.7 Physical Address

- This is the physical address of the business, i.e. the premises the business is trading from.
  - If the business is trading from a flat or townhouse, the actual flat or townhouse unit number must be inserted in “unit no”;  
  - The name of the block or the block of flats or townhouse complex must be inserted in “complex”, and  
  - Where the business does not trade from a flat, townhouse or complex these fields are left blank;
  - Street no;
  - Street/Name of farm;
  - Suburb/District;
  - City/Town; and  
  - Postal code.
7.8 Postal Address

- This is the address that the business would like its post to be sent to. It may be the same as the business address above or it may be a post box number or other address. If it is the same as the business address simply, mark the relevant box with an “X”.

- If the answer is "No", the following fields will be displayed as open and editable:
  - Postal Agency or Other Sub-unit (if applicable) (e.g. Postnet Suite ID);
  - PO Box: Indicate on the applicable tick box if the postal address is ‘P.O. Box’ or ‘Private Bag’;
  - Private Bag: Indicate on the applicable tick box if the postal address is ‘P.O. Box’ or ‘Private Bag’;
  - Other PO Special Service (specify);
  - Number;
  - Post Office;
  - Postal Code;
  - Registered Postal Address indicator.

7.9 Name of Public Officer/Trustee

- Complete the following fields
  - Surname;
  - Initials;
  - Date of Birth(CCYYMMDD);
  - ID No;
  - Passport No;
  - Passport Country (e.g. South Africa = ZAF);
  - Income Tax Ref. No;
  - Passport issue date (CCYYMMDD);

7.10 Name of Conveyancer/Estate Agent

- Complete the following fields
  - Surname;
  - Initials;
7.11 Name of Conveyancer Firm/Estate Agency

- Complete the following fields
  - Surname;
  - Initials;
  - Date of Birth (CCYYMMDD);
  - ID No;
  - Passport No;
  - Passport Country (e.g. South Africa = ZAF);
  - Income Tax Ref. No;
  - Passport issue date (CCYYMMDD);

7.12 Calculation of amount to be withheld

- Complete the following fields
  - Year of Assessment;
  - Date (CCYYMMDD);
  - Receipt number;
  - Gross selling price (only if gross selling price exceeds R2 million);
  - Percentage on gross selling price (Individuals – 7, 5%; Companies-10%; Trusts-15%).
  - Interest (from :14 days after payment to seller - To : Date of payment of amount withheld to SARS);
  - Penalty (10%);
  - Total payable;

7.13 Notes

- These are the notes in terms of Section 35A.
8 PAYMENT PROCESS

- If an amount has been withheld from any amount payable in a foreign currency, that amount withheld must be translated to the currency of the Republic (Rand) at the spot rate on the date the amount is paid over to SARS.

- The amount withheld by a purchaser must together with a return be submitted to the Commissioner:
  - Where that purchaser is a resident, within 14 days after the date on which that amount was withheld; or
  - Where that purchaser is not a resident, within 28 days after the date on which that amount was withheld.

- If a Tax Directive (NR03) was issued by SARS, the seller/purchaser/conveyancer/estate Agent will be notified of the amount payable, the Declaration by Purchaser for Sale of Immovable Property in SA by Non-Resident (NR02) must accompany the payment to SARS. For all methods of payments, refer to GEN-PAYM-01-G01 – SARS Payment Rules - External Guide.

Note: For all other tax types, SARS offices will no longer accept any cheque or cash payments. The taxpayer is advised to make payments at the bank. Banks no longer accept cheques exceeding R500 000, based on a decision taken by the Payments Association of South Africa (PASA), which is the association responsible for managing payments within South Africa, and with the endorsement of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB).

- If the Seller did not request an NR03, and is registered for income tax, the seller will be regarded as a provisional taxpayer. The purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent must submit the third period payment advice (IRP6 (3)) in the name of the seller, with the payment to SARS. (Refer to GEN-PAYM-01-G01 – SARS Payment Rules - External Guide).

- If a third provisional payment advice (IRP6 (3)) was not received with the original letter and Tax Directive (NR03), the IRP6 (3)) can be downloaded from the SARS website: www.sars.gov.za:
  - On SARS Home Page >Select Types of Tax;
  - Select Provisional Tax;
- Scroll to the bottom of the screen; and
- Below the Top of the Forms tab, select IRP 6 (3) Payment Advice for additional provisional tax.

- A payment receipt will be issued to the purchaser/conveyancer/estate agent once the payment is made to SARS.

9 COMPLETION OF PAYMENT ADVICE ON ADDITIONAL PROVISIONAL TAX IRP6 (3).

- Completion of payment advice for additional Provisional Tax (IRP6) (3).

9.1 Particulars of Taxpayer (Individual)

- Complete the following details
  - Year of assessment;
  - Period:
    - First/Second/Third;
  - Taxpayer Reference Number;
  - Date of birth (CCYYMMDD);
  - Surname;
  - Initials;
  - Payment of options:
    - eFiling/SARS Branch/EFT/Swift MT 103

9.2 Particulars of Taxpayer (Company/Trust)

- Complete the following details
  - Year of assessment;
  - Period:
    - First/Second/Third;
  - Taxpayer Reference Number;
  - Registered no.;
  - Registered name;
  - Date of birth (CCYYMMDD);
  - Surname;
  - Initials;
  - Payment of options:
    - eFiling/SARS Branch/EFT/Swift MT 103

9.3 Taxpayer Estimate (Individual)

- Complete the following details
  - Taxable income for the full year;
  - Tax on Taxable income (as per tax tables);
  - Less:
    - Rebates - Primary, secondary and tertiary (for individuals)
    - Medical scheme fees tax credit
9.4 Calculation of the tax payable for the period (Companies/Trust)

- Complete the following details
  - Turnover;
  - Estimate Taxable income;
  - Less:
    - Rebates - Primary, secondary and tertiary (for individuals)
    - Medical scheme fees tax credit
    - Additional medical expense tax credit.
  - Tax for the full year: Recalculate.
  - Less: employees’ tax for this period(12 months);
  - Less: Foreign tax credits for this period(12 months);
  - Less: Provisional Tax paid for 1st and 2nd period;
  - Tax payable for this period;
  - Add: interest on late payment;
  - Total Amount payable for this period.
## Calculation of the tax payable for this period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turnover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimate Taxable income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Rebates - Primary, secondary and tertiary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Medical scheme fees tax credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Additional medical expenses tax credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax for the full year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Employees' tax for the period (12 months)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Foreign tax credits for this period (12 months)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Provisional tax paid for 1st and 2nd period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax payable for this period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Interest on late payment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount payable for this period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 9.5 Historical Information

- Complete the following details
  - Year last assessed;
  - Taxable income for that year;
  - Basic amount.

### Historical Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year last assessed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxable income for that year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic amount</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 9.6 Payment Detail

- Complete the following details
  - Payment reference no (PRN);
  - Beneficiary ID/Account number.
10 DECLARATION

- After all the information fields have been completed, the applicant is required to complete, print and sign the declaration on the first page of the application form. Failure to do so will result in the application being rejected.

11 FAILURE TO PAY THE WITHHOLDING TAX ON AMOUNTS PAID BY THE PURCHASER TO NON-RESIDENT SELLERS OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

- A purchaser is personally liable if he/she knows or should reasonably have known that the seller is a non-resident. The purchaser must pay the amount to SARS not later than the date on which payment should have been made if the amount was in fact withheld.

- If the estate agent or conveyancer has assisted in the disposal of property, a purchaser will not be held personally liable if not notified of the seller's non-resident status by that estate agent or conveyancer;

- Any estate agent and conveyancer entitled to any remuneration or other income in respect of services rendered in connection with the disposal of the immovable property by the seller or the registration of transfer must, before any payment is made to the seller, notify the purchaser in writing of the fact that the seller is a non-resident and that Section 35A may apply. This requirement applies only to an estate agent / conveyancer entitled to any remuneration in connection with the disposal;

- If an estate agent or conveyancer should reasonably have known that the seller is a non-resident and fails to notify the purchaser, the failing estate agent or conveyancer
is jointly and severally liable for the payment of the amount which the purchaser is required to withhold and pay to the Commissioner, but limited to the amount of remuneration or other payment in respect of the services rendered in connection with the disposal of immovable property by the seller or the registration of transfer, as the case may be.

- A purchaser who fails to pay the amount withheld to SARS within the period allowed for payment:
  - Is liable for interest at the prescribed rate on any amount outstanding calculated from the day following the last date for payment to the date that the amount is received by SARS; and
  - Must pay a penalty equal to 10% of that amount, in addition to any other penalty or charges for which he or she may be liable under the Act.

**Note:** No provision is made to waive interest.
12 CROSS REFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOCUMENT #</th>
<th>DOCUMENT TITLE</th>
<th>APPLICABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEN-PAYM-01-G01</td>
<td>SARS Payment Rules - External Guide</td>
<td>All</td>
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13 DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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| Aggregate capital gain      | A person’s aggregate capital gain for the year of assessment is the amount by which the sum of that person’s capital gains for that year and any other capital gains which are required to be taken into account in the determination of that person’s aggregate capital gain or aggregate capital loss for that year, exceeds the sum of -
  - that person’s capital losses for that year; and
  - In the case of a natural person or special trust, that person or special trust's annual exclusion for that year. |
| Conveyancer                 | An attorney who has specialised in the preparation of deeds and documents which by law or custom are registered in a Deeds Office and who is permitted to do so after practical examination and admission by the High Court of South Africa. |
| Disposal                    | A disposal is any event, act, forbearance or operation of law which results in the creation, variation, transfer or extinction of an asset, and includes—
  - The sale, donation, expropriation, conversion, grant, cession, exchange or any other alienation or transfer of ownership of an asset;
  - The forfeiture, termination, redemption, cancellation, surrender, discharge, relinquishment, release, waiver, renunciation, expiry or abandonment of an asset;
  - The scrapping, loss, or destruction of an asset;
  - The vesting of an interest in an asset of a trust in a beneficiary;
  - The distribution of an asset by a company to a shareholder;
  - The granting, renewal, extension or exercise of an option; or
  - The decrease in value of a person’s interest in a company, trust or partnership as a result of a value shifting arrangement. |
| GCEU                        | Gauteng Central Enforcement Unit                                                                           |
| Immoveable Property         | The disposal on or after valuation date of—
  - The following assets of a person who is not a resident, namely—
    - immovable property situated in the Republic held by that person or any interest or right of whatever nature of that person to or in immovable property situated in the Republic; or
    - An interest in immovable property situated in the Republic includes any equity shares held by a person in a company or ownership or the right to ownership of a person in any other entity or a vested interest of a person in any assets of any trust, if—
      - 80 per cent or more of the market value of those equity shares, ownership or right to ownership or vested interest, as the case may be, at the time of disposal thereof is attributable directly or indirectly to immovable property held otherwise than as trading stock; and |

EXTERNAL GUIDE:AMOUNTS TO BE WITHHELD WHEN A NON-RESIDENT SELLS IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN SA

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<tr>
<th><strong>Non-Resident</strong></th>
<th>Not normally residing in South Africa and falling outside the definition of resident</th>
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</table>
| **Resident**     | Includes:  
|                  | - Any natural person who is ordinarily resident in South Africa; or  
|                  | - Any natural person who complies with the physical presence test; and  
|                  | - Any person (other than a natural person) which is incorporated, established or formed in South Africa or which has its place of effective management in South Africa, but:  
|                  | Excludes:  
|                  | - any person who is deemed to be exclusively a resident of another country for purposes of the application of any agreement entered into between the government of South Africa and that other country for the avoidance of double taxation. |