

## Single Window Project

Registration & Licensing



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Dear Customs client

### Single Window Project - Trader consent to share data with Other Government Agencies

South Africa is a signatory to the World Trade Organisation, Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Articles 8 and 10 of the TFA deal with Border Agency Co-operation and Single Window. To bring South Africa closer to the objectives under articles 8 and 10 of the TFA, SARS is embarking on a Single Window Project under its modernisation programme.

The Single Window Project is a major initiative that will be implemented in phases. The first phase involves collaboration with the Border Management Authority (BMA) and The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD). This phase will automate the current manual inspection case process that flows from SARS to OGA's starting with the DALRRD.

SARS detains goods in terms of section 113(8)(a) of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964 (the Act), on behalf of OGAs. Importers and exporters submit import and export clearance declaration information electronically to SARS. This clearance declaration information is in turn submitted in manual paper format by importers and exporters to OGAs for inspection purposes.

SARS aims to automate this process by creating an inspection case workflow with OGAs starting with the DALRRD. The information obtained from electronically submitted import and export clearance declarations will be used by SARS to create the inspection case workflow. Automation of the inspection case workflow will have the following benefits -

- Faster processing times;
- Quicker release of goods since DALRRD will communicate electronically to SARS their release after finalisation of their inspection; and

- Reduced costs and minimised use of paper.

For importers and exporters to obtain the above benefits SARS will require consent from traders to share their clearance declaration information and associated supporting documents on inspection case workflows with OGAs as provided in section 4(3D) of the Act. The consent will take the form of updating the registration details on the Registration, Licencing and Accreditation (RLA) system.

Importers and exporters who do not consent will have to follow the manual process when goods are detained by SARS for OGA inspection.

Ultimately SARS intends to implement National Single Window (NSW) as set out in Article 10 of the TFA. This requires South Africa to develop and implement a single National Window that all government agencies must participate in either at the outset or progressively.

Sincerely,

**SARS Single Window Project**