CUSTOMS

External Policy

FORMALITIES FOR UNPOLISHED DIAMONDS

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Effective Date: 14 July 2026

1 PURPOSE

a) This policy sets out the requirements for the importation and exportation of unpolished diamonds. It gives effect to:

i) The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme; and
ii) Applicable provisions of the Customs and Excise Act No 91 of 1964 (The Act) and Diamond Export Levy legislation.

b) This policy ensures that unpolished diamonds traded through South Africa comply with international standards aimed at preventing the circulation of conflict diamonds and provides clear guidance to clients on compliance requirements.

c) Compliance with these requirements supports traceability, protects legitimate trade, and ensures alignment with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

2 SCOPE

a) This policy applies to all clients involved in the importation and exportation of unpolished diamonds, including importers, exporters, and agents.

b) It is also applicable to SARS officials, the South African Diamond and Precious Metals Regulator (SADPMR), and any relevant stakeholders involved in administering, facilitating, monitoring, or enforcing the importation and exportation requirements for unpolished diamonds.

3 POLICY STATEMENT

a) This policy sets controls on unpolished diamond movement to protect South Africa's diamond trade and ensure compliance with national and international laws.

b) The export and import of unpolished diamonds may only be allowed with countries that participate in the Kimberley Process.

c) The Kimberley Process Certificate (KPC) validates that the diamond is not a conflict diamond and legitimises the trade therein.

d) All clients must be in a possession of a valid KPC to be able to export or import unpolished diamonds, any imports/exports that does not have a valid KPC will not be allowed. The original KPC must always accompany the physical shipment.

e) The clients or agents may not open the sealed containers until they have been exported or imported. During the importation and exportation process of the unpolished diamonds, only the SADPMR may open the parcel.

f) Requirements prior to export:

i) Before exportation can occur, the seller must offer the unpolished diamonds to the local market for sale at the Diamond Exchange and Export Centre (DEEC) for a minimum of four (4) days. If there is no local offer to purchase the client may licence for export with the SADPMR.
ii) The SADPMR issues the client with a KPC provided all rules and regulations are met.
iii) The diamonds are packed in a sealed container using the SADPMR's export seals and kept safe by the SADPMR.
iv) The SADPMR provides the client with a copy of the KPC and invoice. The original KPC is sealed inside the container together with the diamonds.

g) Client arriving at a port of entry/exit with unpolished diamonds:

i) The client must approach Customs, advising them of the unpolished diamonds in their possession.
ii) Clients arriving in the country without a KPC but in possession of unpolished diamonds will be requested by Customs to return the unpolished diamonds to the country of origin at the expense

and risk of the client. The client has 48 hours to make the necessary arrangements to return the unpolished diamonds to the country of origin.

iii) The client must indicate whether the unpolished diamonds were formally cleared:
   A) If formal clearances was already made the response message must be produced to the Customs Officer; and
   B) If formal clearance was not made the traveller must be informed of the unpolished diamonds requirements and proceed with paragraph k).

h) In cases where it is required that the client registers as an importer / exporter such application must be lodged latest by the day following the detention. Refer to SC-CF-19 – Registration Licensing and Accreditation - External Policy.

i) A time period of 7 (seven) days is allowed to make formal import clearance, an extension of a further 7 (seven) days may be allowed for all modalities excluding road.

j) Should the application for registration as an importer / exporter with Customs not be approved, the unpolished diamonds must be returned to the country of origin under Customs, Physical Security and SADPMR supervision at the expense and risk of the client.

k) The client or agent must declare the exportation or importation of unpolished diamonds by submitting the declaration in either Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or manual format. Refer to Completion of Declarations, SC-CF-04 – External Policy.

l) The client must ensure that he / she completes the following information on the Customs declaration in the additional information field:

   i) The licence number issued by the SADPMR;
   ii) KPC number;
   iii) Diamond Dealer License number;
   iv) Export Levy Value;
   v) Export Levy amount (where applicable);
   vi) Temporary Exemption details (where applicable);
   vii) Permit details required in terms of the Diamond Export Levy Act (where applicable);
   viii) Exemption certificate and information – Producers and Beneficiates (where applicable); and
   ix) Synthetic Diamond transactions must be indicated as such.

m) The client must ensure that the following supporting documents are submitted:

   i) Copy of KPC;
   ii) Supplier's invoices, notes of receipt or purchase in terms of Section 56 of the Diamonds Act;
   iii) Transport documents;
   iv) SADPMR's documents, if applicable, confirming that the diamonds have been placed on tender as per the requirements:
      A) Copy of form N endorsed by SADPMR;
      B) Copy of Parcel Submission Receipt (PSR) endorsed by SADPMR;
      C) Licence or temporary permit in terms of the Diamond Act;
   v) Copy of DL 1(A), if applicable, as proof that the diamonds to be exported are exempted from paying the 5% levy; and
   i) Other documents as contemplated in Section 101 and the Rules made thereunder and any relevant documents or forms prescribed in the Diamonds Act relating to the recording, sale, or registration of diamonds for export.

n) It is the responsibility of the client to make sure that the KPC does not expire during the period of Customs clearance. Should the KPC expire the unpolished diamonds will be sent back to the country of origin.

o) Stopped consignments are inspected by the SADPMR and not Customs. Clients are advised to arrange for physical inspection at the premises of the SADPMR.

p) The Diamond Export Levy Act imposes a levy on the export of every consignment of unpolished diamonds. Refer to Diamond Export Levy – External Policy, SE-DEL-02.

4 REFERENCES

4.1 Legislation

TYPE OF REFERENCE	REFERENCE
Legislation and Rules administered by SARS:	**Customs and Excise Act No. 91 of 1964:** Sections 38, 39, 40, 107, 113(8)(a) **Customs and Excise Rules:** 38.06, 38.07, 38.15 (b)(ii) & (c), 200.03(k) **Diamond Export Levy (Administration) Rules:** Schedule A – Part II: 5.01, 5.02, 5.03, 5.05; Schedule B – Part III: 5.01
Other Legislation:	**Diamonds Act No. 56 of 1986:** Sections 1, 2, 24, 26, 55, 61, 65, 69, 94, 95 **Diamond Export Levy (Administration) Act No. 14 of 2007:** Section 1 and 19 (Related Schedule) **Government Gazette No. 24008 –** Vol. 449, 1 November 2002
International Instruments:	**Kimberley Process Certification Scheme** **Kyoto Convention Specific Annex B:** Chapter 1 – Clearance for Home Use Standard 1, Chapter 2 – Re-importation in the Same State Standards 1 – 9 and 11 – 14**, Specific Annex C:** Chapter 1 – Outright exportation Standard 1**, Specific Annex G:** Chapter 1 – Temporary admission Standards 1 -3, 5 – 7, 11, 13, Recommended Practice 14, Standards 17 – 18, Recommended Practice 19 **SAFE Framework of Standards:** Customs-to-Customs Arrangements Standard 1.3.8 and Standard 10

4.2 Cross References

DOCUMENT #	DOCUMENT TITLE
SE-DEL-02	Diamond Export Levy – External Policy
SC-CF-04	Completion of Declarations – External Policy
SC-CF-19	Registration Licensing and Accreditation – External Polcy

4.3 Reference to Role, Functional Area, or Division

Where an organisational structural change occurs with or without modifications, any reference in this document to a role, functional area, or division under the former organisational structure, unless the contrary intention appears, shall be construed to be a reference to that role, functional area, or division under the new organisational structure.

5 DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

The definitions, acronyms and abbreviations can be accessed via the following link: [Glossary | South African Revenue Service (sars.gov.za)]