



Client types able to register under RLA Release 1 (from April 2020):

Category	Client Type	Category	Client Type
1	Reporting	24	Registration
2	Reporting	25	Registration
3	Reporting	26	Registration
4	Reporting	27	Registration
5	Reporting	28	Registration
6	Reporting	29	Registration
7	Reporting	30	Registration
8	Licensing	31	Registration
9	Licensing	32	Registration
10	Reporting	33	Registration
11	Reporting	34	Registration
12	Reporting	35	Registration
13	Reporting	36	Registration
14	Reporting	37	Registration
15	Reporting	38	Registration
16	Reporting	39	Registration
17	Reporting	40	Registration
18	Licensing	41	Registration
19	Registration	42	Registration
20	Registration	43	Registration
21	Registration	44	Registration
22	Registration	45	Registration
23	Registration		

Client types able to register from April 2021:

Category	Client Type	Category	Client Type
1	Licensing	15	Registration
2	Licensing	16	Registration
3	Licensing	17	Registration
4	Licensing	18	Registration
5	Licensing	19	License
6	Licensing	20	License
7	Licensing	21	Registration
8	Licensing	22	Reporting
9	Licensing	23	Reporting
10	Licensing	24	Reporting
11	Registration	25	Reporting
12	Registration	26	Reporting
13	Registration	27	Reporting
14	Registration	28	Registration

Release 2C Package 2 (from June 2021):

Category	Client Type	Category	Client Type
1	Licensing	5	Reporting
2	Registration	6	Licensing
3	License	7	Licensing
4	License		

DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this leaflet is intended as guidance only and is not considered to be a legal reference, nor is it a binding ruling. The information does not take the place of legislation and readers who are in doubt regarding any aspect of the information displayed in the leaflet should refer to the relevant legislation, or seek a formal opinion from a suitably qualified individual.



SARS eFiling for quick and easy Customs registrations



For regular updates, guides and frequently asked questions on RLA, go to www.sars.gov.za > Customs and Excise > New Customs Legislation Update > RLA

Customs Registration, Licensing and Accreditation

Introduction

One of the projects which falls under the South African Revenue Service's New Customs Acts Programme (NCAP) is Registration, Licensing and Accreditation (RLA). NCAP is a long-running project and it is expected that the new Customs Control Act (CCA) will only be operationalised in several years to come. In the meantime, a decision was made to bring forward the implementation of certain business processes and systems capabilities, initially targeted for the new Acts, which will now be introduced under the provisions of the 1964 Customs & Excise Act.

When RLA was first introduced in April 2020, certain client types (predominantly Importers and Exporters) were able to submit new applications for registration via eFiling. The impacted client types were also able to have applications captured by Customs staff at their preferred Customs Branch. The next phase of the project, which is expected to take place towards the end of April 2021, will see additional client types added to the list of those able to submit via RLA. More client types will also be added to the list later in 2021. In the meantime, those not on the lists below, should continue to submit their applications via the current "as-is" registration process.

For now, the RLA system excludes Excise clients. Re-registration of the existing Customs base is expected to commence on a date chosen by Customs based on internal capacity.



South African Revenue Service



Key details

- The new Registration, Licensing and Accreditation process has seen the introduction of electronic platforms (including eFiling) for the submission of registration/licensing applications, for selected types of Customs clients – see list below.
- It is focused on new registrations of identified client types only and **not** on the re-registration of existing clients
- New clients wanting to use eFiling will only be required to go into branches **once** to register as a legal entity and thereafter can manage their Customs portfolio via eFiling
- The focus in Release 1 in 2020 was on client types who do not require physical inspections for registration/licensing purposes. However, the client types added in 2021 may require physical inspections of premises
- The identified client types will only be able to use eFiling for new registrations if they have already registered with SARS as a Legal Entity
- A non-local / foreigner can have his representative submit his application to SARS based on a Letter of Authority (LoA) or he can do it via eFiling, provided he is already registered with SARS
- For applicants not part of the RLA client types, applications will be managed as per the current process ie. DA 185 / DA 8 which is submitted via the Customs branch
- For non-RLA client types, a parallel process will run in Customs branches – new applications of the non-impacted client types will be captured as per the current process, while new applications of the identified client types will be captured on the new RLA system.
- Customs client codes will be synchronised between the old and new systems and existing clients will retain their existing codes.

Benefits

The new Registration, Licensing and Accreditation (RLA) capability will offer the following benefits to Customs clients:

- The use of eFiling to apply for registration, licensing or accreditation. This allows clients to submit their applications in a secure online environment from the comfort and convenience of their home or office.
- No more queuing at Customs branches and lengthy delays with the manual application process.
- Those who eFile have a full history of all submissions and electronic correspondence at the click of a button. They can also make changes to their profile when needed.
- Clients will be informed electronically which supporting documents are required and can upload these on eFiling.
- Clients can save a draft application and return to it later if they do not have the necessary information.
- Clients will receive sms or email notifications on submission.
- After a client has submitted their first application on eFiling, they will not have to complete the same personal information every time they submit a new application as the information will already be pre-populated.
- Submission via eFiling results in fewer errors and creates a quicker processing cycle for applications.
- Clients will be able to manage relationships with other clients who are already registered on RLA , ensuring control over the end-to-end supply chain. No-one will be able to use their profile without their permission.