

# TAXPRACTICE

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

WEEK OF 31 Jul - 06 Aug 2025  
(Issue 30 -2025)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### PART A: COMPLIANCE & SARS OPERATIONS 3

##### SAIT-SARS 'ON-THE-GROUND' ENGAGEMENT 3

SAIT TaxHelpline – escalations 5

SARS regional and national operational meetings 6

Upcoming RCB/SARS regional and national meetings 6

##### DAILY COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION 6

Due dates for reporting and payments: July and August 2025 6

SAIT member resources 7

Key operational news 7

Other SARS and related operational publications and announcements 7

##### TAX PRACTITIONER MANAGEMENT 7

SAIT TaxHelpline - Tax practitioner access and functionality (eFiling) 7

Key tax practitioner news 8

Governement & stakeholder newsletter 8

Other tax practitioner access and functionality publications and announcements 8

#### PART B – LEGISLATION & POLICY 9

##### LEGISLATION, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS & POLICY 9

Tax policy & international agreements 9

National legislation 9

##### LEGISLATION INTERPRETATION 9

Legislative calls for comment 9

Submissions to SARS and current calls for comment 9

Legislative counsel publications 9

Other SARS publications and announcements 11

##### OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST FOR A TAX PRACTICE 11

### TOP STORIES

#### Transfer Pricing, Customs and International Trade Forum

Staying abreast of shifting regulatory, operational, and technological developments is essential in today's rapidly evolving global tax and trade environment. The upcoming Transfer Pricing, Customs and International Trade Forum, hosted by the SAIT on the 13th of August 2025, presents a timely and valuable opportunity for professionals across disciplines to engage with the complex issues shaping the international business landscape. This forum is particularly relevant for multinational businesses, tax practitioners, customs professionals, and regulators seeking practical insights into the challenges of cross-border operations.

The forum features expert perspectives from both the public and private sectors. Key topics include the intersection of tax, customs, and international trade compliance, the treatment of intangible assets such as those linked to artificial intelligence, and the integration of real-time data analytics into transfer pricing risk management. These discussions reflect the urgent need for informed, adaptive strategies in a digital and interconnected economy.

In addition to tax-related content, the forum will explore emerging issues in customs, including the impact of post-clearance audits, the value of obtaining advance rulings, and the transition toward environmentally sustainable "green customs" practices. Attendees will gain not only technical knowledge but also strategic foresight. This is a must-attend event for professionals involved in international trade and compliance who want to stay ahead of regulatory changes and strengthen their risk management capabilities

To register or for further information, contact Nthabiseng Sebothuma at [projects@thesait.org.za](mailto:projects@thesait.org.za) or click [here](#).

For a detailed breakdown of the full programme, read [below](#).

[#StayAbreastOfTheTaxWave](#)

# Are you a **tax practitioner** with a passion for writing?

Let's feature your article on the Tax  
Practice: Weekly Highlights.

Send your article to  
[taxassist@thesait.org.za](mailto:taxassist@thesait.org.za).

Approximately 500 – 1500 words

# PART A: COMPLIANCE & SARS OPERATIONS

## SAIT-SARS 'ON-THE-GROUND' ENGAGEMENT

### Reminder on the Enhancements to ITR12 Return for Taxpayers Ceasing Residency and Non-Resident Taxpayers

SARS has made it easier for taxpayers ceasing residency and non-resident taxpayers with South African source-based income to file their 2025 tax returns by enhancing the ITR12 return. The enhancements aim to ensure the correct completion of the required fields in the return. A new interim process via SOQS now allows non-resident taxpayers to request the correct return format. A more permanent update to the Tax Return Wizard is expected in due course.

#### How to enable the non-resident tax return format via SOQS:

- Visit the [SARS website homepage](#), and click on the [SOQS icon](#).
- Select "[Non-Resident Tax Return Type](#)" from the menu.
- Enter your details as prompted.
- Once SARS has validated the information, a One-Time Pin (OTP) will be sent to your registered details.
- Choose the **2025 tax year** and answer yes or no to the follow-up questions.
- Based on your answers, your tax return will now be reformatted appropriately.
- A confirmation message regarding the request for the updated return status will be sent to the taxpayer's preferred communication method.
- The return can be retrieved via eFiling as per usual.

Your non-resident status will be stored for future tax years, unless your circumstances change. For further assistance, refer to the updated [SARS Online Query System Guide](#).

To read more about this enhancement, click [here](#).

### Reminder on How to Check the Status of Your SARS Tax Refund

If you're expecting a tax refund during this filing season, SARS offers several convenient digital channels to check the status of your refund. To find out your refund status, you can use any of the following channels:

- **SARS WhatsApp:** Message SARS on 0800 11 7277 — just say "Hi" or "Hello" and select "Refund Status", enter ID/passport/Asylum Seeker number, provide your Tax Ref number, and hit "Send"
- **SARS MobiApp:** On the Home Screen, tap "Refund Status", and follow the prompts
- **SARS USSD:** Dial \*134\*7277# – Choose Option 3, enter ID/passport/Asylum Seeker number, hit "Send"

According to the SARS Service Charter, SARS aims to pay nine out of every ten refunds within 72 hours, provided:

- The refund exceeds R100.
- Your banking details are verified and up to date.
- There are no outstanding returns on your profile.
- You are not currently under audit or verification.

Any of the above factors may delay your refund.

You can also [check your tax return status here](#).

## Final Reminder for the Upcoming Tax Indaba 2025

In less than two weeks, South Africa's tax community is set to converge at the 12th Annual Tax Indaba & Transfer Pricing, Customs and International Trade Forum. Themed **"Navigating South Africa's spending tax debt trap: where to from here?"**, the forum will bring together policymakers, legal experts, academics, and tax professionals to tackle one of the country's most pressing fiscal challenges.

**Here's what you can expect over the three days:**

### ***Day One: National Fiscal Outlook and Administrative Reform***

The opening day of the Indaba will address South Africa's widening debt burden and long-term fiscal sustainability. Speakers will explore the historical trajectory of government spending and taxation and consider whether SARS can meet revenue expectations under the current macroeconomic conditions.

**The sessions will examine:**

- Prospects for bold tax/budget reform, including structural changes to broaden the tax base.
- The role of political leadership in shaping credible tax policy.
- The evolution of tax administration, particularly through digitisation and taxpayer-centric service models.
- Implications of South Africa's FATF grey listing on compliance, transparency, and international cooperation.

Further sessions will also address global tax shifts such as BEPS 2.0, the role of tariff policy in protecting domestic industries in an uncertain global trade environment, and the future of the tax profession and the African tax landscape.

### ***Day Two: Business, Risk, and Corporate Tax Strategy***

The second day will turn attention to corporate and transactional tax issues. The panels will focus on:

- The strategic tax implications of rising interest rates, including debt vs equity financing structures.
- Managing regulatory compliance while preserving commercial agility.
- SARS's evolving approach to exchange control and the enforcement of cross-border transactions.
- Trends in international tax structuring, particularly concerning transfer pricing and offshore entities.

**A significant focus will be placed on:**

- VAT administration, including the lack of inflationary adjustments to the VAT registration threshold over the past 16 years.
- Delays and disputes surrounding VAT refunds and the operational challenges faced by vendors.
- The importance of tax compliance as a determinant of infrastructure investment and public-private trust.

## **Day Three: Compliance & Cross Border Forum and Transfer Pricing, Customs and International Trade Pricing Summit**

On the final day, focused parallel streams will highlight Customs & Trade and Legal & Regulatory issues:

### **Legal & Regulatory issues:**

- Recent case law on the Tax Administration Act, including judicial interpretation of procedural rights and administrative fairness.
- SARS's increasing use of data analytics, artificial intelligence, and third-party collection methods.
- Challenges around the "pay now, argue later" principle and the adequacy of dispute resolution mechanisms.
- The narrowing scope of personal deductions and strategies for taxpayers to optimise within the current legislative framework.
- Taxation of crypto assets, including the application of capital gains tax and SARS's tracking of offshore wallets and platforms.
- The use and structuring of trusts for estate and succession planning, with a focus on the implications of Section 7C attribution rules and intergenerational wealth transfers.

### **Transfer Pricing, Customs & Trade Forum Highlights:**

- The increasing value of intangible assets and the application of DEMPE in cross-border structures.
- Challenges around customs compliance and best practices.
- Panel on Advanced Rulings & Appeals, including WTO Trade Facilitation commitments, and issues related to the Harmonised System (HS), which is aimed at improving lead times and transparency.
- Capacity-building session on professionalising the customs vocation across SACU, SADC, and AfCFTA to elevate standards and regional alignment.

Attending professionals will gain actionable knowledge on South Africa's fiscal trajectory, transfer pricing dynamics, customs law reform, dispute resolution strategies, and trusted approaches to cross-border tax policy. The Indaba offers a rare opportunity for technical updates, policy insight, and strategic engagement. It serves as a vital forum for all stakeholders navigating the complexities of South Africa's tax regime.

To learn more about the programmes, click [here](#) and [here](#). To register to attend, click [here](#).

### **SAIT TaxHelpline – escalations**

As part of our ongoing commitment to serving our members, SAIT escalates appropriate cases within the SARS structures on their behalf. For assistance with this, members can submit their queries via the [TaxHelpline](#).

The most urgent escalations this week include:

1. Delays in finalising requests for reduced assessments.
2. Delays in finalising and payment of refunds.
3. Delays in finalising and issuing deceased estate compliance letters.
4. Delays in finalising requests for debt compromises.

SAIT continues to engage with SARS at both regional and national levels on a case-by-case basis regarding the escalations mentioned above. Feedback is communicated directly to the affected members as appropriate.

## SARS regional and national operational meetings

SAIT and its Regional Representatives attend SARS/RCB regional meetings quarterly, offering opportunities for effective, systemic discussions (qualifying for CPD points) \*.

*\* For effective and meaningful engagement with SARS, Regional Representatives are encouraged to provide three specific examples of issues or challenges that arise. It is important to note that regional meetings are not intended for individual case escalations but serve as a platform to address systemic issues impacting the broader tax practitioner community.*

### Feedback from the RCB/SARS regional and national meetings

No regional or national meetings were held during the week of 31 July - 6 August 2025.

## Upcoming RCB/SARS regional and national meetings

1. Eastern Cape – Gqeberha and Kareiga – 13 August 2025
2. Gauteng – 21 August 2025
3. Eastern Cape – 29 August 2025
4. Western Cape – 3 September 2025
5. Free State and Northern Cape – 8 September 2025
6. Northern Region – 26 September 2025
7. Free State and Northern Cape – 10 November 2025 and
8. Eastern Cape – Gqeberha and Kareiga – 12 November 2025
9. Gauteng – 20 November 2025.

### Other meetings of interest

1. SARS National Operational Forum – 14 August 2025;
2. RCB Forum meeting tentatively scheduled for 16 September 2025;
3. RCB Forum meeting- 11 November 2025; and
4. SARS National Operational Forum – 20 November 2025.

## DAILY COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### Due dates for reporting and payments: August 2025

Month	Date	Tax Type	Notification
August 2025	07/08/2025	Employment Taxes	<b>EMP201</b> - Submissions and payments
	25/08/2025	Value-Added Tax	<b>VAT201</b> - Manual submissions and payments
	29/08/2025	Value-Added Tax	<b>VAT201</b> - Electronic submissions and payments
	29/08/2025	Income Tax	<b>1st provisional (2026)</b> submissions and payments for individuals, trusts and companies with a February year-end
	29/08/2025	Turnover Tax	<b>1st TT02 (2026)</b> payments for micro businesses registered for turnover tax



## SAIT member resources

- [SAIT important tax dates calendar](#) – contains important dates from January 2025 to January 2026 (unchanged).
- [SAIT SARS contact map](#) – links service requirements to SARS channels (unchanged).

## Key operational news

No key operational news was identified in the week of 31 July - 6 August 2025

## Other SARS and related operational publications and announcements

### Reminder that SARS Published Issue 64 of the Tax Practitioner Connect

On the 25th of July, SARS published the latest edition of the Tax Practitioner Connect. In this edition, they share the VAT Connect Newsletter and focus on the following:

- The changes for 2025 Filing Season
- RLA Profiles – Urgent Notice for All Customs Traders
- The new process to submit Donations Tax and Withholding Tax on Royalties using the SARS Online Query System (SOQS)

These matters have been addressed and unpacked in previous SAIT TPWH issues. Readers are encouraged to consult [Issue 64 of the Tax Practitioner Connect](#) for comprehensive insights and analysis.

## TAX PRACTITIONER MANAGEMENT

### SAIT TaxHelpline – Tax practitioner access and functionality (eFiling)

### SARS Digital Platform Upgrades on 08 August 2025

As part of SARS' commitment to building a smart, modern and trustworthy organisation through reliable and secure digital platforms, regular maintenance and upgrades are essential. In line with this, scheduled maintenance on the SARS digital platform will occur on the following dates:

#### **Friday, 08 August 2025 from 16h00 to Saturday 09 August 2025 06h00**

During this time, eFiling users may experience intermittent service interruption on our eFiling, Tax and Customs Digital Platforms.

Responses (CUSRES messages) to transactions submitted during this time will be delayed, however, arrival and exit management functions are available at land border posts for all released declarations and manifests.

Therefore, stakeholders are urged to submit all Goods Declarations (bills of entry) and Road Manifest, especially those deemed priority, by **Friday, 08 August 2025 @ 14h00**.

Read the full digital upgrade announcement [here](#).

## Key tax practitioner news

## Government & stakeholder newsletters

### Reminder on the Latest Edition of the Published Government Connect

On 28 July 2025, SARS released the latest edition of its Government Connect newsletter. This issue highlights key developments relevant to both public sector stakeholders and the broader tax community.

Issue 29 of the Government Connect features the following topics:

- 2025 Filing Season Updates
- Urgent RLA Profile Notice for All Customs Traders
- New Submission Process for Donations Tax and Withholding Tax on Royalties via the SARS Online Query System (SOQS)

These subjects have also been analysed in previous issues of the TPWH. For a more detailed insights, consult [Issue 29 of the Government Connect newsletter](#).

## Other tax practitioner access and functionality publications and announcements

No other tax practitioner access and functionality publications and announcement were released in the week of 31 July 2025 – 06 August 2025.



# PART B – LEGISLATION & POLICY

## LEGISLATION, INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS & POLICY

### Tax policy & international agreements

No new tax policy and international agreements were released in the week of 31 July – 6 August 2025.

### National legislation

No new national legislation was published in the week of 31 July - 6 August 2025.

## LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATION

### Legislative calls for comment

### SARS Publishes Draft Interpretation Note for Comment

[Draft Interpretation Note](#): The proposed rule amendment clarifies that if a decision on tariff, valuation, or origin is made at a branch office and later approved by Head Office, it must be referred to the TVOAC for a final decision.

The SAIT Tax Technical team is reviewing this draft interpretation note to provide feedback to SARS. Members who wish to transmit their commentary may email [taxassist@thesait.org.za](mailto:taxassist@thesait.org.za) by no later than 15 August 2025, to ensure that their commentary is taken into consideration prior to the finalisation of this draft interpretation note.

### Submissions made to SARS and current calls for comment

No new calls for comment were released in the week of 31 July - 6 August 2025

### Legislative counsel publications

### SARS publishes the application of OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework Guidance Under the Global Minimum Tax Act, 2024

In terms of section 23(1) of the [Global Minimum Tax Act, 2024](#) (Act No. 46 of 2024), notice is hereby given that the Minister of Finance has specified the application of certain documents released by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting. These documents, listed in the Schedule hereto, pertain to Administrative Guidance and Commentary on the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Model Rules and shall apply for purposes of the Act.

The Schedule includes the following:

- (a) Administrative Guidance on the GloBE Model Rules (June 2024)
- (b) Guidance on Articles 8.1.4 and 8.1.5 (January 2025)
- (c) Guidance on Article 9.1
- (d) Administrative Guidance on the Central Record of Legislation with Transitional Qualified Status (March 2025), and
- (e) Consolidated Commentary to the GloBE Model Rules (May 2025).

These documents are hereby incorporated by reference to support the consistent implementation of the Global Minimum Tax regime in South Africa.

## Updated SARS Interest Rate Tables Effective 01 September 2025

SARS has published updated interest rate tables under the Income Tax Act, which are effective from 1 September 2025.

[Table 1](#): outlines interest rates applicable to outstanding taxes and refunds due to taxpayers under specific conditions.

[Table 2](#): lists the interest rates payable on credit balances.

[Table 3](#): outlines the rates at which interest-free or low interest loans are subject to income tax

These interest rate tables are updated regularly to reflect changes in the market and are critical for calculating interest on late payments or refunds. Taxpayers and practitioners should ensure that the latest interest rates are used for compliance and financial planning purposes.

This reduction is in line with the South African Reserve Bank decision on the 31st of July to cut the interest rates by 25 basis points. The interest rates are now 10.25% and 7% respectively and will remain at this rate until a change in the “prescribed rate” linked to the rate determined in terms of section 80(1)(b) of the Public Finance Management Act.

### Published court cases

#### **Reminder that the SCA Confirmed Tax Court’s Authority to Alter Assessments in Taxpayer’s Absence and Outlines Strict Standards for Postponements**

In a significant [judgment](#) handed down on 28 July 2025, the Supreme Court of Appeal in *The Lion Match Company (Pty) Ltd v Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service* [2025] ZASCA 112 reaffirmed the principles governing postponements in tax litigation, as well as the Tax Court’s powers to alter assessments in the absence of a taxpayer.

The matter arose from a long-standing tax dispute between Lion Match and SARS concerning an additional assessment for capital gains tax (CGT) for the 2008 year of assessment. Lion Match’s appeal in the Tax Court was set for hearing in November 2019. Shortly before the hearing, its legal representatives withdrew, citing a conflict of interest, and a last-minute application for a postponement was filed. The Tax Court refused the application and proceeded with the matter in Lion Match’s absence. SARS led unchallenged expert evidence and successfully argued for an upward adjustment of the CGT assessment.

Lion Match appealed the refusal of the postponement to the Gauteng High Court, which dismissed the appeal. The Supreme Court of Appeal, in turn, dismissed Lion Match’s further appeal and struck its application for reconsideration from the roll. The SCA emphasized that postponements are not granted as of right and must be supported by full, satisfactory explanations demonstrating bona fides and good cause.

Crucially, the Court confirmed that the Tax Court retains jurisdiction to decide a tax appeal and alter assessments even in the taxpayer’s absence, provided that the proceedings comply with section 129(2) of the Tax Administration Act and Rule 44(7) of the Tax Court Rules. The SCA upheld SARS’s cross-appeal, allowing the Tax Court to increase the assessed CGT liability based on the evidence presented.

The [judgment](#) reinforces the duty of taxpayers to diligently manage litigation and the Tax Court’s authority to proceed in their absence where procedural requirements are met. It also underscores that late legal withdrawals and vague explanations will not shield taxpayers

from adverse consequences.

Members are reminded that failure to prepare adequately and timeously for tax litigation may result in severe financial repercussions, including the potential for SARS to obtain a more burdensome assessment in default proceedings.

### **Other SARS publications and announcements**

No other legislative publications or announcements were issued by SARS during the week of 31 July - 6 August 2025

### **OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST FOR A TAX PRACTICE**

No other matters of interest for a tax practice were identified during the week of 31 July - 6 August 2025