

## **Please take note of an important update from SARS regarding the Customs Online Traveller Declaration process.**

With effect from 1 July 2026, travellers entering or leaving South Africa will be required to submit an online traveller declaration before they travel, unless they qualify for one of the limited paper-based exceptions.

<https://www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration/>

This declaration forms part of the SARS Customs process. It is intended to assist travellers in meeting their legal obligation to declare goods, currency and any other relevant items in their possession.

### **Who must complete the declaration?**

In general, all travellers entering or leaving South Africa by air, land, sea or rail must complete the declaration. This includes:

- South African citizens and residents
- Foreign travellers
- Business travellers
- Children and infants

Where a traveller is a minor, or is unable to complete the declaration themselves, a parent, legal guardian, caretaker or assisting person may complete it on their behalf.

### **When must it be completed?**

The declaration must be submitted no more than 24 hours before departure from the country from which the traveller is travelling.

For travellers with connecting flights into South Africa, the declaration must be completed no more than 24 hours before departure on the final leg directly to South Africa.

### **How can travellers complete the declaration?**

<https://www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration/>

Travellers will generally need the following information:

- Passport or travel document details
- Travel details
- Contact details
- Details of travelling companions, where applicable
- Business or entity details, if travelling for business

- Details of goods, currency or bearer negotiable instruments that need to be declared

### **What happens after submission?**

Once the declaration has been submitted, SARS will send a confirmation by email. Travellers should keep this confirmation available on their mobile device or print a copy, as Customs officials may request it at the port of entry or exit.

### **Important points to note**

Ordinary personal effects for personal use do not need to be declared, unless they exceed the applicable traveller allowance or require Customs attention.

Travellers must declare goods, currency or other relevant items where required.

Air or sea travellers who are only transiting through South Africa and do not leave the designated transit area are excluded from submitting a declaration.

If a traveller cannot submit the declaration online due to a system issue, lack of internet access or another reasonable ground, assistance may be available at the port.

Failure to submit a proper declaration or making a false declaration may result in delays, penalties, detention, forfeiture of goods, or other Customs enforcement action.

Members are encouraged to make their consultants aware of this requirement and to advise clients accordingly, especially international travellers, business travellers, groups and families travelling with children.

