# **Frequently Asked Questions**

# Foreign Employment Income Exemption (Section 10(1)(*o*)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1962)



South African Revenue Service

An amendment to section 10(1)(o)(ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1962 (the Act<sup>1</sup>) has been promulgated and came into effect on 1 March 2020. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in this document have been compiled on the basis of questions that employees, employers and the public at large have about the implications of the amendment.

The FAQs are drafted purely to assist employees, employers and the public at large to obtain clarity and to ensure consistency on certain practical and technical aspects relating to the amendment. The FAQs are therefore not intended to be used as legal reference. You can find more information about some of the aspects discussed in this document in Interpretation Note 16 "Exemption from Income Tax: Foreign Employment Income".

The FAQs are also intended to solicit further questions regarding the amendment. The FAQs will therefore be updated periodically to address these questions, as well as any changes to the legislation. In light hereof, it is not envisaged that non-binding private opinions in relation to the amendment will be issued. Any questions that have not been addressed in the FAQs can be sent to **ForeignEmployment@sars.gov.za**, for consideration.

All other FAQs, forms, guides, interpretation notes, notices, and rulings referred to in these FAQs are available on the **SARS website**. Unless indicated otherwise, the latest issues of these documents should be consulted.

#### SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE

| Date of 1st issue | : | 7 October 2019  |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| Date of 2nd issue | : | 22 October 2019 |
| Date of 3rd issue | : | 17 March 2020   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All references to sections are to sections of the Act unless otherwise indicated.

## FAQs: Foreign Employment Income Exemption [Section 10(1)(o)(ii)]

|        | Question   | Answer   |  |
|--------|--|--|--|
| Sectio | on 10(1)(o)(ii) requirements                                     |  |  |
| 1.     | What does the foreign<br>employment income<br>exemption mean?    | Section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii) provides for an exemption for foreign<br>employment income received for services rendered outside South<br>Africa, provided the requirements are met.  |  |
|        |  | Before 1 March 2020, if the requirements regarding the exemption are met, all remuneration for services rendered outside South Africa is exempt.   |  |
|        |  | From 1 March 2020, if the requirements are met, the exemption is limited to R1,25 million. Any remuneration received in excess of R1,25 million will be subject to normal tax in South Africa, irrespective of whether tax is paid in another country.                         |  |
|        |  | Relief from double tax is available under the domestic law by way of section 6 <i>quat</i> credit (subject to limitations) or by way of the treaty provisions (if applicable).   |  |
| 2.     | What are the requirements  | In order to qualify for the exemption, a taxpayer must –   |  |
|        | to qualify for the exemption?                                    | • be a tax resident of South Africa (refer to <b>Question 3</b> );   |  |
|        | exemption:   | • earn certain types of remuneration (refer to <b>Question 4</b> );  |  |
|        |  | • in respect of services rendered by way of <b>employment</b> ;  |  |
|        |  | <ul> <li>outside South Africa;</li> </ul>  |  |
|        |  | <ul> <li>during specified qualifying periods (refer to Question 5);<br/>and</li> </ul>   |  |
|        |  | <ul> <li>not be subject to an exclusion (refer to Question 7).</li> </ul>  |  |
|        |  | Refer to Interpretation Note 16 (IN 16).   |  |
| 3.     | Who does the exemption apply to?                                 | The exemption only applies to a <b>tax resident</b> of South Africa who is an <b>employee</b> and renders employment services outside South Africa and is subject to tax on his or her worldwide income. For more on tax residence refer to <b>Questions 15</b> to <b>22</b> . |  |
|        |  | The exemption does not apply to an individual who is a non-<br>resident for tax purposes as foreign sourced income in relation to<br>foreign services is not from a South African source and therefore<br>not subject to tax in the hands of a non-resident in South Africa.   |  |
| 4.     | What type of income  | The following amounts fall within the scope of the exemption:  |  |
|        | qualifies for the exemption under section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii)? | Salary   |  |
|        |  | Taxable benefits   |  |
|        |  | Leave pay  |  |
|        |  | • Wage   |  |
|        |  | Overtime pay   |  |
|        |  | Bonus  |  |

|    |   | Gratuity   |
|----|---|--|
|    |   | Commission   |
|    |   | • Fee  |
|    |   | Emolument  |
|    |   | <ul> <li>Allowance (including travel allowances, advances and reimbursements)</li> </ul>   |
|    |   | Amounts derived from broad-based employee share plans  |
|    |   | <ul> <li>Amounts received in respect of a share vesting</li> </ul>   |
| 5. | What are the qualifying periods (that is, the "days test") that need to be met for purposes of section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii)? | An employee who is a tax resident in South Africa must be<br>outside South Africa for a period or periods exceeding 183 full<br>days (in aggregate) during any 12-month period, and a continuous<br>period exceeding 60 full days during that 12-month period.   |
| 6. | Does any of the<br>requirements that applied<br>before 1 March 2020<br>change going forward?                                  | <b>No</b> , the requirements to qualify for the exemption remain the same. The only change that is effective from 1 March 2020 is that the exemption is now limited to a maximum of R1,25 million.   |
| 7. | Who is excluded from the application of   | The following categories of individuals are excluded from the exemption:   |
|    | section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii)?  | <ul> <li>A public office holder appointed or deemed to be<br/>appointed under an Act of Parliament</li> </ul>  |
|    |   | <ul> <li>Employees who are employed in the national, provincial<br/>or local sphere of government, certain constitutional<br/>institutions, national and provincial public entities and<br/>municipal entities</li> </ul>  |
|    |   | <ul> <li>Independent contractors and individuals who are self-<br/>employed also do not qualify for the exemption as such<br/>persons are not in an employment relationship</li> </ul>   |
| 8. | If I meet all the<br>requirements for<br>section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii), is all<br>my foreign employment<br>income exempt?     | The answer depends on the amount of remuneration you earn for<br>the services rendered outside South Africa. If the amount of your<br>remuneration is R1,25 million or less, the full amount will be<br>exempt from normal tax in South Africa, provided the amount<br>relates to services rendered outside South Africa. If the amount of<br>your remuneration is more than R1,25 million, only R1,25 million<br>will be exempt and any excess above R1,25 million will be subject<br>to normal tax in South Africa. Also refer to <b>Question 14</b> . |
| 9. | How should the taxable<br>benefits received while<br>rendering services outside<br>South Africa be valued?                    | The provisions of the Seventh Schedule are applicable to the relevant taxable benefit provided. The cash equivalent of the value of the taxable benefit as calculated under the Seventh Schedule will be applicable.   |
|    |   | If paid in a foreign currency, the amount should be converted using the average exchange rate. Refer to <b>Question 39</b> .   |

## FAQs: Foreign Employment Income Exemption [Section 10(1)(o)(ii)]

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|-----|--|---|
| 10. | If I receive a travel<br>allowance that falls within<br>the R1,25 million<br>exemption, can my taxable<br>income be reduced in<br>respect of my business<br>kilometres travelled?  | <b>No</b> , if the amount earned was exempt, the amount is not included<br>in "taxable income". As there is no inclusion in taxable income<br>there is nothing that can be reduced as a result of the business<br>kilometres travelled that relates to the exempt amount. Also refer<br>to <b>Question 11</b> .   |
| 11. | If I receive a travel<br>allowance and a <i>portion</i> of<br>the allowance is exempt<br>under section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii),<br>can my taxable income be<br>reduced in respect of all<br>my business kilometres<br>travelled? | Your taxable income can only be reduced in respect of business<br>kilometres travelled during the period when the allowance was<br>included in taxable income.  |
| 12. | 12. If I received remuneration<br>in excess of R1,25 million,<br>which includes a travel<br>allowance, how will the<br>R1,25 million exemption<br>be attributed on   | The R1,25 million exemption must be apportioned on a <i>pro rata</i> basis between the travel allowance and the total remuneration. For example, an employee receives total remuneration of R1,5 million which includes a travel allowance of R300 000 for the year of assessment. The exempt portion of the travel allowance is calculated as follows: |
|     | assessment in respect of the travel allowance?   | Travel allowance / Total remuneration × R1 250 000  |
|     |  | R300 000 / R1 500 000 × R1 250 000  |
|     |  | = R250 000 of the travel allowance will be exempt from normal tax on assessment.  |
|     |  | Thus, R50 000 will be included in taxable income.   |
|     |  | Any deductions claimed for the year of assessment will be limited<br>to the amount of the allowance included in taxable income.   |
| 13. | Is the R1,25 million<br>exemption allowed in<br>respect of each year of<br>assessment or should it be  | The R1,25 million exemption is available in respect of each year<br>of assessment. This will apply even if you rendered services for<br>only part of the year of assessment, provided the "days"<br>requirements are met.   |
|     | apportioned if I did not<br>work a full year of<br>assessment outside South<br>Africa?   | Refer to <b>Question 5</b> on the "days" requirements applicable under section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii).   |
| 14. | Should my income be apportioned?   | <b>Yes</b> , if you rendered services inside and outside of South Africa, the income received should be apportioned and only the income received in respect of work days outside South Africa during which services were rendered, will be exempt. From 1 March 2020, the exemption is limited to R1,25 million.  |
|     |  | See IN 16 for more guidance on the apportionment method that should be applied.   |

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|-------|---|--|
| 15.   | Does the change to<br>section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii) result in<br>a new "expat tax" being<br>levied? | <b>No</b> , there is no new "expat tax" introduced. The only effect of the change relating to section $10(1)(o)(ii)$ is that the exemption is limited to R1,25 million. If the R1,25 million is exceeded, such excess is subject to normal tax according to a taxpayer's marginal rate of tax.   |
| Tax ı | residence   |  |
| 16.   | Who is a tax resident in South Africa?  | A person is a tax resident if he or she is ordinarily resident or becomes a resident by way of physical presence.  |
|       |   | For more details on the different tests to become a tax resident in South Africa, refer to the following interpretation notes:   |
|       |   | <ul> <li>Interpretation Note 3 "Resident: Definition in Relation to a<br/>Natural Person – Ordinarily Resident" (IN 3)</li> </ul>  |
|       |   | <ul> <li>Interpretation Note 4 "Resident: Definition in Relation to a<br/>Natural Person – Physical Presence Test"</li> </ul>  |
| 17.   | Is tax residency based on citizenship?  | <b>No</b> , citizenship is one of the indicators that may point to someone being ordinarily resident, but that is not conclusive. Various factors may play a role and must be taken into account to determine whether a person is ordinarily resident in South Africa. Refer to IN 3 for more detail in this regard.   |
| 18.   | How does "financial<br>emigration" impact my tax<br>residence?                                      | The term "financial emigration" has been used in the public at<br>large with reference to the process of acquiring approval from the<br>South African Reserve Bank to emigrate from South Africa for<br>exchange control purposes. Emigration is not connected to an<br>individual's tax residence. It is merely one factor that may be<br>taken into account to determine whether an individual broke his or<br>her tax residence. An individual's tax residence is not<br>automatically broken when he or she emigrates for exchange<br>control purposes. The deciding factor remains whether an<br>individual ceased to be ordinarily resident in the Republic. |
| 19.   | Must I notify SARS if I cease to be a tax resident in South Africa?                                 | Yes.   |
| 20.   | How should I notify SARS<br>if my tax residence status<br>changes?                                  | SARS can be informed of a taxpayer's intention to cease to be a resident through the wizard on the income tax return where the taxpayer is asked whether he or she "ceased to be a tax resident". When a taxpayer ceased to be a tax resident it should be indicated on the income tax return together with the date on which it occurred.   |
|       |   | Alternatively, SARS can be notified when an application is made<br>for a tax clearance certificate via eFiling when emigrating from<br>South Africa with the intention to cease to be ordinarily resident in<br>the Republic (that is, not on the income tax return).  |

| 21.  | How should I notify SARS<br>if my tax residence status<br>changed in a prior year<br>and I did not inform SARS<br>during that year of<br>assessment? | Refer also to <b>Question 22</b> . If a capital gain was so deemed and you did not declare it, you can do it now through the Voluntary Disclosure Programme to eliminate any potential penalties and prosecution.   |
|------|--|---|
| 22.  | What are the tax<br>implications if I cease to<br>be a tax resident in South<br>Africa?  | A deemed disposal for capital gains tax purposes takes place at<br>the time when an individual ceases to be a tax resident. The<br>individual will be deemed to have disposed of his or her worldwide<br>assets, excluding immovable property situated in South Africa.   |
| Doub | le tax situation   |   |
| 23.  | Will the change to section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii) result in a double tax scenario?  | If an individual earns employment income in excess of<br>R1,25 million and there is no tax treaty or the tax treaty between<br>South Africa and the foreign country does not provide a sole<br>taxing right to one country, both countries will have a right to tax<br>the income. The portion of the income in excess of R1,25 million<br>may end up being subject to double tax.  |
|      |  | Generally, under the provisions of the relevant tax treaty, if an<br>employee renders services in a foreign country <b>exceeding</b><br>183 days, both countries enjoy the right to tax the income.<br>The country of source enjoys the first right to tax the employment<br>income and the country of residence, in our case South Africa, will<br>provide double tax relief in the form of a foreign tax credit to the<br>extent that double tax arises, subject to limitations.  |
| 24   | What remedies do I have<br>to relieve the double<br>taxation?  | Section 6 <i>quat</i> is the mechanism under South Africa's domestic<br>law to claim relief from double tax where the amount received for<br>services rendered outside South Africa is subject to tax in South<br>Africa and in the foreign country. This credit may be claimed on<br>assessment through an individual's income tax return, provided<br>certain requirements are met. For more detailed information on<br>the provisions of section 6 <i>quat</i> , refer to Interpretation Note 18<br>"Rebate or Deduction for Foreign Taxes on Income". |
|      |  | Alternatively, relief from double tax may also be sought by way of the treaty provisions.   |
|      |  | An employer may at his or her discretion, under paragraph 10 of<br>the Fourth Schedule, apply for a directive from SARS to take into<br>account the potential foreign credit to determine the employees'<br>tax (PAYE) liability on a monthly basis. The employer will be able<br>to apply for such a directive through a dedicated channel that will<br>be made available to the public by SARS. Refer to <b>Questions 43</b><br>to <b>47</b> .  |
|      |  | Even when a directive is issued to the employer that allows the<br>employer to take into account a potential foreign tax credit on the<br>payroll for PAYE purposes, the employee is still required to submit<br>an income tax return in which the actual foreign tax credit under<br>section 6 <i>quat</i> has to be claimed.  |

| 25. | If there is no tax treaty<br>applicable between South<br>Africa and the host<br>country, what legislation<br>will be applied?   | The domestic tax legislation of each country will be applied independently of each other. The employee will be able to claim a section 6 <i>quat</i> credit on assessment in respect of any double tax that arose, subject to certain requirements.  |
|-----|---|--|
| 26. | Should an employer that<br>has a PAYE withholding<br>obligation take the<br>provisions of a tax treaty<br>into account in relation to<br>employees rendering<br>services outside South<br>Africa? | Yes, it is important to take the treaty into account to be able to determine which country has a right to tax the income. This will determine whether an employee has a normal tax liability in South Africa in which case the employer is obliged to withhold PAYE. Refer also to <b>Questions 34</b> to <b>42</b> that deal with various payroll issues.   |
| 27. | Will the tax treaty apply to the first R1,25 million of remuneration earned?  | <b>No</b> , the tax treaty will not apply as there will be no double taxation due to the fact that the R1,25 million is exempt from normal tax in South Africa.  |
| 28. | Will the tax treaty apply to<br>the amount of<br>remuneration exceeding<br>R1,25 million?   | <b>Yes</b> , the tax treaty will apply as the portion of the remuneration in excess of R1,25 million may be subject to double taxation.  |
| 29. | Is the exemption under<br>section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii)<br>dependent on the<br>provisions of a tax treaty?  | <b>No</b> , the R1,25 million is exempt under domestic law and not under<br>a tax treaty. The exemption is therefore not dependent on the<br>application of a tax treaty and applies irrespective of whether<br>there is a tax treaty or not.  |
| Com | pliance matters   |  |
| 30. | If I qualify for the<br>exemption, do I have to<br>submit an income tax<br>return in South Africa?  | <b>Yes</b> , the Public Notice issued under section 25 of the Tax<br>Administration Act, 2011 read with section 66 of the Act<br>specifically provides that an individual working outside South<br>Africa is required to submit an income tax return.  |
| 31. | If I am employed, only get<br>paid by one employer and<br>earn <i>less than</i><br>R1,25 million, do I have a<br>normal tax liability in South<br>Africa?   | <b>No</b> , provided you only receive employment income and no other income from a source inside or outside South Africa that may be subject to normal tax. To the extent that any employment income relates to services rendered inside South Africa, such income will be subject to normal tax in South Africa (see <b>Question 14</b> ). As noted in <b>Question 30</b> , the individual is still obliged to submit a tax return. |

#### FAQs: Foreign Employment Income Exemption [Section 10(1)(o)(ii)]

| 32.   | If I am employed and I<br>earn <i>more than</i><br>R1,25 million<br>remuneration, do I have a<br>normal tax liability in South<br>Africa? If so, how should<br>my liability be settled? | If you are employed by a local employer, PAYE will be deducted<br>from your remuneration in excess of R1,25 million.<br>If you are employed by a foreign employer that has no<br>representative employer in South Africa, no PAYE will be withheld<br>from your remuneration in excess of R1,25 million. You will have<br>to settle your tax liability by way of provisional tax in respect of all<br>your taxable income.<br>Refer to Interpretation Note 1 "Provisional Tax Estimates" (IN 1)<br>for more details on provisional tax.  |          |  |
|-------|---|--|----------|--|
| 33.   | What is the impact on me<br>if I work in a tax haven,<br>being a low tax jurisdiction<br>with a low tax rate or no<br>tax?  | The exemption under section $10(1)(o)(ii)$ will apply in respect of<br>remuneration earned up to R1,25 million. Any income in excess of<br>R1,25 million will become subject to normal tax in South Africa.<br>If remuneration in excess of R1,25 million is received, there will<br>not be a double tax situation in the foreign country if no taxes are<br>imposed on income in that country. Since there will be no double<br>taxation in this instance, no section 6 <i>quat</i> credit can be claimed at<br>the end of the year of assessment.<br>However, should a low tax rate be imposed in the foreign country,<br>a rebate under section 6 <i>quat</i> may be claimed. |          |  |
| Payro | oll related issues  |  |          |  |
| 34.   | How should the<br>R1,25 million exemption<br>be calculated to determine<br>the PAYE withholding<br>obligation?  | The R1,25 million should be accumulated on a monthly basis in respect of <b>all</b> qualifying remuneration items. As soon as the R1,25 million limit is reached, the income in excess of R1,25 million becomes subject to normal tax. The R1,25 million cannot be smoothed or averaged over the year of assessment. It must be calculated by adding up all remuneration items received from the beginning of the year of assessment or applicable start date of an assignment until the R1,25 million limitation is reached.  |          |  |
|       |   | The following example illustrates the cumulative basis on which the R1,25 million should be calculated.  |          |  |
|       |   | An employee goes on secondment to a foreign country of<br>1 March 2020. The employer is satisfied that the employer<br>qualify for the exemption under section 10(1)(o)(ii) and ex-<br>the discretion to apply the exemption through the payroll.<br>The employee receives the following monthly remuneration  |          |  |
|       |   | Salary:  | R200 000 |  |
|       |   | Travel allowance:  | R50 000  |  |
|       |   | Accommodation benefit:   | R30 000  |  |

|     |   | Items   | March  | April   | Мау  | June   | July   |
|-----|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
|     |   | Salary  | R200 000   | R200 000  | R200 000   | R200 000   | R200 000   |
|     |   | Travel allowance  | R50 000  | R50 000   | R50 000  | R50 000  | R50 000  |
|     |   | Accommodation benefit   | R30 000  | R30 000   | R30 000  | R30 000  | R30 000  |
|     |   | Accumulated total   | R280 000   | R560 000  | R840 000   | R1 120 000   | R1 400 000   |
|     |   | Exempt  | R280 000   | R280 000  | R280 000   | R280 000   | R130 000   |
|     |   | Subject to normal tax   | R0   | R0  | R0   | R0   | R150 000   |
|     |   | It is accepted th<br>limitation will<br>perspective, car<br>R1,25 million ex  | be exce  | eded, th<br>various d   | ne emplo<br>ifferent o   | oyer, from<br>ptions to r  | n a payroll  |
|     |   | Option 1  |  |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | • R130 000  | ) salary   |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | Option 2  |  |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | • R50 000   |  |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | • R30 000   |  | odation b   | enefit   |  |  |
|     |   | • R50 000   | salary   |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | Option 3  |  |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | • R80 000   | ,  |   |  |  |  |
|     |   | • R50 000   | travel allo  | owance  |  |  |  |
| 35. | Does an employer have a<br>choice to withhold PAYE<br>from my foreign<br>employment income? | The potential for<br>automatically wa<br>under the Fourth<br>provisions of sec<br>may, however, e<br>where the exem<br>liable for the em<br>concomitant per | aive the o<br>in Schedul<br>ction 10(1<br>elect not t<br>ption was<br>ployees' 1 | bligation<br>le. An err<br>)( <i>o</i> )(ii) wi<br>o deduct<br>s not appl<br>tax not de | of an em<br>ployer th<br>Il apply ir<br>PAYE in<br>icable, th<br>educted a | ployer to d<br>at is satisfi<br>a particul<br>such case<br>e employe     | educt PAYE<br>ed that the<br>ar case<br>. In the case<br>r will be |
|     |   | An employer that<br>subsequently tra-<br>exemption under<br>deducted PAYE<br>refund on assess<br>for example, a tra-<br>contract, may be<br>exemption claim | inspires t<br>r section<br>to an em<br>sment. Se<br>avel sche<br>e requeste      | hat the re<br>10(1)( <i>o</i> )(<br>ployee. T<br>upporting<br>edule, a p<br>ed from tl  | munerati<br>ii) may no<br>he emplo<br>docume<br>assport a<br>ne emplo      | ion qualifie<br>ot refund ov<br>oyee must<br>ntation in tl<br>and an emp | s for<br>ver-<br>claim a<br>he form of,<br>ployment                |

| 36. | What is the impact of the exemption on SDL and UIF?                   | Any amount that is exempt under section 10(1)( <i>o</i> )(ii) no longer constitutes "remuneration" as defined in paragraph 1 of the Fourth Schedule. The reason for this is that "remuneration" is defined to mean "any amount of income". "Income" as defined in section 1(1) excludes exempt income.<br>These exempt amounts are not subject to the deduction of UIF or SDL as they do not constitute "remuneration". Only the remuneration that remains taxable in South Africa will be subject to the deduction or withholding of levies or contributions under these statutes. |
|-----|---|---|
| 37. | Under which income<br>source codes should the<br>income be disclosed? | For employees' tax certificate (IRP5 certificate) purposes, each<br>remuneration item in respect of foreign service income must be<br>disclosed under the relevant foreign income source code. For<br>example, foreign sourced salary income must be disclosed under<br>code 3651, bonus payments under code 3655 and medical aid<br>contributions under code 3860.   |
|     |   | Code 3652 may not be used for any remuneration item that may qualify for exemption under section $10(1)(o)(ii)$ as there are specific foreign income source codes for each item that should be used. If an employer discloses any foreign sourced income under code 3652, the exemption under section $10(1)(o)(ii)$ will not be applied on assessment.   |
|     |   | An employer that is satisfied that the employee qualifies or will qualify for the exemption under section $10(1)(o)(ii)$ and applies the exemption for PAYE purposes, should disclose the exempt portion of the remuneration under information source code 4587, limited to R1,25 million.  |
|     |   | For example:  |
|     |   | <ul> <li>Code 3601 – Gross salary earned in South Africa (if applicable), subject to normal tax.</li> </ul>   |
|     |   | • Code 3651 – Gross salary earned outside of South Africa.  |
|     |   | • <b>Code 4587</b> – The portion of the remuneration qualifying for the section 10(1)(o)(ii) exemption as taken into account by the employer for PAYE purposes (limited to R1,25 million).  |
|     |   | If the employer does not apply the exemption through the payroll, the information source code 4587 should be zero.  |
|     |   | If there is no foreign income source code, code 4587 may not be used.   |
|     |   | If the entire foreign sourced income is exempt and the employer<br>applies the exemption through the payroll, the value of the<br>information source code should not be more than the value of the<br>foreign income source code.   |
|     |   | <b>Code 4587 –</b> R900 000   |

|     |   | For example, an employee receives a salary of R800 000 and a bonus of R100 000 and qualifies for the exemption which the employer applies through the payroll for PAYE purposes. The IRP5 disclosure is as follows:   |
|-----|---|---|
|     |   | <b>Code 3651</b> – R800 000   |
|     |   | Code 3655 – R100 000  |
| 38. | If I have a South African<br>employer and earn South<br>African sourced income as<br>well as foreign sourced  | SARS prefers a single certificate, where possible, but where<br>separate certificates are issued, the PAYE, SDL and UIF liabilities<br>must be calculated on the total amount that is subject to PAYE,<br>SDL and UIF.  |
|     | income, should my income<br>be disclosed on one or two<br>IRP5 certificates?  | If one IRP5 certificate is used, the employer must ensure the correct IRP5 source codes are used in respect of the South African and foreign sourced income. If two IRP5 certificates are used, one related to the South African sourced income and one related to the foreign sourced income, the employer must ensure the correct amount of PAYE, SDL and UIF is calculated and withheld on the combined income from the two IRP5 certificates. |
| 39. | What foreign exchange<br>rate should be used on a<br>monthly basis if amounts<br>paid from a foreign<br>employer should be<br>processed through the<br>South African payroll?                                     | Section 25D(1) provides that the spot rate should be used on a monthly basis by the employer as and when the amounts are received or accrued to the employees. The average exchange rate is catered for under section 25D(3) should an employee elect to do so.   |
| 40. | Should the amounts paid<br>by the foreign employer,<br>that is not required to be<br>paid or processed by the<br>South African employer,<br>be taken into account to<br>calculate the R1,25 million<br>exemption? | <b>Yes</b> , for the determination of the R1,25 million exemption, the remuneration items provided by both the local and foreign employer must be taken into account. The R1,25 million exemption has to be determined with reference to all income received by the employee for the services rendered abroad irrespective of which employer (local or foreign) is making the payment.  |
| 41. | Does the foreign employer<br>have a liability to withhold<br>PAYE from the<br>remuneration paid to a<br>resident employee working<br>outside South Africa?  | The answer depends on whether the foreign employer has a representative employer in South Africa. If there is a representative employer in South Africa, such employer will have an obligation, subject to the provisions of a tax treaty, to withhold PAYE in South Africa on the remuneration <b>in excess</b> of R1,25 million. The remuneration not qualifying for the exemption will also be subject to SDL and UIF.                         |
|     |   | If there is no representative employer in South Africa, the foreign<br>employer does not have any obligation to withhold PAYE. Such<br>employee will be required to register as a provisional taxpayer<br>and settle any tax liability in South Africa by way of provisional tax<br>payments. Refer to IN 1 for more details on provisional tax   |

| 42.   | Does the South African<br>employer have a<br>responsibility to withhold<br>PAYE from an amount<br>paid by the foreign<br>employer?   | The obligation to withhold PAYE is determined by who is "liable"<br>to pay the remuneration. The South African employer will only be<br>liable to withhold PAYE if that employer pays or is liable to pay<br>remuneration. If the South African employer acts as the<br>representative employer of the foreign employer in South Africa, it<br>will be required to withhold PAYE on behalf of the foreign<br>employer.  |  |
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| Direc | ctive under paragraph 10 of  | the Fourth Schedule (hereinafter referred to as "directive")  |  |
| 43.   | If I am in a double tax<br>position, is there any relief<br>available through the<br>payroll if my employer has<br>a withholding obligation in<br>South Africa?  | Yes, an employer may apply for a directive to vary the basis on<br>which PAYE is withheld monthly in South Africa.<br>This is not the actual granting of the section 6 <i>quat</i> credit.<br>The potential foreign tax credit is taken into account to determine<br>a method on how the PAYE that has to be withheld for payroll<br>purposes. The section 6 <i>quat</i> credit will only be granted on<br>assessment, provided the necessary requirements are met. |  |
| 44.   | Can my foreign employer,<br>who does not have a<br>withholding obligation in<br>South Africa, apply for a<br>directive to provide relief<br>for my double tax situation<br>when my income exceeds<br>R1,25 million and I pay tax<br>on that excess in South<br>Africa as well as the<br>foreign country I work in? | The application for a directive can only be made if the employer<br>has an obligation to withhold PAYE. In the case of a foreign<br>employer who has no PAYE withholding obligation, there would<br>be no need to vary the basis on which PAYE is withheld as no<br>PAYE is withheld in the first place.<br>A section 6 <i>quat</i> credit will have to be claimed on assessment.   |  |
| 45.   | Can an employer<br>automatically apply a<br>potential foreign tax credit<br>through the South African<br>payroll?  | <b>No</b> , any possible relief should be applied for by the employer by way of a directive.  |  |
| 46.   | Are there any<br>circumstances under<br>which the directive will not<br>be considered?   | <ul> <li>An application for a directive will not be considered if the following circumstances are applicable to an employee:</li> <li>The employee is below the tax threshold</li> <li>The employee's remuneration is exempt (less than R1,25 million)</li> <li>The employee is not taxed in the foreign country</li> </ul>   |  |

| 47. | Which tax rate will apply to<br>the income that is in<br>excess of the R1,25<br>million exemption? | The income in excess of R1,25 million will be taxed at the normal tax rate up to 45%, whichever is applicable to the excess portion of the income.   |
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|     |  | For example, an individual (below 65 years of age) earns foreign<br>employment income of R1,5 million. Based on the tax rates<br>applicable to the 2020 year of assessment, the normal tax liability<br>is calculated below. |
|     |  | R1 250 000 will be exempt  |
|     |  | <ul> <li>R250 000 is subject to normal tax and calculated as follows:</li> </ul>   |
|     |  | = R37 062 + [(R250 000 - R205 900) × 26%]  |
|     |  | = R37 062 + R11 466  |
|     |  | = R48 528  |
|     |  | = less the primary rebate of R14 958<br>= <b>R33 570</b>   |