

Media Releases 2009

Tax Season 2009: SARS releases draft income tax forms for public comment

Pretoria 9 March 2009 – As part of our on-going consultation process to improve our service, SARS today released draft versions of all income tax forms for the 2009 Tax Season for comment and feedback from taxpayers and practitioners.

The forms have been updated and improved as part of the on-going work to simplify the income tax process and taking into account feedback received and lessons learned during Tax Season 2008.

Among the biggest changes are to:

The Income Tax Return Request form (ITRR):

The ITRR now includes the taxpayer's details from their previous income tax return. This means that most taxpayers whose tax affairs have not changed since last year will only have to sign the ITRR and submit it. Taxpayers registered for eFiling and those who chose to submit a return via a SARS branch do not have to request an income tax return. eFilers simply create their own return using a helpful wizard while those submitting via a branch simply arrive at their nearest branch with their supporting documents and SARS staff will create and complete a return for them on our system.

The Income Tax Return for Individuals (ITR12):

Improvements to the ITR12 include combining and simplifying the farming and business income sections, adding additional verification information under banking details for security purposes and introducing a new medical aid code (4040) to distinguish between contributions made via an employer (code 4005) and those contributions not reflected on an IRP5.

The IT12TR, IT12EI and IT14 contain only minor legislative amendments.

SARS would like to encourage practitioners and taxpayers to access the draft forms and comment via the SARS website at www.sars.gov.za by 4pm on Tuesday 17 March 2009 to help us ensure a smooth, simple and efficient Tax Season 2009. **[Click here for a direct link to the webpage with the forms and the online feedback functionality.](#)**

SARS would also like to remind taxpayers and practitioners of the timetable for Tax Season 2009 as announced by the Minister of Finance in February's Budget. The 60 day PAYE reconciliation period for employers will begin on 1 April and end on 30 May and the filing period for individual income tax returns will follow from 1 July. This year's deadlines for submission of income tax returns for individuals and trusts are 18 September for manual filers and 20 November for electronic submissions. A comprehensive timetable is published below.

SARS is hoping that Tax Season 2009 will build on the gains of the past two years which have shown an impressive switch to electronic submission of returns – and the resultant improvements in efficiency for taxpayers, practitioners and SARS. Over 86% of all returns submitted during Tax Season 2008 were done via either the SARS eFiling system or electronically at our branches. A more comprehensive analysis of the achievements of Tax Season 2008 is available on the SARS website under "Tax Season 2008".

To help you plan your year ahead, [click here for a summary of the timetable for Tax Season 2009.](#)

For further media enquiries, please contact Adrian Lackay – SARS Spokesperson – 012 – 422 4206 or 083 388 2580