

RLA (Registration licensing and Accreditation)

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Update

When a trader updates their RLA (Registration, Licensing, and Accreditation) details, SARS may issue additional requirements which may lead to shipment delays or possible rejections.

We have identified these additional requirements in SARS onboarding letters, and we believe it's important to inform our clients of anything that could impact their trading capabilities.

Key SARS Requirements:

- **Notification of Changes:** SARS must be informed of any changes within three (3) working days. Failure to comply may result in suspension or withdrawal of your registration.
- **Refunds and Drawbacks:** Any refund or drawback will be paid into the bank account provided for that purpose. SARS will not process refund payments if the bank account details are invalid. To confirm or update bank details, please visit a SARS Customs Branch Office.
- **Trading Relationships:** All trading relationships must be registered with SARS using the Relationship Management module within the RLA system. Failure to declare these relationships may result in the rejection of Customs Declarations or other required reports in terms of the Act.

As highlighted in our previous News Flash, the process for declaring trading relationships is as follows:

RLA Relationship Management

SARS now requires that all **importers, exporters, and removers** declare their trading relationships through the RLA system on e-Filing.

Once an importer, exporter, or remover links themselves to a clearing agent (or multiple agents), the nominated clearing agent will receive a notification on their e-Filing dashboard. The clearing agent must accept this relationship within **seven (7) working days**.

Our company details are available upon request should you need to initiate this linking process.

The **purpose of the Relationship Management (RM) functionality** is to provide traders with a secure online solution to manage their trading relationships. This allows SARS to oversee relationship management efficiently, without being directly involved in the ongoing administration of these connections.

This project is overseen by SARS Customs.

🔗 **For step-by-step guidance on the process, please refer to the official SARS guide:**

<https://www.sars.gov.za/customs-excise-guide-to-relationship-management/>

References :

Terrence Du Toit – Customs Affairs Manager.