



14/6/2_2026

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Exchange Control Circular No. 1/2026

Single discretionary allowance per calendar year

We refer to Exchange Control Circular No. 6/2021 wherein the Financial Surveillance Department of the South African Reserve Bank indicated that all applications by individuals in excess of the single discretionary allowance threshold require a Tax Compliance Status (TCS) from the South African Revenue Service (SARS).

Following discussions with various stakeholders, requests for additional single discretionary allowance, i.e. above the current R1 million, and where such requests are for bona fide current transfers, excluding capital transfers, would be considered by the Financial Surveillance Department upon verification of the bona fide nature and legitimacy of the transfer, without the requirement for a TCS from SARS.

It should be noted that additional transfers of a capital nature by individuals above the R1 million single discretionary allowance would still require a TCS from SARS in line with the provisions of section B.2(B) of the Currency and Exchanges Manual for Authorised Dealers (Authorised Dealer Manual).

All other requests for current transfers under the relevant subsections in section B.4 of the Authorised Dealer Manual, exceeding the specified single discretionary allowance, will also be subject to such verification and be approved upon submission of the bona fide nature and legitimacy of the transfer.

Authorised Dealers must ensure that the purpose for which the funds are used abroad is reported under the correct balance of payment category on the FinSurv Reporting System.

It follows, therefore, that certain amendments are required to section B.4 of the Authorised Dealer Manual, as follows:

Section B.4(A)(i)

The subsection has been amended as follows:

- (i) Residents (natural persons) who are 18 years and older may be permitted to avail of a single discretionary allowance within an overall limit of R1 million per individual per calendar year, which may be used for any legal purpose abroad (including for investment purposes as well as the sending of gift parcels in lieu of cash, excluding gold and jewellery). Any amount in respect of current transfers above the prescribed R1 million will be subject to verification by the Financial Surveillance Department and be approved upon submission of proof of the bona fide nature and legitimacy of the transfer. For additional transfers of a capital nature, the provisions of section B.2(B) of the Authorised Dealer Manual remain extant. Authorised Dealers must ensure that the purpose for which the funds are used abroad is reported under the correct category on the Reporting System.

Section B.4(B)(i)(f)

A new subsection has been added as follows:

- (f) Any amount in respect of current transfers above the prescribed limits will be subject to verification by the Financial Surveillance Department and be approved upon submission of the bona fide nature and legitimacy of the transfer.

The amended Authorised Dealer Manual may be accessed on the South African Reserve Bank website, www.resbank.co.za, by following the path: Home>What we do>Financial Surveillance>Financial Surveillance documents.

Head of Department: Financial Surveillance