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SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK
Financial Surveillance Department

14/6/2_2026

2026-

Draft Exchange Control Circular No. x/2026

Single discretionary allowance effected in terms of the requirements of the Currency and Exchanges Manual for Authorised Dealers

We refer to Exchange Control Circular No. 3/2026 and the announcement made by the Minister of Finance during the 2026 Budget Speech as outlined in Annexure E - Financial Sector Update of the Budget Review.

Currently, South African resident individuals over the age of 18 years may avail of a single discretionary allowance limit of R1 million per calendar year. Resident individuals who are under the age of 18 years may avail of a travel allowance not exceeding an amount of R200 000 per calendar year.

Accordingly, reference is made to the relevant subsections of the Currency and Exchanges Manual for Authorised Dealers (Authorised Dealer Manual), which limits for this single discretionary allowance of R1 million and R200 000 mentioned therein are increased to R2 million and R400 000, respectively, effective from the date of this Circular.

The following amendments to the Authorised Dealer Manual are outlined:

Section A.1

The definition of single discretionary allowance has been amended as follows:

Single discretionary allowance means the R2 million allowance available to residents (natural persons) 18 years and older per calendar year.

Section A.2(B)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

The table note relating to Category Two Authorised Dealer in foreign exchange with limited authority, has been amended as follows:

Category Two: Travel related transactions and certain prescribed single discretionary allowance of R2 million per applicant within the calendar year and offer money remittance services in partnership with external money transfer operators.

Section B.2(B)(i)(o)(cc)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

(cc) Central Securities Depository Participants may, in conjunction with an Authorised Dealer, allow the transfer of domestic listed securities abroad, up to a total market value of R2 million per calendar year in terms of the single discretionary allowance for private individuals, without the requirement to obtain a TCS PIN letter, provided a confirmation letter from the Financial Surveillance Department is viewed.

Section B.2(B)(iii)(a)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

(a) Private individuals are allowed to participate in offshore share incentive or share option schemes, provided that such participation is financed under the R10 million foreign capital allowance and/or the R2 million single discretionary allowance and/or from the proceeds of authorised foreign assets. In this regard, (i) above and section B.4(A)(i) of the Authorised Dealer Manual must be complied with.

Section B.2(B)(iv)(a)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (a) Private individuals are allowed to take up new shares in foreign companies that have accrued by way of rights on existing holdings of shares, provided that transfers in payment thereof are dealt with in terms of the R10 million foreign capital allowance and/or the R2 million single discretionary allowance. In this regard, (i) above and section B.4(A)(i) of the Authorised Dealer Manual must be complied with.

B.2(B)(J)(iv) and (v)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (iv) In addition to (iii) above, private individuals may in the same calendar year that they ceased to be residents transfer via an Authorised Dealer up to R2 million as a travel allowance, without the requirement to obtain a TCS PIN letter. This is a once-off dispensation and cannot be used in subsequent calendar years. A private individual who ceased to be a South African tax resident may utilise the aforementioned travel allowance for a final time (i.e., final allocation), in the calendar year where the private individual ceased South African tax residency. Any unused portion may not be carried over to a subsequent year.
- (v) In addition, household and personal effects up to an amount of R2 million per family unit may be exported under a SARS Customs Declaration form within the same calendar year that the individual ceases to be a resident for tax purposes provided such assets have been declared on the relevant forms. Transactions of this nature will be treated similar to cash. For amounts in excess of R2 million, the provisions of (vi) and (vii) below will apply.

Section B.4(A)(i)

The subsection has been amended to read 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 R2 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 R2 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(A)(x)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (x) Authorised Dealers may allow resident individuals to transfer monetary gifts and loans within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per applicant during a calendar year to non-resident individuals and to resident individuals who are overseas temporarily, excluding those residents who are abroad on holiday or business travel.

Section B.4(B)(ii)(a) and (b)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (a) Foreign currency may be made available within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year, to the eligible parties mentioned in (iv) below, provided that the requirements of (ix) below are complied with.
- (b) Residents (natural persons) who are under the age of 18 years may be accorded a travel allowance not exceeding an amount of R400 000 per calendar year.

Section B.4(B)(iv)(a)(aa) and (bb)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (aa) A travel allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year may be availed of by residents (natural persons) (excluding persons proceeding abroad to study) who are 18 years and older.
- (bb) Residents (natural persons) who are under the age of 18 years may avail of a travel allowance not exceeding an amount of R400 000 per calendar year.

Section B.4(B)(iv)(b)(aa)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (aa) Residents proceeding abroad temporarily for reasons other than business or holiday travel may be granted a travel allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year.

Section B.4(B)(iv)(c)(aa) and (bb)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (aa) Residents who are proceeding abroad for study purposes qualify for an allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million.
- (bb) Should a spouse accompany a student, an allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million may also be accorded to the spouse.

Section B.4(B)(iv)(d)(aa)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (aa) Prospective immigrants and immigrants who have applied for, but who have not been granted permanent residence in South Africa may be granted a travel

allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year.

Section B.4(B)(iv)(e)(aa)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (aa) Foreign nationals may be granted a travel allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year.

Section B.4(B)(v)(a),(b) and (e)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (a) Residents who are proceeding abroad for study purposes qualify for an allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million.
- (b) Should a spouse accompany a student, an allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year may also be accorded to the spouse. (c) Authorised Dealers may also authorise the export of any household and personal effects, including jewellery (but excluding motor vehicles), up to a value of R400 000 per student under cover of the prescribed SARS Customs Declaration.
- (e) Students under the age of 18 years also qualify for a study allowance to pay for costs associated with their studies abroad as well as a travel allowance of R400 000 per calendar year.

Section B.4(B)(vi)(d)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (d) In cases where a traveller who is in possession of a passenger ticket which has been purchased by a non-resident and issued abroad proceeds overseas, Authorised Dealers may issue foreign currency within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million.

Section B.4(B)(vi)(h)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (h) Residents embarking on coastal cruises in South African territorial waters and cruises to nowhere may be issued with foreign currency within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year, subject to the following conditions:

Section B.4(B)(vii)(b)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (b) Authorised Dealers may issue foreign currency within the single discretionary allowance of R2 million to such travellers.

Section B.4(B)(xii)(d)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (d) To the extent that foreign currency facilities previously granted have been repurchased, Authorised Dealers may subsequently furnish the equivalent Rand amount in foreign currency to that person for further travel in the same calendar year, together with any balance which may not have been previously availed of up to the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year

Section B.4(C)(ix)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (ix) Representatives of entities availing of an omnibus travel facility also qualify in their personal capacity for a travel allowance within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year.

Section B.4(F)(v)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (v) Authorised Dealers may accord foreign currency to the crew members and/or any passengers proceeding abroad temporarily within the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million.

Section B.4(G)(i)(a), (e) and (f)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (a) Residents temporarily abroad, may avail of the R2 million single discretionary allowance and the R10 million foreign capital allowance per calendar year without returning to South Africa.
- (e) Residents temporarily abroad may use their local debit and/or credit cards within the overall single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per applicant during a calendar year.
- (f) The annual limit of the R2 million single discretionary allowance and the R10 million foreign capital allowance dispensations may not be exceeded.

Section B.4(G)(ii)(a) and (b)

The subsections have been amended to read as follows:

- (a) Any household and personal effects, motor vehicles, caravans, trailers, motorcycles, stamps and coins (excluding coins that are legal tender in South Africa) per family unit or single person, where the insurance value does not exceed R2 million may be exported under cover of the prescribed SARS Customs Declaration.
- (b) Farming implements for which the insurance value does not exceed R2 million may be exported against the prescribed SARS Customs Declaration by persons proceeding into African countries for farming purposes.

Section B.8(C)(ii)(b)

The sub-section has been amended to read as follows:

- (b) Travel agents and tour operators must, at the time of selling a tour to an individual, in respect of advance payments, payments in full and/or subsequent payments, obtain a written declaration from the party concerned to the effect that such party is fully conversant with the conditions pertaining to the issue of a travel allowance and is aware that the cost of any land arrangements paid for locally and/or abroad is deductible from the travel allowance that forms part of the single discretionary allowance limit of R2 million per calendar year.

Section B.17(F)(ii)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (ii) It should be noted that where the authorised foreign asset is sold to a private individual with recourse to South Africa, the transfers in payment thereof must be dealt with in terms of the R10 million foreign capital allowance and/or the R2 million single discretionary allowance.

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