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Draft Exchange Control Circular No. x/2026

Bank notes – cash limit: Amendments to the Currency and Exchanges Manual for Authorised Dealers in foreign exchange with limited authority

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 including foreign nationals, non-residents and visitors are permitted to export up to R25 000 in notes when leaving South Africa. This allowance for residents and foreign nationals is in addition to the normal travel allowance.

Accordingly, with reference to Section B.1 of the Currency and Exchanges Manual for Authorised Dealers in foreign exchange with limited authority (ADLA Manual), the limit of R25 000 mentioned therein is increased to R100 000, effective from the date of this Circular.

The following amendments to the ADLA Manual are outlined:

Section B.1(A)(ii)(d)(aa)(1)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (1) CMA residents who travel overland to and from other CMA countries through a SADC country up an amount not exceeding R100 000 per calendar year.

This allocation does not form part of the permissible travel allowance for residents.

Section B.1(A)(ii)(f)(bb)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (bb) Foreign visitors (tourists) persons may export any foreign bank notes imported to South Africa on their arrival. In addition, no more than R100 000 may on departure be exported in Rand notes.

Section B.1(A)(ii)(h)

The subsection has been amended to read as follows:

- (h) Rand notes dispensation to travellers
 - (aa) In addition to the travel allowance, R100 000 in Rand notes per person may be taken when proceeding on visits outside the CMA, to meet travellers' immediate needs on return to South Africa.

The amended ADLA Manual can 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