

Your SARS Online Traveller Declaration

SARS CUSTOMS UPDATE FOR TRAVELLERS EFFECTIVE 1 JULY 2026

A quick guide before you fly

From 1 July 2026, everyone entering or leaving South Africa must complete an online traveller declaration before travelling. It is a short online form, and this guide covers who needs it, when to do it, and what to have ready. A few minutes now saves time and hassle at the border.

Who needs to complete it?

Almost everyone crossing the South African border by air, land, sea or rail, including:

- South African citizens and residents
- Foreign visitors and tourists
- Business travellers
- Children and infants

Travelling with a child, or with someone who cannot complete the form themselves? A parent, legal guardian, caretaker or an assisting person may complete it on their behalf.

When must it be done?

Timing matters. Submit the declaration within the window below, not earlier.

- **24 hours** – Maximum time before departure from the country being left. No earlier than this.
- **Final leg** – Connecting into South Africa? Complete it no more than 24 hours before the last flight straight to South Africa.

What you will need on hand

- ✓ Passport or travel document details
- ✓ Travel details (flights, dates, route)
- ✓ Contact details
- ✓ Details of anyone travelling with you, where relevant
- ✓ Business or company details, if travelling for work
- ✓ Details of any goods, currency or bearer negotiable instruments to declare

How to complete it

The declaration is completed online through the SA Traveller Management System, accessible via:

- **Desktop** – <https://tools.sars.gov.za/sarsonlinequery/traveller?declaration=done>
- **iOS** – SA Traveller Management System – App Store
- **Android** – SATMS – Google Play

Once submitted, SARS sends a confirmation by email. Keep this on your phone or print it, as Customs officials may ask to see it on arrival or departure.

Good to know

- Ordinary personal items for personal use do not need to be declared, unless they exceed the traveller allowance or otherwise require Customs attention.
- Goods, currency or other relevant items must be declared when required to do so.
- Only transiting through South Africa by air or sea and staying within the transit area? No declaration is required.
- Unable to submit online due to a system problem, no internet or another reasonable reason? Help may be available at the port.

Please take this seriously. Failing to submit a proper declaration, or making a false one, can lead to delays, penalties, detention or forfeiture of goods, or other Customs enforcement action. When in doubt, declare it.

Need a hand?

Your AXIS Aviation team is happy to help you understand what applies to your trip. This guide is a plain-language summary of the SARS Customs Online Traveller Declaration process, provided for general information. For the full rules and the official form, always refer to www.sars.gov.za/travellerdeclaration.