

TAX FILING SEASON DEADLINES

Just a reminder of the individual tax deadline cut off dates announced by SARS:

30th September 2011 for the submission of manual submissions for all tax payers

25th November 2011 for the electronic submissions of non provisional tax payers

31st January 2012 for the electronic submissions for tax returns for provisional tax payers.

INCOME TAX NUMBER REGISTRATION

SARS will repeat the bulk registration process that was undertaken after the August 2010 tax certificate submissions last year. This time, all tax certificates that were submitted in February 2011 and on which there is no income tax number stated, will be included in the bulk registration process for validation and those certificates that contain valid data for the fields that are essential for registration, will be registered.



PAYE SPECIFICATION FOR AUGUST 2011 TAX CERTIFICATES

The following changes have been effected by SARS:

- The minimum allowable length of a passport number has been reduced from 7 to 6 characters.
- The bank account number field has been changed from numeric (N17) to alphanumeric (AN17)

The reason for the change is that in the past, being only a numeric field, any leading zeroes that were a valid part of the bank account number were dropped, resulting in an invalid bank account number being registered on the SARS back end system.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The UIF Authorities have developed a new system called the Virtual Office which is based on the same Adobe platform as SARS eFiling. In summary:

- It creates a single integrated service portal through which unemployment claims can be reconciled with Employer's declarations.
- The web based solution will allow accredited persons to manage their UIF matters in a secure online environment.
- State of the art business processes will eliminate the paper trail and automate workflow.
- The system electronically connects the unemployed with their Employers, resulting in real time declarations and updates and speedy claim processing, through a centralized clearing database.
- UIF claims can be done electronically as well as the submission of required documentation.
- It is expected that the Virtual Office application will reduce the claim turnaround time from about 5 weeks to less than a day.

The roll out of the project has commenced with pilot testing at specified sites. More details to follow.



PAYE RECONCILIATIONS

SARS has advised that they will be tightening up EMP 501 reconciliations where the total taxes withheld from employees (as stated on the tax certificates) doesn't match the total taxes that are to be paid to and received by SARS (as stated on the EMPSA). The PAYE Recon Assistant System has been improved to assist Employers to reconcile these totals.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The provision in the Income Tax Act that grants taxpayers a deduction in respect of research & development activities carried out in South Africa (Section 11 D) is set to undergo fundamental changes if the Draft Taxation Laws Amendment Bill becomes Law.

LEARNERSHIP ALLOWANCE

Employers are entitled to learnership allowances when they enter into a contract of learnership with a learner before the 1st October 2011. This date has now been extended to 1st October 2016 and the completion allowance can still be claimed after this date, provided the learnership commenced before the 1st October 2016.



DATES TO REMEMBER

COIDA Return : March of every year.

SARS SDL: WSP : End of June every year.
Labour Department:

Equity Report : 1st October of every year for manual submissions. 15th January for online submissions.

SARS : Monthly EMP 201 : On or before 7th of each month except if the 7th falls on a weekend, then on Friday before the 7th. Annual Employer reconciliations : Last working day of May Mid Year Employer reconciliations : Last working day of October .

NEWS SPOTS

SARS EMP 701

A reminder to all Employers that the SARS EMP 701 - Reconciliation Declaration Adjustment form - will still be used to make any changes to prior transaction years.

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