

Single Discretionary Allowance (“SDA”)

Residents who are natural persons aged 18 years or older may be permitted to make use of a single discretionary allowance (SDA) within an overall limit of R1 million per individual per calendar year, which may be for any legal purposes abroad, without having to obtain an Approval for International Transfer (AIT) on the SARS website.

Individual South African residents who can make use of the SDA include SA residents who are temporarily abroad (i.e. any resident who has travelled from the Republic to any country outside the Common Monetary Area (“CMA”, meaning South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and eSwatini), with no intention of taking up permanent residence in that country).

Calendar year means a period from 1st January to 31st December.

What makes up your SDA limit?

The SDA allowance limit may be utilised for the following:

- Monetary gifts and loans.* (Excluding gold and jewellery gifts from South Africa)
- Payment for travel allowances.*
- Investments*
- Any other legal payment made in terms of the SDA dispensation.
- Card expenditure by cardholders who are offshore (outside the CMA).
- Purchase of foreign currency on the Shyft application (debit and credit card expenditure abroad is deductible from the SDA allowance).
- Purchase of foreign currency notes.
- Travel expenses in or to a country outside of the CMA (e.g. accommodation and Uber).
- Investments made in terms of the SDA dispensation into foreign-currency accounts in local banks.
- The above are subject to a limit of ZAR 1 000 000 per calendar year.*

Important to note

- Where a travel allowance is granted for a particular calendar year, for example in 2024, and the journey extends into the next calendar year (2025), the client may also avail of the 2025 travel allowance in the 2025 portion of the trip.
- Children under the age of 18 may be accorded a R200 000 travel allowance (e.g. for the purchase of foreign currency notes) and cannot make use of the SDA limit.
- The SDA limit cannot be carried over to the next calendar year.
- Unutilised foreign currency allowed for travel purposes must be offered for resale to authorised dealers within 30 days from the traveller’s return to South Africa.
- SA residents are not permitted to purchase foreign currency more than 60 days before departure.
- Foreign nationals may be granted a travel allowance within the SDA limit of R1 million per calendar year.
- Individuals ceasing to be South African residents for tax purposes qualify for an allowance of up to R1 000 000 during the calendar year in which they ceased to be South African residents.

What are your responsibilities?

- You are responsible for ensuring that you remain within the R1 million per annum SDA limit across different channels and products that impact the SDA limit, including with regard to travel expenditure.
- You are responsible for ensuring that you remain within the R1 million per annum SDA limit in respect of different authorised dealers (Banks).
- You are responsible for acquainting yourself with the declaration contained in the integrated BoP form and/or on the Mobile Banking application and/or the Shyft application.

Further information on the SDA can be accessed through [The Currency and Exchanges guidelines for individuals.](#)

If the resident contravenes any limits and/or transacts outside of the parameters outlined above, the Financial Surveillance Department of the SA Reserve Bank may institute administrative actions against the resident in terms of the provisions of the Exchange Control Regulations.

You may contact your relationship manager or banker for more information.