

**Customs & Excise:
Product and Process**

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External Stakeholders

Dear Valued Taxpayer

UPDATE ON AfCFTA TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) intended to host technical workshops regarding the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) for traders between March and June 2021. The purpose of these workshops was to look at the technical content of the Agreement, with the aim of assisting traders to comply with customs and excise requirements.

Regrettably, our goal of hosting the technical workshops between March and June 2021 will not be met due to the revised Work Programme that has recently been issued by the AfCFTA Secretariat, as set out below:

- The fourth meeting of the Sub-Committee Trade Facilitation, Customs and Transit will be held from 15 to 17 March 2021. The purpose of this meeting is to finalise customs documentations and re-confirm readiness for trading.
- The first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Rules of Origin will be held from 29 March to 2 April 2021. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue negotiations on outstanding issues on Rules of Origin.
- The third meeting of the Directors-General/Heads of Customs Authorities will be held from 31 May to 01 June 2021 to consider all documents for trading.
- The fifth meeting of the Council of Ministers will be held from 07 – 08 June 2021 to approve final documents for submission to Extraordinary Summit.
- The date for the Extraordinary Summit is not known yet for implementation. After implementation, each country should amend their Customs and Excise Acts to domesticate the tariff offers, trading documents and so forth.

As a result, the technical workshops can be held only after legislative amendments have been made locally.

Regards,

Coffet Lebepe

Lead: C&E Product and Process