



Navigating SARS's RLA system: What it means for metal recyclers

The South African Revenue Service (SARS) continues to require all customs clients including metal recyclers to ensure their registration details are correctly updated on the RLA (Registration, Licensing and Accreditation) system. This ongoing process is part of SARS's effort to improve how customs records are managed and maintained.

If you are wondering what a customs code is, it is a unique identifier issued by SARS to businesses or individuals who import, export, or otherwise interact with the customs system. For metal recyclers, this code is essential as it allows you to legally move scrap metal across borders, claim VAT refunds, and comply with customs regulations. Without an active and updated customs code, your business could face delays or restrictions in trade.

Metal Recyclers Association of South Africa (MRA) members are encouraged to log into SARS eFiling, access the RLA dashboard, and submit a new application to confirm or update their existing customs registration. If your customs code is not visible, SARS provides a merge process to link it to your profile.

Non-compliance may result in suspension or cancellation of your customs registration or license, so MRA strongly encourages members to complete the update as soon as possible to avoid disruptions.

"This update is more than just a compliance exercise; it is a chance for our industry to embrace efficiency and transparency. The MRA is committed to helping recyclers navigate this transition smoothly," says **Quintin Starkey**, MRA Committee Member.

For assistance, members can contact SARS directly at RLARegistrations@sars.gov.za or reach out to the MRA for guidance.