

In this NewsFlash

- **Tips & Tricks for Employer Filing Season 2021**
- **Important information regarding COIDA**
- **Rate of Interest**
- **TERS – March claim deadline**

Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of our NewsFlash for 2021.

In this edition Anton Krynauw from Krycom shares some SARS e@syFile tips & tricks for a smooth Employer Filing Season.

Furthermore, there are a few legislative reminders, particularly regarding COIDA, which we have included.



Tips & Tricks for Employer Filing Season 2021

This section's content is courtesy of Anton Krynauw from Krycom.

As you probably know by now, Employer Filing Season **opens on 1 April 2021 and closes on 31 May 2021**. No extensions will be granted and this year SARS has indicated that they will levy a **penalty of 1%** of the annual PAYE total for any late submissions.

Please take note of the tips & tricks below to ensure a smoother Employer Filing Season:

- Ensure that you have a working backup of your current SARS e@syFile database/s as soon as possible before the filing season opens.
- We are anticipating a new version of SARS e@syFile. Please do not click on the "Update" button when notified that there is a new update. Go to www.sarsefiling.co.za and click on "Employer e@syFile" and Download and Save the software. Install the software from the saved location.
- Ensure that your Java automatic update has been disabled and do not update Java when prompted. SARS e@syFile has an option where it prompts you to select to update and install the Java version supplied by SARS e@syFile. Please select and install this Java version.
- Always use ADMIN as your login. It is the default login that is created when you first setup SARS e@syFile. Any other logins will create issues with resubmissions and corrections.
- Always ensure that the date on the first page of the EMP 501 recon is changed to the current date and do not use the prepopulated date.
- Kindly download the remote desktop access software Anydesk as soon as possible to facilitate access to your PC by the Krycom technical staff in the event of issues.

The above tips & tricks seek to address the most commonly found issues that occur at the beginning of every filing season, however, the issues are not always limited to only the above.

Should you encounter any issues, our team is ready and available to assist you. If you are an Associate of Nowicki & Associates you can log a support ticket using the Associate Dashboard and you will be assisted as quickly as possible to ensure a smooth and effortless Employer Filing season.

Important information regarding COIDA

Apart from the recent announcement from COIDA regarding the maximum earnings amount being increased to **R 506 473 per annum** (up from R 484 200 per annum) please be advised of the following:

- The **revised Return of Earnings Form (W.As.8)** to be used for the **assessment period 1 March 2021 to 28 Feb 2022**.
- This new form comes into effect immediately.
- The **Gazette 44302** that deals with this can be found here.
<http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Pages/Published-Separate-Gazettes.aspx>
- The return **must be submitted by 31 May 2021**. The portal for submitting the return will be opened as of 1 April 2021 and will be available until 31 May 2021. Employers are encouraged to use the online service.

Rate of Interest

At a meeting held by the Reserve Bank on the 25th of March, it was decided to keep the current interest rate “as is”. This means:

- The Prime Rate is – **7.00%**.
- The Repo Rate is – **3.50%**.
- The SARS Rate of Interest – **4.50%**. This is the rate to be used when calculating the Fringe Benefit value of a low or a zero interest loan provided by an Employer to an Employee.

UIF TERS – Application Extension

- Following the publishing of the official Gazette on the 4th March 2021 regarding the TERS extension being issued, the UIF Fund will follow two payment iterations for the extension period. The first being from **16 October to 31 December 2020**, and the second from **1 January to 15 March 2021**.
- UIF has already opened the online application system to start processing claims for the first payment iteration. Guidelines on the application processes are available on:
 - the Department of Employment and Labour website at
 - (<https://uifecc.labour.gov.za/covid19/>)
 - COVID-19 TERS portal at
 - (<https://uifecc.labour.gov.za>)

- The payment status of TERS claims can be accessed at
<https://uifecclabour.gov.za/covid19/paymentStatusJsp>

- Don't forget that this round of benefits is **only applicable to certain industry sectors** i.e. in sectors hardest hit by lockdown such as tourism, liquor, hospitality, conferencing events and other business activities still affected in related value chains.
- The benefit will also cover vulnerable employees who have comorbidities, or who are 60 years and older and cannot be safely accommodated at work, and those who must isolate or quarantine to prevent infections, regardless of the sector they work in.

UIF – Clearance Certificates

Be advised that there are still many issues regarding obtaining a UIF Clearance Certificate, which is causing major headaches for companies, particularly those that are needing this certificate for tender submission purposes:

- The UIF officials are aware of all the issues.
- They are looking into these issues in an attempt to find some resolution where they can.
- The PAGSA has put forward a number of suggestions which will resolve some of the issues in the short term. No feedback has been received at the time of writing this NewsFlash.