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Crypto-Assets: Adoption of OECD Reporting Framework and revised CRS from 2026

On 15 September 2025, National Treasury/SARS released draft regulations to implement the OECD Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (**CARF**) and to revise South Africa's Common Reporting Standard (**CRS**) rules. Both sets of regulations are proposed to take effect 1 March 2026.

What's changing

1. New CARF regime for crypto-asset reporting

- South Africa will adopt the OECD CARF, enabling automatic exchange of tax-relevant information on crypto-assets with partner jurisdictions.
- **Who must report:** "Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers" (CASPs) with a South African nexus must complete CARF reporting and due diligence for in-scope users/transactions.
- **What must be reported:** CASPs must report user and transaction data for Relevant Transactions, including amounts paid/received and aggregated values by category, with fair market values determined and reported in South African Rand and consistent valuation methods.
- **Reporting period and format:** The first reporting period runs 1 March 2026 – 28/29 February 2027, with annual periods thereafter. SARS will prescribe the return/filing notice and format.
- **Compliance levers:** Anti-avoidance rules apply, and CASPs must suspend (and ultimately terminate/decline) services or transactions if required self-certifications are not received within 90 days.

2. Revised CRS regulations

The CRS was amended to bring certain electronic money products and Central Bank Digital Currencies into scope, and to cover indirect investments in Crypto-Assets through derivatives and investment vehicles. The revised CRS will commence 1 March 2026, with updated due-diligence, effective implementation, and mandatory disclosure rule clarifications.

Our view of the potential impact

For taxpayers (individuals & entities)

- Maintain detailed crypto transaction records.
- Review whether your crypto activity is on revenue or capital account and ensure the appropriate inclusion in your South African income tax returns for 2026/27 onwards.

- Be prepared to complete tax residency/TIN self-certifications promptly with CASPs.

For CASPs operating in (or from) South Africa

- Confirm if you are a Reporting CARP under the South African nexus rules.
- Ensure data capture procedures are aligned to CARF requirements.
- Ensure procedures are in place to detect and prevent structures intended to circumvent CARF obligations.

This is a significant step in normalising crypto transparency alongside mainstream financial accounts. With the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement infrastructure in place for both CARF and CRS, SARS will likely receive structured cross-border crypto data from 2026/27. Taxpayers should expect increased matching, queries, and assessments where returns do not reconcile to third-party reports.

For more information and assistance, please contact:



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