

Income Tax (Singapore — South Africa) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement) Order 2016

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Enacting Formula

THE SCHEDULE Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income

No. S 641

**INCOME TAX ACT
(CHAPTER 134)**

**INCOME TAX
(SINGAPORE — SOUTH AFRICA)
(AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT)
ORDER 2016**

WHEREAS it is provided by section 49 of the Income Tax Act that if the Minister by order declares that arrangements specified in the order have been made with the government of any country outside Singapore with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to tax under the Act and any tax of a similar character imposed by the laws of that country, and that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect, the arrangements shall have effect in relation to tax under the Act notwithstanding anything in any written law:

AND WHEREAS by an Agreement dated 30 November 2015, between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, arrangements were made, amongst other things, for the avoidance of double

taxation:

AND WHEREAS by a Protocol dated 30 November 2015, between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the arrangements set out in the said Agreement were modified as prescribed in the said Protocol:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared by the Minister for Finance —

- (a) that the arrangements specified in the Schedule to this Order have been made with the Government of the Republic of South Africa; and
- (b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect notwithstanding anything in any written law.

THE SCHEDULE

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FOR

THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

AND

THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of South Africa desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,

HAVE agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

PERSONS COVERED

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

ARTICLE 2

TAXES COVERED

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property.

3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:

(a) in Singapore:

— the income tax

(hereinafter referred to as “Singapore tax”); and

(b) in South Africa:

(i) the normal tax;

(ii) the dividends tax;

(iii) the withholding tax on interest;

(iv) the withholding tax on royalties; and

(v) the tax on foreign entertainers and sportspersons

(hereinafter referred to as “South African tax”).

4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their respective taxation laws.

ARTICLE 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) the term “Singapore” means the Republic of Singapore and, when used in a geographical sense, includes its land territory, internal waters and territorial sea, as well as any maritime area situated beyond the territorial sea which has been or might in the future be designated under its national law, in accordance with international law, as an area within which

Singapore may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction with regards to the sea, the sea-bed, the subsoil and the natural resources;

- (b) the term “South Africa” means the Republic of South Africa and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the territorial sea thereof as well as any area outside the territorial sea, including the continental shelf, which has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of South Africa and in accordance with international law, as an area within which South Africa may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction;
- (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean Singapore or South Africa, as the context requires;
- (d) the term “business” includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
- (e) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (f) the term “competent authority” means:
 - (i) in Singapore, the Minister for Finance or an authorised representative of the Minister; and
 - (ii) in South Africa, the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service or an authorised representative of the Commissioner;
- (g) the term “enterprise” applies to the carrying on of any business;
- (h) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (i) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
- (j) the term “national”, in relation to a Contracting State, means:
 - (i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of that Contracting State; and
 - (ii) any legal person or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in that Contracting State; and
- (k) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons that is treated as an entity for tax purposes.

2. For the purposes of Articles 10, 11 and 12, a trustee subject to tax in a Contracting State in respect of dividends, interest or royalties shall be deemed to be the beneficial owner of that interest or those dividends or royalties.

3. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time

under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

ARTICLE 4

RESIDENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of that person’s domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision, local authority or statutory body thereof.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then that individual’s status shall be determined as follows:

- (a) the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which a permanent home is available to the individual; if a permanent home is available to the individual in both States, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which the individual’s personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the State in which the centre of vital interests is situated cannot be determined, or if the individual has not a permanent home available in either State, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which the individual has an habitual abode;
- (c) if the individual has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, the individual shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which the individual is a national; and
- (d) in any other case, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement endeavour to settle the question and determine the mode of application of the Agreement to such person. In the absence of such agreement such person shall be considered to be outside the scope of the Agreement except for the provisions of Article 24.

ARTICLE 5

PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;