14 August 2008

Attention: Mr Thinus Marx
South African Revenue Service
Private Bag X923
PRETORIA
0001

By e-mail: tmarx@sars.gov.za

Dear Sirs

PROVISIONAL TAX PAYMENTS: PERIOD 1/ 2008

SAICA welcomes any changes that will benefit taxpayers in general.

SARS this year launched significant improvements to the way in which employers file returns. This resulted in employer submission dates as follows:

1 July 2008    New PAYE reconciliation process goes live
               (Release of the new software and new EMP 501 manual and electronic forms)

29 August    Deadline for PAYE submissions

These submission dates coincide with the due date for provisional tax returns / payments (Period 1/2009 due 31 August 2008).

It is further noted that training on the new employer filing offered by SARS is scheduled up to and including 29 August 2008.

With the introduction of the improvements to the employer filing, employers have requested the assistance of tax practitioners in order to achieve the set deadlines. Many practitioners including practitioners within small to larger audit firms are therefore faced with the added tasks of assisting employers with employer filing.

In addition the 1st 2009 provisional tax returns were posted later than usual this year. In some instances returns are still being received at this stage. Due to the timelines set out above for employer filing, IRP5’s and IT3(a) are still outstanding at this stage which precludes tax practitioners from finalising the provisional taxes due by taxpayers.
Given the above we respectfully request that SARS considers not imposing interest on delayed 3rd 2008 provisional tax payments for two months subsequent to the due date being 30 September 2008.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Yours faithfully

M Hassan CA(SA)
PROJECT DIRECTOR: TAX
The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants