

COVID-19 RELATED ISSUANCES BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

BOC Issuance	Subject	Salient Points
<p>Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 20-01 dated April 2, 2020</p> <p>Issued by the Bureau of Customs, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Finance, and Philippine Ports Authority</p>	<p>Adoption of Processes for the Expedited Release of Refrigerated Containers and Dry Vans during the ECQ.</p>	<p>Bureau of Customs (BOC) should prioritize the processing of arriving cargoes, particularly foods, medicine, medical and basic necessities.</p> <p>Lodgment of and online filing of goods declaration by importers /consignees should be two days from the date of discharge.</p> <p>BOC will issue the final assessment on the goods thereby declared no later than 24 hours from the date of online filing of the goods declaration.</p> <p>Imports/consignees should pay, preferably online, duties, taxes, and other charges within 24 hours from date of issuance of the final assessment by BOC.</p> <p>Importers/consignees will have 24 hours to claim the goods from date of payment, or the goods will be declared abandoned.</p> <p>BOC should also accept filing of provisional goods declaration in accordance with the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and as implemented by Customs Memorandum Order No. 07-2020 (guidelines for granting tax and duty exemption on imported medical supplies and equipment needed to address the outbreak of the coronavirus disease in the Philippines).</p> <p>BOC should also relax its selectivity process for food, medicine, medical and other basic necessities, and should adopt the “green lane” process flow for importers/consignees jointly identified with the DTI Bureau of Import Services (BIS), based on a set of criteria.</p> <p>These identified importers/consignees will be subject to post-entry audit.</p>
<p>Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01 dated April 2, 2020, series of 2020</p> <p>Issued by the BOC, Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), and Food and Drugs Administration (FDA)</p>	<p>Creation of Bayanihan One Stop Shop (BOSS) for securing License to Operate (LTO) to import Covid-19 critical commodities for commercial distribution</p>	<p>The BOSS is a single window and concierge for the BOC and FDA. The BOSS shall operate under the following process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A single window to accept all online applications for importation of Covid-19 critical commodities. 2. Interconnection of systems and portals of the concerned agencies: BOC, ARTA, and FDA’s websites are now linked to each other. A BOSS online platforms composed of FDA, BOC, SEC, DTI, CDA, GCG, and ARTA is likewise created.

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. All transactions with FDA and BOC shall be done online. 4. All FDA laws, rules, and regulations governing post-importation of Covid-19 critical commodities shall be complied with. 5. When national public health emergency has been lifted, all FDA rules and regulation on registration of health products, post-LTO inspection and post market surveillance shall apply to the establishments given provisional LTO. 6. ARTA is designated to act as general coordinator for processing and exchange of information between and across the agencies concerned. 7. Daily and weekly reports facilitated through BOSS are to be submitted to IATF for monitoring and validation.
<p>Customs Administrative Order (CAO) No. 7-2020 dated March 30, 2020</p>	<p>Tax and duty exempt Importations under Section 4 (O) of “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”</p> <p>Counterpart is BIR RR RMO 10-2020, which exempts importers of PPE’s and medical emergency supplies from securing ATRIG.</p> <p>RR 6-2020 exempts critical and needed healthcare equipment or supplies from VAT and excise tax on importation.</p>	<p>The importation of health equipment and supplies deemed critical or needed to carry out the objectives of the Act and address the COVID-19 public health emergency shall be exempt from duties, taxes and fees, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) b. Laboratory Equipment c. Medical Equipment and devices d. Support and maintenance for laboratory and medical equipment e. Surgical equipment and supplies f. Medical supplies, tools and consumables g. COVID-19 Testing Kits h. Others as may be identified by the DOH <p>For Commercial Purposes – exempted from Certificate of Product Notification (CPN) or Certification of Product Registration (CPR) issued by FDA prior to release, provided that they present a copy of their License to Operate (LTO) and application of product of notification.</p> <p>Those importing ventilators, respirators and accessories need to present only their LTO</p> <p>For donations – automatically cleared when certified by regulatory agencies or accredited 3rd party organizations I the originating countries. No FDS clearance is required prior to release.</p> <p>Qualified importations under PGD are subject to the submission of TEI from DOF after April 12, 2020 or upon lifting of the declaration of ECQ.</p>

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Office of the Commissioner (Ocom) Memo 62-2020 dated March 25, 2020	Guidelines for the Issuance of Accreditation Pass to BOC Stakeholders	<p>The application for an Accreditation Pass to BOC’s Accredited Importers, Licensed Custom Brokers, Declarants, or any of their authorized representatives shall be done through the “Customer Care Portal System”, an online facility ticket system of the BOC.</p> <p>If the application is approved, the one-time Accreditation Pass shall be sent via electronic email in the indicated email address of the applicant.</p>
Ocom Memo 61-2020 dated March 24, 2020	Online Filing of Goods Declaration	<p>The order shall cover the interim implementation of the Online Filing of Goods Declaration in all Collection Districts involving goods declaration processed at the Formal Entry Division, Informal Entry Division or equivalent units.</p>
Ocom Memo 60-2020 dated March 23, 2020	Suspension of the 7-day Period to Lodge Goods Declaration During the Enhanced Community Quarantine	<p>The prescribed period of 7 days to lodge goods declaration is hereby suspended for the duration of the emergency.</p> <p>At any time during the declaration of the ECQ, lodgement and filing of goods declaration may be made within 15 days from the date of the discharge of last package. The period to file goods declaration may be extended to another 15 days on valid grounds.</p> <p>This Order covers shipments with date of discharge of last package starting March 10, 2020.</p>
Ocom Memo 58-2020 dated March 24, 2020	Temporary Closure of the Manila International Container Port (MICP) Building	<p>The Manila International Container Port (MICP) Building shall be placed under temporary closure immediately until further notice.</p> <p>All port operations of MICP which remain unaffected by the temporary closure shall continue to function such as but not limited to the boarding of vessel, examination of goods at the designated examination area, x-ray inspection and transfer of goods to the CY/CFS.</p> <p>All other transactions such as processing of goods declaration which may be affected by the temporary closure of the MICP Building shall be temporarily be processed through the ancillary support of the Port of Manila (POM) and utilization of online facilities.</p> <p>Processing of goods and other necessary functions which may require submission of hard copies or physical presence of the stakeholder in the MCIP Building shall be processed by the POM through the Custom Care Center.</p>
Ocom Memo 57-2020 dated March 19, 2020	Extension of Validity of Accreditation of Stakeholders during	<p>All Customs accreditation of BOC Stakeholders, such as but not limited to importers, custom brokers, Super Green Lane importers, Customs Bonded Warehouses, Customs Facilities and</p>

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	the Enhanced Community Quarantine	Warehouses, or any other third party transacting and accredited by the Bureau, that will expire during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) shall remain valid. All stakeholders with expired accreditation during the said period will be given 1 month from the lifting of the ECQ to submit then necessary application.
Ocom Memo 54-2020 dated March 18, 2020	Conduct of hearings in all Forfeiture Proceedings under Custom Memorandum Order No, 4-2018 (A) in light of Covid-19 Travel Restrictions	The conduct of actual hearings is temporarily suspended. The Hearing Officer shall not require the presence of the PLD Government Lawyer. Instead, the Hearing Officer shall require the claimant to file its position paper with a longer period of 7 working days from receipt of the notice to file the same. Unless a Reply or Rejoinder is filed by the parties, the case shall be submitted for resolution by the Hearing Officer within the prescribed period upon receipt of these pleadings. All pleadings to be filed by the PLD Government prosecutor shall be forwarded to the Acting Chief, PLD for review.
Ocom Memo 53-2020 dated March 17, 2020	Provisional Goods Declaration for Relief Consignment under a State of Calamity	Goods declaration involving donations for relief consignment may be provisionally declared, provided that: (a) The done is the national government; (b) The consignee shall issue an undertaking to (b.1) submit the lacking documents within 45 days from release of shipment; and (b.2) to use and distribute the goods upon clearance from the Food Drug Administration or other regulatory agencies.
Customs Memorandum Order No. 07-2020 dated March 16, 2020	Interim Procedure on Provisional Goods Declaration (PGD)	Lodgment of PGD shall be allowed in the following instances: a. No regulatory permit, clearance or license, provided that importer has filed his application prior to departure of the goods from the country of origin, prior to or after arrival of the goods in the Philippines, depending on the policy of the concerned regulatory agency. b. Tax Exemption Indorsement (TEI) from the DOF, or Tax Exempt Certificate (TEC) or ATRIG from the BIR has not yet been issued, provided an application has already been filed at the time of lodgment.

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		Any other situation where the declarant lacks certain information or document to complete the goods declaration, provided it is not due to the declarant's negligence or fault and provided further that the mandatory information and documents are present.
Customs Memorandum Order 05-2020 dated February 5, 2020	Implementing Department of Health (DOH) Department Circular No 2020-0034 re Guidelines at All Seaports for Prevention and Spread of Novel Corona Virus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD)	Boarding formalities by the Customs Operations Officer on vessels shall be made after the conduct of Quarantine Boarding formalities and issuance of the Free Pratique by Quarantine officials. Customs officers involved in the conduct of boarding formalities must ensure that they are equipped with safety equipment prescribed by the Quarantine Medical Officer