

Philippines update: All imported goods to be included in the LOI

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) released a memorandum on 12 March 2018, with immediate effect, requiring all importers to submit their List of Importables (LOI) as approved by the Account Management Office (AMO).

Unlike previously, when importers were able import goods were not in their LOI, going forward all goods declared on Import Declarations will need to be counter-checked against the LOI before they can be cleared from a customs area. Moreover, only goods listed in the LOI can be released to consignees. Any goods that are not in the LOI cannot be cleared until approval from the AMO is obtained.

Importers that clear goods that are not on the LOI from a customs area will be reported to the AMO and subject to sanctions. The officials that processed such clearances will be subject to disciplinary action.

Following a letter from the Chamber of Customs Brokers to the Commissioner of the BOC conveying that this stricter requirement would affect the transactions of all legitimate importers and create unnecessary red tape, the implementation of the memorandum was deferred for one month on 16 April.

There are no clear guidelines on enforcement so far, but the BOC intends to proceed after the deferment period ends. For the meantime, we would suggest all importers to proactively review and update their LOIs to avoid future inconvenience.

Let's talk

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact:

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