

International Trade Compliance Note Philippines – “List of Importables”

April, 2018

The Philippines Bureau of Customs (BOC) has recently circulated a Memorandum with the subject matter “Submission and Counter-Checking of the List of Importables”. A copy is attached for reference.

The Customs Memorandum states that all importers are to submit a list of the goods that are proposed to be imported into the Philippines to the Accounts Management Office (“AMO”) within the BOC for approval prior to their importation. Only commodities or items that have been so approved can subsequently be imported into PH.

The memorandum is not retrospective and we have been advised that, in practice, the BOC is providing everyone with 2 weeks notice to submit that list. Any subsequent additions to the approved list would need to be the subject of a separate submission to, and approval by, the AMO.

Unfortunately, there is currently a lack of detailed information about the implementation and ongoing administration of this measure. For example, there are no guidelines or other details about what format should be adopted for the “List of Importables”, how the review process will be undertaken, the timing of approvals, nor are there any details about what happens if an approval is denied.

Our agent in the Philippines is continuing to seek guidelines from the BOC and will advise clients as additional information becomes available. As far as possible IOR Global and its agent will seek to leverage information that is already being utilised for shipments to the Philippines (for example, the shipping invoice) to keep any changes to current IOR/EOR processes to a minimum.

This measure has received considerable criticism from importer and logistics groups in the Philippines with requests to at least have its implementation deferred if not removed altogether. However, pending any further developments in that respect, IOR Global is advising clients to be prepared to provide it with lists of relevant goods and their tariff classification for any proposed shipments to the Philippines.

For further clarification or assistance, please contact our Regional Manager, APAC in the first instance at zan.chan@iorglobal.com

IOR Global

www.iorglobal.com

59 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 8 #33-08 Centro, Singapore 567752
Office: +65 6735 5320