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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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28 November 2023

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 212 - 2023

TO : ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
ALL DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS
ALL DIRECTORS AND DIVISION CHIEFS
ALL DISTRICT AND SUB-PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : FULL ISSUANCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ASEAN TRADE
IN GOODS AGREEMENT (ATIGA) ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATE
OF ORIGIN (CO) FORM D BY DECEMBER 2023

Attached for your reference is the letter dated 12 October 2023 from Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual, Department of Trade and Industry, on the abovementioned subject, vis-à-vis Indonesia's Priority Economic Deliverable under its ASEAN 2023 Chairmanship.

In view thereof, ASEAN Member States may only issue and accept the e-Form D to claim/grant ATIGA tariff preference starting December 2023. In case of system downtime in the National Single Window, the paper-based CO Form D may be used.

For records purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.

For guidance and information.



BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner

[Signature]
NOV 28 2023





12 October 2023

BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner
Bureau of Customs
GF OCOM Building
Muelle de San Francisco
Port Area, Metro Manila

Subject: Full Issuance and Acceptance of ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement Electronic Certificate of Origin Form D as one of Indonesia's Priority Economic Deliverable under its ASEAN 2023 Chairmanship

Dear Commissioner Rubio,

This is with reference to Indonesia's Priority Economic Deliverable (PED) under its ASEAN 2023 Chairmanship, specifically the full issuance and acceptance of ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) Electronic Certificate of Origin Form D (e-Form D) by 2023.

Under this PED, ASEAN Member States (AMS) may only issue and accept e-Form D to claim/grant ATIGA tariff preference. This means that paper-based Certificates of Origin (CO) Form D may only be used in case of system downtime in the National Single Window (NSW) or the ASEAN Single Window (ASW). As of August 2023, six AMS (i.e., Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Singapore) have yet to implement the PED.

As this was an outstanding issue for the country, the Bureau of International Trade Relations convened a Small Group Meeting comprised of representatives from the Department of Finance and Bureau of Customs – Management Information Systems and Technology Group (BOC-MISTG)¹ on 14 September 2023 to discuss the status of the BOC's preparations to implement this PED. In the meeting, BOC representatives confirmed that the Philippines is ready to fully issue and accept e-Form D by December 2023 but that it would be implemented using the back-up system being developed by the BOC instead of the TradeNet. Following this confirmation, all agencies present agreed on the importance of informing Philippine businesses, especially those using the ATIGA, that they must shift to using either the e-Form D or the ASEAN-wide Self-certification Scheme because paper-based CO Form D will only be accepted by AMS when there is system downtime in the NSW or ASW. Attached for reference are the highlights of the meeting (Annex A).

¹ Director Angelica Sarmiento and Mr. John Robert Tan for DOF; Director Jonathan Soriano for BOC.

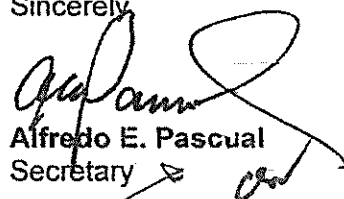
In this regard, we request the BOC to promptly issue a memorandum circular informing stakeholders and BOC frontliners of this change in preparation for the implementation of this new requirement by December 2023.

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of this information to Philippine exporters and importers since majority of them still use the paper-based CO Form D. The Department looks to avoid a situation next year where the paper-based CO Form D will not be recognized by ASEAN Member States and claims for preferential treatment will be rejected.

On our end, we will inform exporters about this initiative through our Export Marketing Bureau. Where possible, we welcome the conduct of joint activities between the DTI and BOC to ensure that all Philippine businesses are ready for the implementation of this change in procedure.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,


Alfredo E. Pascual
Secretary

Copy: Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, Department of Finance

Enclosed: a/s

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