



Legal Watch

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 115-2026



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SUMMARY

The Bureau of Customs issued CMC No. 115-2026 to implement the ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (AKFTA) Product Specific Rules (PSR) in Harmonized System (HS) 2022, as endorsed by the AKFTA Implementing Committee and Bureau of International Trade Relations, Department of Trade and Industry. Notably, this Circular mandated the use of the AKFTA PSR HS 2022 in the issuance of Certificated of Origin Form AK beginning 01 May 2026.

ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Clients trading goods between ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea must immediately audit their supply chain documentation to ensure that any Certificate of Origin (Form AK) applied for or processed on or after 01 May 2026 strictly complies with the transposed AKFTA PSR HS 2022 rules.

Importers expecting preferential tariff rates must coordinate with their foreign suppliers to ensure that incoming Form AK certificates explicitly reflect the correct HS 2022 designations and compliant origin criteria. Using outdated HS 2017 rules may result in the immediate denial of preferential trade privileges, delays at the border, or unexpected assessments of standard duty rates by the BOC. Corporate compliance and logistics teams are advised to immediately update internal ERP and customs filing software to mirror the updated HS 2022 nomenclature.

* Agency Name

Bureau of Customs (BOC)

* Issuance Title

Implementation of the
Transposed ASEAN-KOREA
Free Trade Agreement Product
Specific Rules in Harmonized
System 2022

* Issuance Date

30 April 2026

* Link

<https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026CMC-115-2026.pdf>

