



Legal Watch

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 08-2026



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SUMMARY

The Bureau of Customs issued CMO No. 08-2026 to officially establish the Customs Policy and Issuance Office (CPIO), effectively reorganizing and renaming the former Project Management Office (PMO) into a permanent body dedicated to policy development, regulatory compliance, and dissemination. The CPIO is mandated to ensure that the creation of Customs Administrative Orders (CAOs) and Customs Memorandum Orders (CMOs) follows a systematic, transparent, and evidence-based process that aligns with international best practices, including the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

To accomplish this, the CPIO will operate through three specialized functional teams: the Drafting Team, which prepares initial evidence-based drafts; the Review Team, which conducts legal and technical review, facilitates public consultations with relevant stakeholders, and consolidates and evaluates comments and recommendations received during the consultation process for incorporation into the proposed issuance, as appropriate; and the Cascading Team, which oversees the publication, stakeholder dissemination, training, and archiving of approved policies.

ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Concerned entities must monitor announcements of public consultations in the BOC website, review proposed customs issuances that may affect their operations, and submit timely, well-supported comments to help address potential compliance or operational concerns.

When drafts affecting your sector's trade operations are published, compliance and legal teams may submit their formal position papers or feedback to the CPIO via its official channel (cmta.irr.pmo@customs.gov.ph) within the prescribed periods. Engaging early in this formalized review process is critical to ensuring that your operational realities and concerns are integrated into final customs regulations.

- * **Agency Name**
Bureau of Customs (BOC)
- * **Issuance Title**
Establishment of Customs Policy and Issuance Office (CPIO) as Regulatory Compliance Under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement
- * **Issuance Date**
05 June 2026
- * **Link**
<https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026CMO-08-2026.pdf>

