



Legal Watch

OCOM MEMO 68-2026



Photo Credit:
Business World Online

SUMMARY

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) issued OCOM Memo No. 68-2026 directing all District Collectors, Subport Collectors, and other concerned personnel to immediately facilitate the disposition of all overstaying goods within their respective jurisdictions.

This urgent directive stems from the Commission on Audit's (COA) Audit Observation No. 2026-004, which highlighted severe delays in the disposal of seized and forfeited articles resulting in significant foregone government revenues that could have been collected through public auctions, collection of assessed duties and taxes, and other charges collectible from cargoes.

ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Importers with pending, seized, or overstaying shipments at any Philippine port must take urgent action to resolve their cargo's status. Because port collectors are now under strict orders to immediately dispose of abandoned and forfeited goods, there is a significantly heightened risk that unresolved shipments will be fast-tracked for public auction, donation, or condemnation to clear port space and prevent spoilage.

Importers should proactively coordinate with their customs brokers to immediately settle any outstanding duties, taxes, penalties, or documentary deficiencies required to secure the release of their goods. If a shipment is currently under seizure or forfeiture proceedings, it must be ensured that legal remedies, such as filing of the appropriate settlement proposals, are immediately exhausted before the goods are irreversibly disposed of by the Bureau. Moving forward, importers are advised to strictly monitor their importation timelines to prevent their cargo from being legally declared "abandoned" due to lapses in filing entries or claiming goods.

* **Agency Name**
Bureau of Customs (BOC)

* **Issuance Title**
Immediate Disposition of All
Abandoned and Forfeited
Goods

* **Issuance Date**
08 May 2026

* **Link**
[https://customs.gov.ph/
wp-content/uploads/2026/06/
2026-68-OCOM-MEMO.pdf](https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026-68-OCOM-MEMO.pdf)

