



# Legal Watch

## OCOM MEMO NO. 80-2026



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### SUMMARY

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) issued OCOM Memo No. 80-2026 to mandate the strict utilization of Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) by customs personnel to enhance trade facilitation, lawful revenue collection, and border security. Reaffirming Section 4 of Customs Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 33-2021, the directive requires the mandatory use of BWCs during critical operations.

### ACTIONABLE ADVICE

Companies engaged in import, export, and logistics operations should anticipate stricter surveillance and recording during all physical interactions with Bureau of Customs personnel. Because the mandatory use of Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) covers a broad spectrum of customs activities—including physical cargo examinations, office inspections, and the service of Letters of Authority—companies must ensure their frontline staff and representatives strictly adhere to professional and compliant conduct.

Importers and consignees should brief their warehouse managers and brokers that any interactions during goods condemnations, E-TRACC violation investigations, or customs searches will be officially recorded and monitored by the Customs Operations Center. Should a dispute arise during a physical inspection, hot pursuit, or boarding formality, companies can leverage the existence of this BWC mandate. If customs officers fail to record these encounters without a valid technical justification, it may serve as grounds to question the procedural regularity of the enforcement action, given that the BOC treats non-compliance as a basis for administrative disciplinary action. Legal and compliance teams should document any instances where officers attempt to conduct searches or serve Letters of Authority without utilizing active BWCs.

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

\* **Issuance Title**  
Utilization of Body-Worn  
Cameras for Enhanced  
Enforcement and Border  
Security Capabilities

\* **Issuance Date**  
19 June 2026

\* **Link**  
[https://customs.gov.ph/  
wp-content/uploads/2026/06/  
2026-80-OCOM-MEMO.pdf](https://customs.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026-80-OCOM-MEMO.pdf)

