## [ BOC Customs Memorandum Order No. 27-2015, August 27, 2015 ]

### REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF "BALIKBAYAN BOXES" FROM OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

*Adopted: 27 August 2015*
*Date Filed: 03 September 2015*

### I. OBJECTIVES

1.1 To prescribe simplified customs procedures for our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) sending "balikbayan boxes" to the Philippines;
1.2 To protect the legitimate interest of OFWs in sending balikbayan boxes as tangible sign of their love and concern for their family members; and
1.3 To contribute to the enforcement efforts in suppressing unscrupulous individuals using the balikbayan boxes privilege to smuggle goods.

### II. COVERAGE

This Order shall apply to all non-commercial inbound consolidated shipments of OFWs and for returning OFWs bringing in personal and household effects as provided under Section 105 (f) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended.

### III. OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS

3.1 Balikbayan Boxes of OFWs shall not be subjected to random or arbitrary physical inspection. Instead they shall only undergo mandatory X-ray scanning.
3.2 Mandatory container X-ray scanning shall be conducted at the X-ray Inspection Project (XIP) Designated Examination Area (DEA) for preliminary examination of non-commercial inbound consolidated shipment.
3.3 In cases of non-commercial inbound consolidated shipment tagged "suspect" after X-ray scanning, the XIP image analysis inspector shall identify Balikbayan box/es with possible violation and recommend the issuance of Alert Order. For Balikbayan box/es without violation, it shall be segregated and provisionally release to allow its continuous processing.
3.4 Balikbayan box/es which are Alerted shall be subjected to 100% physical examination at the authorized examination area to be conducted by a Customs Examiner in the presence of the apprehending officers, freight forwarder consolidator, representatives of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and/or a designated officer of an OFW Association be present.