

## Philippine Bureau of Customs E-Manifest Requirement & Penalty Fees // Asia Overseas Transport (PH)

Dear All,

Please be advised that both Airlines/Shipping Lines and Freight Forwarders in the Philippines are required to submit the Airfreight & Sea Freight E-Manifest to the Bureau of Customs system. For Freight Forwarders, said E-Manifest must be submitted one (1) hour before arrival of aircraft if Airport of Origin is within Asia, while submission must be made four (4) hours before arrival of aircraft if Airport of Origin is other than Asia. As to Ocean Freight, Freight Forwarders are required to submit the E-Manifest twelve (12) hours before vessel arrival. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the following fines below (as also indicated in attached CAO):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense**      **Php 100,000.00/AWB (approximately USD 1,800.00)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**      **Php 200,000.00/AWB (approximately USD 3,600.00)**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense**      **Php 300,000.00/AWB (approximately USD 5,400.00)**

Considering the extremely high penalty fees, we strongly advise everyone to inform us beforehand of any upcoming shipments which they intend to ship-out to the Philippines. Our team will need advance copies of the Draft AWBs/BLs, Commercial Documents (Commercial Invoice and Packing List) as well as the flight/sailing schedules. The cargo should only be shipped-out once we have confirmed this in order to avoid these extremely high penalty fees and any potential amendment fees which may be incurred and passed on to any of our partner agents if our instructions have not been followed.

Actually, during the recent meeting with the BOC in which a great number of Freight Forwarders and various associations were in attendance, it was expressed universally by the Forwarders that the penalty fees are too high and unfair on our part. However, the BOC had argued that the implementation of said penalty fees was supposed to take effect last 2020 but was put on hold due to the pandemic. This year, the BOC had announced that effective April 1, 2023, the updated penalty fees as I had stated above will now be applied. Nonetheless, the Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association is lobbying to reduce these penalty fees from the BOC but we are unable to tell whether or not the BOC will concede with this request to reduce the aforementioned fees.

Hope the above explanation is clear.

Thanks and Best Regards,

**Christopher R. Tsui**

Vice President - Business Development & Pricing

Asia Overseas Transport Co., Inc.

