

LEGAL UPDATES

MARCH 2025 | ISSUE NO. 3, S. 2025

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SUPREME COURT ISSUANCES

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER NO. 24-10-14-SC - RULES ON ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION

On 04 February 2025, the Supreme Court approved the Rules on Electronic Notarization (E-Notarization Rules) which supplements the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice (Notarial Rules). Relevantly, the E-Notarization Rules allows the notarization of electronic documents.

At present, two (2) key matters in the E-Notarization Rules have not been established that prevent its full operationalization: (1) the Electronic Notary Administrator (ENA) and (2) the Electronic Notarization Facility (ENF).

The E-Notarization Rules apply suppletory and by analogy to the Notarial Rules. Nevertheless, the following salient points and differences are highlighted for everyone's guidance:

 [Click here for the full text of AM No. 24-10-14-SC](#)

A. Who facilitates notarial acts?

The Electronic Notary Public (ENP)

B. Who may be commissioned as an ENP?

Qualifications:

- A member of the Philippine Bar in good standing with clearances from the Office of the Bar Confidant (OBC) and IBP;
- MCLE and ULAS compliant;
- Resident of the Philippines for at least one (1) year and maintains regular place of work or business anywhere in the Philippines; and
- Must not be convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude

C. Is the ENP Commission different from a Notarial Commission?

Yes, the two (2) types of commissions are different. One does not automatically become an ENP by obtaining a Notarial Commission and vice versa.

D. Can a Notary Public be an ENP?

Based on the E-Notarization Rules, it is not prohibited, as long as the Notary Public obtains a separate ENP Commission.

E. Who commissions ENPs?

The Electronic Notary Administrator (ENA).

F. What is the process for applying for an ENP commission?

The applicant must submit the documentary requirements. Notably, under the E-Notarization Rules, publication of the application is not a requirement.

After submission, the ENA shall issue a Notice of Virtual Summary Hearing regarding the application. Thereafter, a Virtual Summary Hearing shall be conducted by the ENA which shall be done by videoconference and in accordance with A.M. No. 20-12-01-SC.

Upon finding that the applicant is qualified to assume the duties and responsibilities of an ENP, the ENA shall issue an Electronic Notarial Commission.



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G. What is the period of commission?

Two (2) years beginning on the 1st day of January of the year in which the commissioning was made, unless earlier revoked or the ENP resigned prior to the expiration of the commission.

H. Can an application be opposed?

Yes. An opposition may be filed by any person upon any cause or reason to object by filing a verified written opposition before the date of the Virtual Summary Hearing.

I. What are the obligations of an ENP?

1. Perform electronic notarial acts in accordance with the E-Notarization Rules;
2. Keep an Electronic Notarial Book which shall contain, in chronological order, the notarial acts performed in electronic form; and
3. Submit copies of notarized electronic documents to the Supreme Court Central Notarial Database.

J. What is the Reportorial Requirement of the ENP?

During the Transitional Period, the ENP shall forward to the ENA, through its dedicated e-mail address, a certified electronic copy of the Electronic Notarial Book with the month's entries and copies of the corresponding notarized electronic documents within the first ten (10) days of the month immediately following.

K. What documents can the ENP notarize?

Electronic Documents which shall be in Portable Document Format (PDF) or Portable Document Format Archival (PDF/A). Scanned copies of paper documents may also be considered as Electronic Documents, provided that the file type is observed.

L. How should parties sign an electronic document to be electronically notarized?

The electronic signatures may be done as follows:

1. Any distinctive mark and/or characteristic in electronic form representing the identity of a person or exclusively belonging to the said person;
2. Any methodology or procedure employed or adopted by a person with the intention of authenticating the electronic document;
3. Digital Signature; or
4. Secure Electronic Signature

M. Is a scanned wet signature considered an electronic signature for purposes of electronic notarization?

At present, there is no ruling from the Supreme Court. However, we are of the opinion that a scanned electronic signature may fall under item (a) of the immediately preceding question.

N. Can a pre-signed document be electronically notarized?

Yes, provided that the principal/s confirms that the signature appearing on the electronic document is his/hers/theirs and that he/she/they signed the same freely and voluntarily.



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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER NO. 24-10-14-SC - RULES ON ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION

O. How is electronic notarization done?

Electronic notarization shall be done through an accredited Electronic Notarization Facility (ENF) - a secure digital tool, device, application, and technology solution that has the required functionalities including, but not limited to, the performance of notarial acts, confirmation of parties' geolocation, verifying user credentials, allows the creation and affixing of electronic signatures, etc. Further, there are two (2) ways to administer electronic notarization:

1. **In-person Electronic Notarization (IEN)** – the principal and/or witnesses physically appear before the ENP.
2. **Remote Electronic Notarization (REN)** – the principal and/or witnesses virtually appear before the ENP.

P. What notarial acts may be done under the E-Notarization Rules?

1. Acknowledgment by Electronic Means
2. Affirmation or Oath by Electronic Means
3. Jurat by Electronic Means
4. Signature Witnessing by Electronic Means

Q. What is the jurisdiction of the ENP?

The ENP may notarize electronic documents regardless of where the parties or witnesses are located; provided that the parties are within the Philippines except in cases where limited extra-territorial notarization applies (more below). To this end, the ENP is required to and must be able to confirm the parties' geolocation.

R. What is the limited extra-territorial application of the E-Notarization Rules?

Electronic documents may be notarized under the E-Notarization Rules if the principal, who is located outside the Philippines, is within the premises of any embassy, consular office, or office of Philippine Honorary Consuls abroad.

The ENP shall confirm the location of the principal abroad by requiring them to pan the video. Further, a designated officer from the Philippine embassy or consulate shall also affirm the principal's presence within the premises. This is the only exception to the requirement that the parties to the electronic document should be within the Philippines.

S. How is IEN done?

The principal, witnesses, and ENP are in close proximity to each other. The ENP shall verify the following:

1. The principal's and witnesses' identity through the ENF's verification feature;
2. The principal's voluntariness in electronically signing the document; and
3. The electronic document to be notarized is the same one acknowledged, sworn to, and affirmed by the principal and witnesses.

T. How is REN done?

The principal and witnesses virtually appear before the ENP through the ENF in a synchronous interaction. Pre-recorded videos are strictly prohibited. The ENP shall verify the following:

1. The principal's and witnesses' identity through the ENF's verification feature;
2. The principal's voluntariness in electronically signing the document;
3. The electronic document to be notarized is the same one acknowledged, sworn to, and affirmed by the principal and witnesses; and
4. In cases of limited extra-territorial application—the parties are in a Philippine embassy or consulate abroad.

The ENP shall read interpret and explain the general nature of the electronic document. All parties must be within the view of the videoconference camera throughout the notarization process. Note that the principals and witnesses to the electronic document should appear using their own, separate ENF accounts.

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U. How is the notarial certificate completed?

After the execution of the electronic document and notarial act, the ENP shall complete the electronic notarial certificate, affix his/her electronic signature, and attach the Electronic Notarial Seal.

V. How does the ENP sign the document that he or she electronically notarizes?

An ENP may sign the document by (a) Digital Signature or (b) Secure Electronic Signature as defined in item L. above.

Salient Differences between E-Notarization Rules and Notarial Rules

E-Notarization Rules	Notarial Rules
Who facilitates notarial acts?	
ENP	Notary Public
Jurisdiction	
Anywhere in the Philippines Limited extra-territorial application	Within the City or Jurisdiction of the commission only
Verification of principal's identity	
Competent evidence of identity Verification by the ENP	Competent evidence of identity
Qualifications for commission	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Member of Philippine Bar2. In good standing with the OBC and IBP3. MCLE and ULAS Compliant4. Philippine resident for at least one year5. Maintains regular place of work or business in the Philippines6. Not been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Member of the Philippine bar2. In good standing with the OBC and IBP3. Philippine resident for at least one year4. Maintains regular place of work or business in the city or province where commission issued5. Not convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude
Who issues the notarial commission	
ENA	Executive Judge

SUPREME COURT ISSUANCES

Salient Differences between E-Notarization Rules and Notarial Rules

E-Notarization Rules	Notarial Rules
Notarial Acts	
Acknowledgment Affirmation or Oath Jurat Signature witnessing	Acknowledgment Affirmation or Oath Jurat Signature witnessing Copy certification Any other act authorized by the Notarial Rules
Mode of Notarization	
IEN or REN	In person only
Notarial Certificate	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ENP's name as stated on the notarial commission 2. ENP's Roll of Attorneys Number 3. "Electronic Notary Public" 4. "Philippines" 5. Validity of the term of the ENP's commission 6. ENP's PTR and place of issuance 7. ENP's IBP membership number 8. ENP's e-mail address 9. Address of ENP's regular place of work or business 10. ENP's MCLE and ULAS compliance 11. Mode of electronic notarization (i.e., IEN or REN) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name of Notary Public as indicated in the commission 2. Serial Number of the Notary Public's commission 3. "Notary Public" 4. The city or place where the Notary Public is commissioned 5. Expiration date of the commission 6. Notary Public's office address 7. Notary Public's Roll Number 8. Notary's PTR and place of issuance 9. Notary's IBP membership number
Contents of Electronic Notarial Book	Contents of Notarial Register
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electronic notarial act executed 2. Date and time of electronic notarial act 3. Title or description of notarized electronic document 4. Name and address of each principal 5. Name and address of witness/es 6. Competent evidence of identity of each principal 7. Fee charged 8. Statement to the effect that the electronic notarial act was limited extra-territorial application (if applicable) 9. Mode of notarization (i.e., IEN or REN) 10. Any other circumstances that the ENP may deem significant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entry number and page number 2. Date and time of the notarial act 3. Type of notarial act 4. Title or description of instrument 5. Name and address of principal 6. Name and address of witness/es 7. Competent evidence of identity of each principal 8. Fee charged 9. Address of notarization if not in notary's regular place of work 10. Any other circumstance that the notary public may deem of significance

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 12-2025 - FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 3-69, RELATIVE TO THE DUE PROCESS REQUIREMENT IN THE SERVICE AND EXECUTION OF SUMMARY REMEDIES

On 06 March 2025, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-2025, which amends Section 5 of RR No. 3-69, relative to the due process requirements in the enforcement of summary remedies. It also included an additional provision related to the service of warrants and notice to taxpayers who have resurfaced that were previously identified as Cannot Be Located (CBL) under the circumstances prescribed in the existing revenue issuances.


The amended provision now reads:

“SECTION 5. Due Process Requirements in the Enforcement of Summary Remedies

(b) Service and Execution of Warrants and Notices. The Revenue Officer designated to serve the Warrant of Distrainment and/or Levy (WDL) shall serve the same personally upon the delinquent taxpayer himself/herself or his/her authorized representative, or to a member of his/her household of legal age with sufficient description, and shall require the same to acknowledge the receipt of the warrant by voluntarily signing his/her name on the receipt portion of the warrant, for individual taxpayers. For corporations, the WDL shall be served to the President, Vice President, Manager, Treasurer or Comptroller or to any responsible person of the corporation who customarily receives correspondence for the corporation. In cases, however, where the taxpayer (individual or corporation) refuses to receive the WDL or is absent from his/her given address, the WDL shall be constructively served by requiring two (2) credible witnesses who are not BIR employees, preferably barangay officials, to sign in the acknowledgement receipt portion of the warrant and require a copy of the identification card as a proof of witness and leave the duplicate copy of the warrant at the premises of the taxpayer. A copy of the WDL which was previously served constructively shall be sent thru registered mail and/or electronic mail to the delinquent taxpayer.”

XXX XXX XXX

(c) Service of warrants and notices in case Taxpayer Previously reported and Published as CBL has Resurfaced – For purposes of this Section, the term “resurfaced” shall mean that the taxpayers personally appear before any Office of this Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), or their whereabouts are known to the BIR through an informant, and other legal means. In such reappearance, issued WDL together with copies of the served Warrants of Garnishment, Notice of Levy, Notice of Tax Lien, Notice of Encumbrance and other correspondences shall be simultaneously served to such delinquent taxpayer or his/her authorized representative.”

 [Click here for the full text of RR No. 12-2025](#)

REVENUE MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 12-2025 - UPDATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN PROCESSING ONE-TIME TRANSACTIONS (ONETT)

On 06 March 2025, the BIR issued Revenue Memorandum Orders (RMO) No. 12-2025 to streamline and update the procedures for processing One-Time Transactions (ONETT) for both online and walk-in ONETT applications involving transactions such as the sale, donation, or transfer of real and personal properties.

Taxpayers must submit complete documentary requirements, either physically or through the eONETT System. The Officer-of-the-Day reviews the documents and issues a Checklist of Documentary Requirements (CDR) and claim slip. Once verified, an ONETT Computation Sheet (OCS) reflecting the tax due is prepared. The OCS is then forwarded for approval by the Revenue District Officer (RDO) or their authorized representatives. After approval, the taxpayer must pay the computed taxes using any of the BIR’s accepted payment channels.

Following payment, the ONETT Payment Verifier confirms the validity of the proof of payment. Once verified, the ONETT Encoder inputs the required data into the eCAR system, and the Electronic Certificate Authorizing Registration (eCAR) is printed and submitted for final approval. Upon approval, the eCAR is released to the taxpayer, who acknowledges receipt. The ONETT docket is then forwarded to the Assessment Division or retained in the district office, depending on whether the case was selected for further review.

The revised procedures also establish specific turnaround times depending on the transaction’s complexity: three (3) working days for simple cases, seven (7) for complex ones, and up to twenty (20) for highly technical matters like estate tax.


 [Click here for the full text of RMO No. 12-2025](#)

TAXATION

REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 20-2025 - CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN POLICIES, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO THE PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE OF TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS (TCFG)

On 20 March 2025, the BIR issued Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 20-2025 to clarify that the TCFG shall be required and issued only for government contracts which involve the procurement of goods, consulting services, and infrastructure projects done through the public bidding process pursuant to R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act”, as amended by R.A. No. 12009. As such, procurement involving small value purchases are not required to secure a TCFG.

The Circular likewise clarifies that the TCFG shall be presented only prior to the final settlement of the government contracts with its suppliers, on a per contract basis, to ensure complete and timely payment and remittance of taxes.


 [Click here for the full text of RMC No. 20-2025](#)

REVENUE MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 21-2025 - CLARIFYING THE PROPER TAX TREATMENT OF JOINT VENTURES/CONSORTIUMS FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNDERTAKING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDER SECTION 22(B) OF THE NIRC, AS AMENDED, IN RELATION TO REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 10-2012 AND 14-2023, AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL JOINT VENTURES/CONSORTIUMS PURSUANT TO SECTION 236 OF THE SAME CODE

On 21 March 2025, the BIR issued RMC No. 21-2025 to clarify the tax treatment of Joint Ventures or Consortiums (JV/JC) formed for construction projects under Section 22(B) of the Tax Code of 1997, as amended. The RMC states that for a JV/JC to be considered non-taxable, it must be created specifically for a construction project, must involve licensed local contractors who are engaged in the construction business, and be duly licensed itself by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In cases involving foreign contractors, the JV/JC may still be considered non-taxable if each foreign contractor holds a special license from the PCAB and the project is certified by the appropriate government agency as foreign-financed, allows international bidding, and is covered by a Bilateral Agreement under Republic Act No. 4566, also known as the Contractor’s License Law.

The circular also outlines the corresponding tax responsibilities of members in a non-taxable JV/JC, identifies entities disqualified from such treatment, and provides guidelines on the registration and deregistration requirements with the BIR for both the JV/JC and its members.

 [Click here for the full text of RMC No. 21-2025](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DILG MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2025-008 - POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF LGUS UNDER THE LPG INDUSTRY REGULATION ACT

On 10 February 2025, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2025-008 to reiterate the responsibilities of local government units (LGUs) under Republic Act No. 11592 or the “LPG Industry Regulation Act.” The MC aims to reinforce LGU coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) in implementing regulatory functions over the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) industry.

The MC enumerates LGU powers and functions, such as assisting the DOE in identifying violators, location impoundment areas for LPG-related equipment, coordinating the handling and disposal of confiscated items, and suspending or revoking business permits upon the DOE’s notice of license suspension or revocation. LGUs are also mandated to report any such suspension or revocation to the DOE within five (5) days.

Additionally, LGUs must ensure that LPG industry applicants comply with specific requirements before construction or operation, including registration with the DOE and securing a site-specific License to Operate (LTO). Those engaged in manufacturing, importation, or repair of LPG pressure vessels must also obtain an LTO from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) where applicable.

 [Click here for the full text of DILG MC No. 2025-008](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DILG MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2025-022 - AMENDMENT TO DILG MC NO. 2022-005, GUIDELINES ON THE ACCREDITATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO CO-IMPLEMENT DILG PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued MC No. 2025-022, which outlines updated guidelines for accrediting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to co-implement DILG Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs).

The MC details various areas in which CSOs can engage with the DILG, such as: providing feedback on programs, projects and activities (PPAs), advocating for specific issues, formulating plans, policies, and issuances, and implementing capacity development programs and other activities. The MC also outlines the process, criteria, and requirements for the accreditation (new and renewal) of CSOs. The accreditation of CSOs will be managed by the National Accreditation Committee (NAC), Regional Accreditation Committees (RACs), and Provincial Accreditation Committees (PACs), which the DILG shall establish. Finally, the MC specifies the reportorial requirements that each accredited CSO must fulfill.

[Click here for the full text of DILG MC No. 2025-022](#)

DILG MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2025-023 - GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF THE FOREIGN TRAVEL AUTHORITY ONLINE SYSTEM APPLICATION (VERSION 3), AMENDING PROVISIONS OF DILG MC NO. 2022-147, SERIES OF 2022

The DILG issued MC No. 2025-023 providing guidelines on the use of the updated version of the Foreign Travel Authority Online System Application.

The definition of “Official Trips” has been expanded to include the following activities:

1. Trips involving cooperation and/or agreements between local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines and abroad;
2. Study tours or benchmarking trips for the purpose of enhancing local government capability; and
3. On-site inspections for assessing capabilities of contractors or suppliers when such is already covered by an existing Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding and shall not include mere invitations for travels funded by suppliers and/or contractors.

The MC also provides that, for all kinds of travels of elected local officials, at least two (2) elected officials are required to remain in the locality to serve as the Acting Mayor and Acting Vice Mayor to ensure the continuous delivery of service and management of the day-to-day transactions of the LGU.

[Click here for the full text of DILG MC No. 2025-023](#)

JURISPRUDENCE

G.R. No. 248680 - Migrante International, Feliza B. Benitez, et al vs. Social Security System (SSS) - ADVANCE PAYMENT OF SSS CONTRIBUTIONS BY OFWS NO LONGER A REQUIREMENT FOR OBTAINING THEIR OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATE (OEC)

In a petition challenging the constitutionality of Rule 14, Section 7(iii) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 11999 (Social Security Act of 2018), the Supreme Court ruled on the matter of mandatory Social Security System (SSS) coverage for all workers, including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), both sea-based and land-based. The Court upheld the provision requiring all workers to contribute to the SSS in order to be eligible for benefits, affirming the validity of the mandatory SSS coverage.

However, the Supreme Court declared a portion of the IRR provision unconstitutional, specifically the requirement that OFWs must pay their SSS contributions in advance prior to the issuance of their Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC). The Court held that this condition violates the constitutional principles of due process and fairness. As a result, the requirement for OFWs to make advance payments for their SSS contributions is no longer a prerequisite for obtaining their OEC.

The decision clarifies that while mandatory SSS coverage for OFWs remains valid and essential for ensuring their access to social security benefits, the advance payment requirement should not impede their ability to secure employment abroad. This ruling protects the rights of OFWs by ensuring that the process for obtaining an OEC is not unnecessarily burdensome or discriminatory, reinforcing the balance between national policy objectives and the protection of workers' rights.

[Click here for the full text of G.R. No. 248680](#)

SEC MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 1, SERIES OF 2025 - 2025 FILING OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

On 03 March 2025, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 1, series of 2025 providing a coding schedule to maintain an organized and orderly filing of 2025 Annual Financial Statements (AFS).

All corporations whose fiscal years end on 31 December shall file their 2025 AFS through the SEC Electronic Filing and Submission Tool (eFAST) according to the following schedule:

Last Digit of SEC Registration Number	Submission Dates (excluding weekends)
1 and 2	May 2 to 16
3 and 4	May 19 to 30
5 and 6	June 1 to 13
7 and 8	June 16 to 27
9 and 0	June 30 to July 11

Corporations whose fiscal years end on a date other than 31 December shall file their AFS within 120 calendar days from the end of their respective fiscal years.

For corporations whose AFS are being audited by the Commission on Audit (COA), they shall not be covered by the above schedule provided that they attach the following documents to their AFS:

1. Affidavit signed by President and Treasurer (or Chief Finance Officer) attesting to the fact that the company timely provided the COA with the financial statements and supporting documents and that the COA audit has just been concluded; and
2. Letter from the COA confirming the information provided in the affidavit.

Corporations whose securities are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), those whose securities are registered but not listed on PSE, public companies, and other entities covered under Sec. 17.2 of the Securities Regulation Code shall file their AFS within 105 calendar days after the end of their fiscal year.

Regardless of the coding schedule and the last digit of their SEC Registration Number, all corporations may file their AFS before the first day of the coding schedule pertaining to said digit. Late submissions after 11 July 2025 shall be subject to the prescribed penalties to be computed from the date of the last day of filing.

[Click here for the full text of SEC MC No. 1, Series of 2025](#)

SEC-OGC OPINION NO. 25-05 - IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FINANCING PROGRAM; CORPORATE POWERS; PURPOSE CLAUSE

On 5 March 2025, the SEC issued SEC-OGC Opinion No. 25-05 to clarify whether Toyota Financial Services Philippines Corporation (TFSPC) may implement its new financing program called “Lexus Financial Services (LFS Program)” without violating Republic Act No. 8556 or the Financing Company Act (FCA) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The opinion affirms that TFSPC, being a duly registered financing company with an appropriate Certificate of Authority, may legally extend credit or lease facilities to customers of Lexus, as this activity falls within its primary purpose stated in its amended Articles of Incorporation. The SEC emphasized that the implementation of the LFS Program is not considered ultra vires, and therefore does not violate Section 9 or Section 14 (1) (a), (b), and (c) of the FCA or Sections 12 and 14 of its IRR. However, since the LFS Program was not previously included in TFSPC’s Business Plan, it must first amend its “Loan Products and Pricing Parameters” and secure approval from the Financing and Lending Companies Department (FLCD) before implementation.

[Click here for the full text of SEC-OGC Opinion No. 25-05](#)

IMMIGRATION

ADVISORY RE FILING PERIOD FOR BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION ACCREDITATION YEAR 2025-2026

The application period for new and renewal applications for Accreditation Year (AY) 2025-2026 shall be from 01 April to 15 May 2025. No applications shall be accepted afterwards. The application with complete documentary requirements shall be submitted online through the following portal: [Click here for the Bureau of Immigration's eServices Portal](#)

	Related Links for Checklists of Requirements
School Accreditation	
Accreditation of School Representative	
Accreditation of Travel Agencies, Corporations, Consultancy Offices and Liaison Officers	
Accreditation of Representatives/Paralegals of Law Offices	
Accreditation of Missionary Organizations and Liaison Officers	
Accreditation of Liaison Officers/Representatives of Consular Offices or Government Organizations/Other Entities	
Renewal of Accreditation of Travel Agencies, Corporations, Consultancy Offices, and Missionary Organizations and Liaison Officers	
Renewal of Accreditation of Representatives/Paralegals of Law Offices	

[Click here for the full text of the Bureau of Immigration Advisory](#)

LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

DOLE DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 249, SERIES OF 2025 - REVISED SINGLE ENTRY APPROACH IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

On 07 February 2025, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued Department Order No. 249, series of 2025 revising the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Article 234 [228] of the Labor Code, as amended by Republic Act No. 10396, which pertains to the rules on Single Entry Approach (SeNA).

Single Entry Approach Desks (SEAD) shall be established in the following locations:

1. DOLE Regional, Provincial, Field and Satellite Offices;
2. National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) and its Regional Conciliation and Mediation Branches; and
3. National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) and its Regional Arbitration Branches.

Any requesting party may file a Request for Assistance (RFA). If the requesting party is a corporation or juridical entity, a Board Resolution or Secretary's Certificate shall be presented by the duly authorized representative. An heir or representative may also file the RFA in case of death of the requesting party.

The RFA shall be filed with the appropriate SEAD, which shall have thirty (30) calendar days to facilitate a settlement or to take appropriate action. The RFA may be filed with the SEAD nearest to the requesting party's residence. It may also be filed at the place of operation of the union or chapter of a federation or workers association, or at the employer's principal place of business, at the election of the requesting party.

Significantly, the RFA may now be filed online through the SEnA online filing system which is embedded in the websites of all SEnA implementing offices or agencies where the RFA may be filed. The RFA may likewise be filed through electronic mail and social media platforms.

[Click here for the full text of DOLE DO No. 249, Series of 2025](#)

BSP CIRCULAR NO. 1211, SERIES OF 2025 - REDUCTION IN RESERVE REQUIREMENTS

On 11 March 2025, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued BSP Circular No. 1211, Series of 2025, which implements Monetary Board Resolutions No. 1027 and 186.A, dated 05 September 2024 and 20 February 2025, respectively. These resolutions mandate the reduction of the reserve requirement ratios for deposit and deposit substitute liabilities of banks and non-bank financial institutions with quasi-banking functions (NBQBs).

This reduction in the reserve requirement aims to support economic growth by providing banks and NBQBs with more liquidity, enhancing their capacity to extend credit to businesses and consumers. The BSP continues to monitor economic conditions and reserves the right to adjust monetary policy measures as necessary to achieve its objectives of price stability and financial system soundness.

Effective 28 March 2025, the required reserve ratios for deposit and deposit substitute liabilities in local currency held by banks will be adjusted as follows:

Reservable Liability	UBs/KBs	Digital Banks	TBs	RBs/Coop Banks
a. Demand Deposits	5%	2.5%	0%	0%
b. NOW Accounts	5%	2.5%	0%	0%
c. Savings Deposits (excluding basic deposit accounts)	5%	2.5%	0%	0%
d. Time Deposits, Negotiable CTDs, Long-Term Non-Negotiable Tax Exempt CTDs	5%	2.5%	0%	0%
e. xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
f. Deposit Substitutes (DS)	5%	2.5%	0%	N/A
g. xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
h. xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx
i. Peso deposits lodged under Due to foreign banks	5%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
j. Pesos deposits lodged under Due to Head Office/Branches/Agencies Abroad (Philippine branch of foreign bank)	5%	2.5%	N/A	N/A
k. xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx

[Click here for the full text of BSP Circular No. 1211, Series of 2025](#)



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