

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT SHOULD I PUT IN THE BALIKBAYAN BOX?

Non-commercial goods or items that are strictly for personal use only and not in commercial quantity.

WHAT WILL BE THE CAUSE OF DELAY FOR DELIVERING OUR BALIKBAYAN BOXES?

1. Unforeseen circumstances or/and natural calamity such as earthquake or typhoon that sets back the arrival of the cargo carrying vessels.

2. The consolidated shipment is affected by:

- Undeclared items regulated or banned cargoes such as prohibited drugs, ammunition and firearms, gambling materials or apparatus, pornographic materials and pirated products.
- Items that are in commercial quantity.
- Consolidated shipments that are abandoned by the Philippine representative, agent or broker for reasons of non-remittance of funds by the foreign freight forwarding entity/consolidator.

5. Wrong address and contact details of the recipient in the Philippines or Hard to find recipient address the recipient that lives in a very remote area or a place where the Global Trade team needs to cross a river.

6. The recipient lives in war-torn or potentially dangerous areas such as Basilan.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY BOX GETS CONFISCATED DUE TO PROHIBITED OR UNDECLARED ITEMS?

Global Trade will contact our customers that have prohibited items in their balikbayan box and will advise what action has been taken by BOC Philippines.

WHO ARE QUALIFIED FILIPINO CITIZENS WHILE ABROAD?

Resident Filipinos , Non-Resident Filipinos and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

The privilege is given to a Qualified Filipino Citizen While Abroad to send Balikbayan Boxes to a Family Member or Relative , tax and duty free, subject to conditions.

HOW MANY TIMES CAN I SEND BALIKBAYAN BOXES?

Three (3) times per calendar year.

WHAT ARE THE ITEMS I CAN PUT IN MY BALIKBAYAN BOX?

You can only send household effects and personal effects. Commercial Quantities are not allowed. Any excess is subject to duty, VAT and excise tax. Please refer on the Prohibited items list in our website. All items must be declared either new or used.

Examples of items you can send:

- Canned goods and Food stuff
- Chocolates
- Toiletries (assorted up to 2 kilos)
- Used Clothes and Shoes
- Toys (up to 10 pieces)
- Vitamins or Food supplements
- Processed food
- Cosmetics (Assorted up to 1KG)
- Perfumes (limit of 5)
- Household Cleaning items (up to 5 Kg)
- Miscellaneous items such as souvenir items such as picture frames from amusement parks, flower vases, shoe racks, kitchen utensils.
- Household Goods such as towels, bed sheets, blankets, pillows, kitchenware, and small appliances like a blender or a toaster oven.
- Books and magazines (Books and magazines on various topics such as cooking, fashion, health, and technology are also popular, particularly for those who love to read)
- Educational materials such as books, flashcards, and other learning aids are also great items to include, particularly for children.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I EXCEED THE ALLOWED QUANTITIES AND VALUES?

Anything more than the allowable quantity, amount or frequency shall be subject to payment of duties and taxes. This may also delay the delivery of your boxes.

WHAT IF THE VALUE OF MY SHIPMENT IS LESS THAN PHP10,000.00?

You may avail of the De Minimis privilege, and you do not need to be a Qualified Filipino while Abroad, but you must have only 1 consignee or recipient. Even if you are a Qualified Filipino While Abroad, a De Minimis Value shipment shall not be counted under the Balikbayan Box privilege.