

**[ BOC CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO.  
473-99, November 05, 1999 ]**

**MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND THE RATES OF IMPORT  
DUTY ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PRODUCTS UNDER  
SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978  
(PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464 AS AMENDED)**

Attached is the letter dated October 26, 1999 of Director Aurora T. Aquino, Office of the President, Malacañang endorsing a certified copy of executive Order No. 163 dated October 18, 1999 entitled: "MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY on information technology (IT) Products UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978 (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464 AS AMENDED)."

For your information and guidance.

Adopted: 05 Nov. 1999

(SGD.) JULITA S. MANAHAN  
*Deputy Commissioner*  
*Internal Administration group*

Executive Order No. 163<sup>\*</sup>

MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY on information technology (IT) Products UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978 (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464 AS AMENDED)

WHEREAS, during the APEC meeting held in Manila in November 1996, the 18 APEC leaders called for the conclusion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) by the first WTO Ministerial Conference in a move to eliminate tariffs by the year 2000, with flexibility in the time frame for the elimination of tariffs;

WHEREAS, on 13 December 1996, fourteen (14) economies signed in Singapore a Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products, providing for the elimination/binding of tariffs on IT products beginning 1 July 1997 and ending on 1 January 2000 with extended staging of tariff reductions up to the year 2005 for developing countries;

WHEREAS, the Philippines formally signed the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) on 1 April 1997;

WHEREAS, with the Philippine Senate ratification of ITA 1 on 3 December 1998, the Philippines can now implement its commitments under the said Agreement.