

## Philippines

### Current postal regulatory landscape

#### *National legislation*

- Name of the act/law/rule: Postal Service Act of 1992 or Republic Act No. 7354 creating the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost)
- Year of enactment and amendments: Bureau of Post under the Department of Trade – RA 426 (5 September 1902); Postal Service Office under EO 125 DOTC 1987; Philippine Postal Corporation RA 7354 (1992)
- All the postal legislation in place (Conventions/Rules/Regulations, etc.)
  - 1 Republic Act No. 1412 – Providing for the transmission, free of charge within the Philippines, of mail matter and telegrams of the Office of the President of the Philippines, enacted in 1956.
  - 2 Republic Act No. 2066 – allows the Bureau of Posts to use up to 20% of its annual postage stamp sales revenue to improve the postal system.
  - 3 Postal Service Act of 1992 – gives the postal service the power to conduct searches, issue warrants, make arrests and seizures, and offer rewards for information services related to postal offences.
  - 4 Freedom of Information (FOI) Programme (23 July 2016) – Access to information, official records, public records/documents to be used as a basis for policy development.
  - 5 Memorandum of Association (MOA) with the Bureau of Customs in the handling, examination, assessment, appraisal and collection of duties on letter post, parcel post and express mail items.

#### *Coordinating body for postal policies*

- The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) ensures compliance with postal service reform, particularly with regard to the USO and market regulations.
- The Commission on Audit (COA) monitors and audits financial activities to ensure transparency in PHLPost's operations.
- The Governance Commission for GOCC (GCG) oversees PHLPost to ensure that reforms align with good governance principles and operational targets

#### *Regulatory body*

- Name of the regulatory body/ministry/committee/agency: Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)
- Level (Ministry or other): Ministerial-level agency
- Website: [www.dict.gov.ph](http://www.dict.gov.ph)
- Key responsibilities: responsible for the planning, development and promotion of the country's information and communications technology (ICT) agenda in support of national development.

#### *Licensing body*

- Name of the coordinating body/ministry/committee/agency:
  - The DICT regulates postal and courier operations in the Philippines and oversees the entry of new delivery service providers.
  - PHLPost issues permits and licences to operate private postal stations/local government units (LGUs)/Brgy Postal Station under its authority as the designated postal operator.
- Types of licences required – licence to operate a postal station.

### *Universal service obligations*

- Products and services covered by universal service obligation: The delivery of letters, parcels and other mail matter is a basic and strategic public utility, which the state (the Government of the Philippines) shall provide (directly and indirectly) through and/or with other duly authorized entities or persons.
- The universal postal service includes the following services:
  - letters;
  - parcels.
- Name of the universal service provider providing USO: Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost)
- Status of the universal service provider providing USO: Government-owned and controlled

### *Pricing regulations*

PHLPost, through its Pricing and Costing Committee, is responsible for regulating postal service prices under RA 7354, which is known as the Postal Service Act of 1992.

Scope of price regulations:

- All domestic and foreign mails/parcels/logistics/bulk mails/special rate or discounted mails/express mails;
- Warehousing/rental space;
- PHLPost ensures that rates are economical, reliable and secure while also promoting international cooperation and understanding through the exchange of postal matters.

### *Taxation*

All postal products and services are subject to VAT under PHLPost Circular No.16-02 dated 12 January 2016.

### *Cross-border regulations*

Threshold value regarding import duties: 10,000 Philippine pesos (PHP) (approximately 173 USD)