

HELPS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do private Social Welfare Agencies (SWA) need **DSWD certification before undergoing to the Department of Finance Bureau of Customs (DOF-BOC) process?**

If you are a SWA that is anticipating foreign donations/ goods from a foreign individual/organization and would want **to be exempted from the payment of import duties, then you have to apply for DSWD Certification.** But if you are willing to pay for import duties, there is no need for the DSWD Certification.

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What are the **donated imported goods that SWA can accept** from a foreign donor?

The acceptable goods for free distribution are:

1. Food items that are mainly for human consumption;
2. Specified non-food items such as mats, blankets, shoes, medicines, cooking and kitchen utensils, and others.

The goods that are NOT acceptable are used clothing and tobacco.

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What is the **validity period** for an issued certification?

The Certification issued to an eligible SWA is valid for **one (1) year only** unless earlier canceled or revoked due to any violations committed under the Penal Provisions (hyperlink to the penal provisions) of the guidelines.

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Are there **different types of application** for DEI?

Yes, there are two (2) application categories:

Under Normal Circumstances and/or State of Calamity.

A State of Public Health Emergency refers to the declaration of epidemics of national and/or international concerns by the Secretary of the Department of Health, except when the same threatens national security, by which the President of the Republic of the Philippines shall declare a State of Public Health Emergency per Section 7 of RA No. 11332 of 2018.

A State of Calamity refers to a condition involving mass casualty and/or major damages to property, disruption of means of livelihood, among others, and officially declared by the appropriate authority as defined by Section 16 of Republic Act No. 10121 of 2010.

Thus, applications without any declaration from the appropriate authorities will fall under Normal Circumstances.

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Can I apply and be issued certification **without securing other relevant clearances** from the concerned agencies?

Yes, a Certification of Eligibility may be issued to Social Work Agency (SWA) even without securing clearances from the concerned government agencies. The clearances from the concerned government agencies (e.g., Food and Drugs Administration, Department of Education) are requirements of the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

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Where **to apply?**

The agency head or authorized representative may accomplish the application through **DSWD HELPS**.

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What are the requirements?

Please click the link below:

*(Insert link for DEI application detailed)
requirements)*

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Harmonized Electronic License and Permit System
Online Integrated DSWD Permit System

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Don't fall in line,
go online!**

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What is **Duty Exempt Importation** or DEI?

The Duty-Exemption for Donated Imported Goods refers to items from foreign countries that are **exempted from the payment of import duties** upon approval by the Secretary of the Department of Finance (DoF).

This provision is established under Section 800(m) of Republic Act (RA) No. 10863, commonly known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)” of 2016.

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Who may apply for Duty Exemption of Donated Imported Goods?

A private Social Work Agency (SWA) duly-Registered, Licensed, and Accredited with a valid Certificate of Registration and License to Operate (CRLTO), and Certificate of Accreditation issued by the DSWD.