

BELIZE:

CUSTOMS REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Short title.
2. Insertion of new section 6A.
3. Amendment of section 16.
4. Amendment of section 42.
5. Amendment of section 51A.
6. Amendment of section 77A.

BELIZE:

BILL

for

AN ACT to amend the Customs Regulation Act, Chapter 49 of the Substantive Laws of Belize Revised Edition 2020, to provide for measures to ensure compliance with the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations in relation to laws regarding anti-money laundering, combatting the financing of terrorism and combatting proliferation financing; to provide for the requirement to keep records; to provide for forfeiture of undeclared currency; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted, 2023)

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title. **1.** This Act may be cited as the

CUSTOMS REGULATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023

CAP. 49. and shall be read and construed as one with the Customs Regulation Act which is hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

Insertion of new section 6A. **2.** The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 6, the following new section–

“Officers to keep records and information.

6A.–(1) Every officer shall cause to be kept at such place as the Comptroller may direct, all books, documents, records and any other information he receives in the execution of his duties, for a period of not less than six years from the date he receives the books, documents, records or other information.

(2) For the purposes of this section, “books, documents, records and other information” includes any bill of entry of goods, declaration, report, invoice, shipping documents, correspondence, computer printouts, audited reports, income and expenditure accounts, bank statements, or any other book,

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document, record or information relating to the importation or exportation of goods.”

- 3.** The principal Act is amended in section 16(6) by inserting immediately after the words “whichever is the greater”, the words “and the currency not declared and reported shall be forfeited.” Amendment of section 16.
- 4.** The principal Act is amended in section 42(4) by inserting immediately after the words “whichever is the greater”, the words “and the currency not declared and reported shall be forfeited.” Amendment of section 42.
- 5.** The principal Act is amended in section 51A– Amendment of section 51A.
- (a) in sub-section (3)–
- (i) in paragraph (a)–
- (aa) by inserting immediately after the words “letter or postal packet” the words “or parcel or package”; and
- (bb) by inserting immediately after the words “in Belize”, the words “by post or courier service”;
- (ii) in paragraph (b)–
- (aa) by deleting the word “posts” and replacing it with the word “sends”;
- (bb) by inserting immediately after the words “letter or postal packet” the words “or parcel or package”; and
- (cc) by inserting immediately after the words “for transmission abroad”, the words “by post or courier service”;
- (b) in sub-section (4) by inserting immediately after the words “whichever is the greater”, the words “and the currency not declared and reported shall be forfeited.”
- 6.** The principal Act is amended in section 77A(3) by inserting immediately after the words “whichever is the greater”, the words “and the currency not declared and reported shall be forfeited.” Amendment of section 77A.