



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. **2019-008**

07 OCT 2019

TO: All Concerned Stakeholders

SUBJECT: Removal of Authentication of Foreign Public Documents Executed in Apostille-contracting Countries and Territories by the Philippine Embassies or Consulates General Beginning 14 May 2019

In connection with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Public Advisory dated 07 May 2019 **Re: *Apostille Convention on Authentication of Documents Takes Effect in PH on 14 May 2019***, all concerned stakeholders are hereby notified that foreign public documents executed in Apostille-contracting countries and territories (with the exception of Austria, Finland, Germany and Greece, all of which objected to the accession of the Philippines to the Apostille Convention) no longer have to be authenticated by the appropriate Philippine Embassy or Consulate General once they have been *Apostillized* in order to be recognized and accepted in the Philippines.

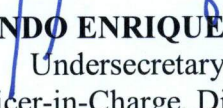
An *Apostille* is a document used in international law that is issued by a government in accordance with the *Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents* (otherwise known as the *Hague Apostille Convention* or simply the *Apostille Convention*). It is attached to a public document to certify the authenticity of the signature, the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted, and where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which it bears.

Relative to certain documents submitted to the Food and Drug Administration presently requiring "authentication by the territorial Philippine Consulate" (e.g. Certificate of Free Sale, as per A.O. No. 67 s. 1989 and B.C. No. 5 s. 1997), this Office shall begin accepting such documents bearing an *Apostille* in lieu of the traditional red ribbon.

However, for countries and territories which are not Apostille-contracting parties, the requirement of authentication of foreign public documents by the appropriate Philippine Embassy or Consulate General shall still apply.

For reference purposes, the updated list of Apostille-contracting parties can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41>.

Please be guided accordingly.


ROLANDO ENRIQUE D. DOMINGO, MD, DPBO
Undersecretary of Health
Officer-in-Charge, Director General



20190530154628





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

Philippine Standard Time
Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 3:14:46 PM



PUBLIC ADVISORY: APOSTILLE CONVENTION ON AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS TAKES EFFECT IN PH ON 14 MAY 2019

Public Advisory: Apostille Convention on Authentication of Documents Takes Effect in PH on 14 May 2019

07 May 2019 — The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)—Office of Consular Affairs wishes to inform the public that it will no longer issue Authentication Certificates from 14 May 2019. Instead, the DFA will affix an Apostille to documents for use abroad as proof of authentication for use in Apostille-contracting parties.

After authentication by the DFA, there is no more need for authentication (legalization) by the concerned Foreign Embassies or Consulates General if the country or territory of destination of the authenticated document is already a member of the Apostille Convention.

Public documents executed in Apostille-contracting countries and territories (except for Austria, Finland, Germany and Greece) to be used in the Philippines no longer have to be authenticated by the Philippine Embassy or Consulate General once Apostillized.

However, in countries and territories which are not Apostille-contracting parties, the previous process of authentication applies. Documents still have to be authenticated by the Philippine Embassy or Consulate General before they can be used in the Philippines. Also, there is still a need for authentication (legalization) by the concerned Foreign Embassies or Consulates General if the country of destination of the authenticated document is not yet a member of the Apostille Convention.

Authentication fees will remain at PhP100 (regular processing) and PhP200 (expedited processing) per document.

For the updated list of Apostille-contracting parties, please visit this link:<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41> or scan the QR Code shown below.



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS
MANILA, PHILIPPINES



S.N. 19A - 0000000

APOSTILLE

(Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)

1. Country: Philippines

This public document

2. has been signed by
3. acting in the capacity of
4. bears the seal/stamp of

Certified

5. at
6. the
7. by
8. No. 19A-
9. Seal/stamp:

10. Signature:

Authentication Officer

Annexed document(s) is/are:

This Apostille only certifies the authenticity of the signature and the capacity of the person who has signed the public document, and, where appropriate, the identity of the seal or stamp which the public document bears.

This Apostille does not certify the content of the document for which it was issued.

This certificate does not constitute an Apostille under the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961, when it is presented in a country which is not a party to the Convention. In such cases, the certificate should be presented to the consular section of the mission representing that country.

Sample Apostille Certificate

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHERE PHILIPPINE APOSTILLE IS ACCEPTED

as of May 2019

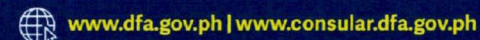
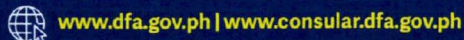
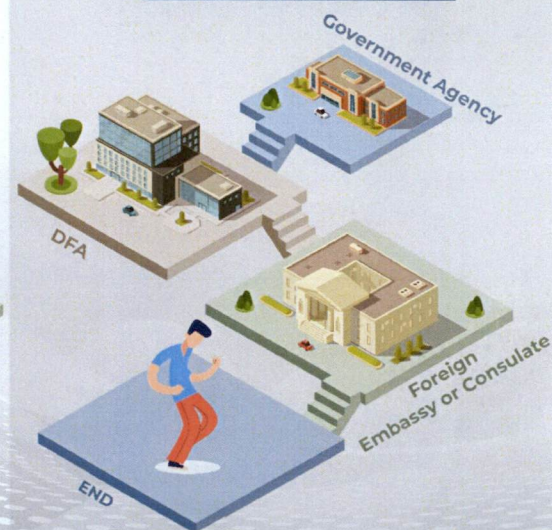


APOSTILLE VS AUTHENTICATION

- CERTIFICATION**
Documents are certified by relevant government agency.
- APOSTILLE**
Certified documents are Apostillized by DFA
- END**



- CERTIFICATION**
Documents are certified by relevant government agency.
- AUTHENTICATION**
Certified documents are Authenticated by DFA
- LEGALIZATION**
Authenticated documents are legalized by the relevant Embassy or Consulate
- END**



Apostille 7 Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered

QUESTION 1

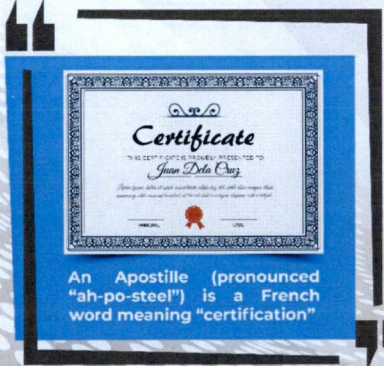


What is an Apostille?

Apostille will replace Authentication as proof of authenticity of your documents to be used abroad.

Just like the Authentication Certificate ("Red Ribbon"), an Apostille certifies the origin of the public document to which it relates but with less steps.

On 14 May 2019, the Philippines will officially become a party to the Apostille Convention.



An Apostille (pronounced "ah-po-steel") is a French word meaning "certification"



Apostille 7 Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered

QUESTION 2



What is the benefit of an Apostille?

Apostillized Philippine documents for use in Apostille countries will no longer need to pass through another authentication or legalization by the foreign embassies in the Philippines, except for Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, and non-Apostille countries.

This means less steps and less hassle for you.



No need to go to the foreign embassy in the Philippines for legalization.



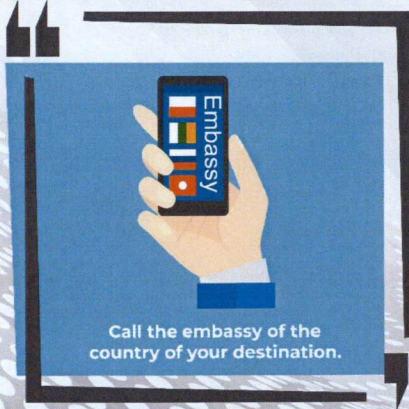
Apostille 7 Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered



What to do if the country where I need to use my documents is not an Apostille country?

You should contact the Embassy or Consulate of the country where you intend to use the document in order to find out what your options are, as it may differ from country to country.

Usually, it is the same process as Authentication, meaning your documents will need to be legalized by the Embassy or Consulate of the country of destination.

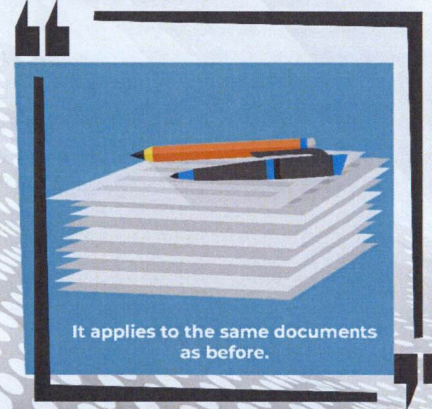


Apostille 7 Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered



To which documents does it apply?

The Philippine Apostille will apply to the same types of documents that are subject to authentication by the DFA prior to the effectivity of the Apostille Convention in the Philippines.



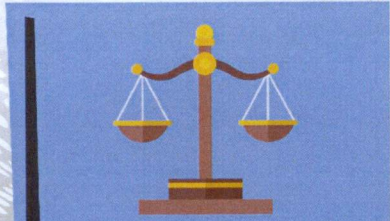
Apostille 7 Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered

QUESTION 5

What if I still want my document, executed in an Apostille country, be authenticated by the Philippine Embassy or Consulate?

The Philippine Embassies and Consulates shall no longer authenticate documents originating from Apostille countries.

However, they shall continue to provide acknowledgement and jurat services to applicants regardless of whether the origin of the document is an Apostille country or not.



Philippine Embassies and Consulates will provide Acknowledgement and Jurat services.



Apostille 7 Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered

QUESTION 6

If the recipient of my Apostille wants to verify it, what should I suggest?

Issued Philippine Apostilles may be verified through this link: www.dfa.gov.ph/verify-apostille.

For Apostilles issued in other countries, recipients may contact their Competent Authority. Contact information is available in the Apostille Section of The Hague Conference website in this link: <https://www.hcch.net>



Apostille can be verified via the Internet.





Burning Questions About Apostille, Answered



How much is
an Apostille?

For now, payment for the DFA Apostille service is the same as Authentication service: ₱100 for Regular Processing (four working days), and ₱200 for Expedited Processing (to be released the following working day).

