



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS**  
Intramuros, Manila

Office for Overseas Voting

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTING AND/OR  
BATCH FEEDING OF BALLOTS RECEIVED  
THROUGH MAIL ON MAY 9, 2016 IN THE  
AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN REGIONS.**

OFOV GUIDELINES 2016-009

**WHEREAS,** Posts have reported that there is no mail delivery on Friday afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays in the American and European Regions.

**WHEREAS,** mails that arrived after the last regular delivery of morning of May 6, 2016 will be delivered only in the morning of May 9, 2016.

**WHEREAS,** voters in the American and European Region who mailed their ballots prior to May 9, 2016 but their ballots were delivered in the morning of May 9, 2016 to the Posts will be disenfranchised if we strictly follow Sec. 18.1. of R.A. 9189.

**WHEREAS,** during the Commission En banc's meeting last May 3, 2016, it was approved that mailed ballots received by Posts in the American and European Regions on May 9, 2016 during the batch feeding and before 12:00 noon local time shall be considered valid and included in the counting of votes.

**WHEREAS,** synchronization of the counting should be harmonized with the constitutionally guaranteed right of suffrage and should not result to curtailment of the right of Filipino's to participate in the process of government due to several factors beyond their control.

**WHEREAS,** we observe both international and domestic laws that protect and guarantee the effective exercise of right of suffrage so that the sovereign will can be manifested.

**WHEREFORE,** in view of the foregoing, we hereby issue the following guidelines to be followed by Posts adopting the Postal Voting in the American and European Regions.

1. The SBEI/s may adjourn or suspend the counting or batch feeding until 12:00 noon of May 9, 2016 to wait for the delivery of the mailed ballots to be included in the counting or batch feeding.
2. Immediately after receipt of the mailed ballots, the SBRCG shall sort, verify and record the mailed ballots as provided under the general instructions, and immediately turn-over the mailed ballots to the SBEI;

3. The SBEI shall resume the counting or batch feeding until all the ballots included in the counting.
4. Close voting procedures shall be undertaken only after all the ballots delivered through mail on or before 12:00 noon of May 9, 2016 shall have been counted or batch fed to the VCM.
5. Close of voting on May 9, 2016 at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon Philippine time shall be strictly observed on the conduct of personal voting.
6. No walk-in voters shall be allowed to personally cast or deliver their mailed ballots after the close of voting hours at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon Philippine time of May 9, 2016.

For the guidance of all Posts in the American and European Regions adopting the Postal Voting



**ARTHUR D. LIM**  
Commissioner-in-charge