



PHILFINTECH INNOVATION OFFICE

N O T I C E

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of the Philippines is pleased to announce the opening of applications for participation in the SEC Strategic Sandbox (StratBox), specifically tailored for Crypto-Asset Service Providers (CASPs). This initiative is conducted in accordance with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 09-2024, dated April 25, 2024.

The Commission hereby requests all interested parties to take note of the “**SEC Strategic Sandbox (StratBox) for Crypto-Asset Service Providers (CASPs)**”.

Purpose and Objectives:

The StratBox program for Crypto-Asset Service Providers is designed to achieve the following key objectives:

- ***Facilitate Responsible Innovation:*** To foster and encourage responsible innovation within the financial services sector, particularly in the emerging field of Crypto-Asset Services.
- ***Controlled Environment for Testing:*** To provide a controlled and supervised environment where Crypto-Asset Service Providers can test and pilot their products, services, and business models.
- ***Inform Regulatory Framework Development:*** To gather critical insights and data on the risks and opportunities associated with Crypto-Asset Services and their providers. This information will be instrumental in drafting comprehensive and effective SEC Rules and Guidelines on Crypto-Asset Service Providers.
- ***Investor Protection:*** To ensure that innovation is balanced with robust investor protection measures, maintaining market integrity and financial stability.

Scope:

This thematic StratBox focuses on entities engaged in or intending to engage in Crypto-Asset Services. This includes, but is not limited to, cryptocurrency exchanges, virtual asset custodians, and other related service providers.

Notwithstanding the thematic focus on crypto-asset services, the Commission will consider applications from entities with business models in other financial sectors.

Application Process:

Interested applicants are required to submit their applications using the SEC Stratbox Application Form, which is attached as an Annex to SEC Memorandum Circular No. 09-2024. Applications must be completed accurately and include all required supporting documentation.

Submission and Inquiries:

Completed applications and supporting documents should be submitted electronically to the PhiloFintech Innovation Office. Questions and inquiries regarding the StratBox program and the application process can also be directed to the PhiloFintech Innovation Office via email at **fintech@sec.gov.ph**.

The SEC encourages all eligible and interested parties to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the StratBox and contribute to the development of a sound regulatory environment for Crypto-Asset Services in the Philippines.

Issued on 11 April 2025.