

MINISTRY PAPER No: _____

PERFORMANCE OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS, JAMAICA (BSJ) FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2005/2006 AND FOCUS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007

1.0 Purpose

This report is intended to inform Parliament and the public about the performance of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) for the 2005/2006 Financial Year and its focus for the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

2.0 Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica is to promote the international competitiveness of Jamaican producers, facilitate trade and protect consumers by providing standardization, metrology and regulatory services.

3.0 Background

The Standards Act of 1968 established the Bureau as a statutory organization with a fourteen (14) member Standards Council appointed by the Minister of Industry, Technology, Energy and Commerce (MITEC).

The Bureau's mandate is to ensure compliance with The Standards Act, The Processed Foods Act and The Weights and Measures Act. Under these acts the Bureau formulates, promotes and implements standards for goods, services, processes and practices. Other aspects of its mandate are implemented from time to time through the Trade Act, the Customs Act and the Petroleum (Quality Control) Act.

4.0 Functions

The Bureau carries out the following activities:

- (i) Facilitates and participates in the development of standards locally, regionally and internationally and enforces technical regulations for those commodities and practices relating to health, safety, the environment, energy efficiency and basic consumer protection.
- (ii) Provides national scientific and engineering metrology activities with traceability, comparability and links to regional and international systems.

This includes establishment of national measurement standards and ensuring international traceability.

- (iii) Enforces the Weights and Measures Regulations by monitoring and calibrating of all weighing and measuring devices used in trade to standards traceable to international measurement.
- (iv) Inspects and monitors food processing establishments to ensure that the standards for processed foods and the establishments in which they are processed are maintained. This ensures safety for both domestic consumption and export.
- (v) Conducts routine inspections (under the Standards Compliance/Import Monitoring Programme) at ports of entry and in the marketplace to ensure that goods conform to standards pertaining to health, safety, performance and the labelling regulations.
- (vi) Examines manufacturers' processes, equipment, records, raw materials, quality control systems and finished products to ensure consistent adherence to standards. The National Certification Mark enables manufacturers to apply for and be awarded marks of quality for products, processes and practices, which conform to relevant standards.
- (vii) Facilitates regional and international trade via active participation in the work of regional and international standards organizations including CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), Inter-American Metrology System (SIM), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Pan-American Standards Commission (COPANT), and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International.

5.0 Priority Programmes and Targets for Financial Year 2005/2006

The following were indicated in the Ministry Paper of 2004/2005 as the main areas of focus for Financial Year 2005/2006:

TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	CONSTRAINTS/REMARKS
Collaboration and cooperation with Asociación Espanola de Normalización (AENOR) and Association Francaise de Normalisation (AFNOR) in the areas of institutional strengthening and capacity building.	A plan of activities was developed following representation at these two institutions by the BSJ and the Standards Council.	Due to internal constraints, no activities occurred during the period under review.
British Standards Institute (BSI) to provide support for National Certification Programme.	The BSJ and the Standards Council were represented through visits to this institution.	This activity will be included in the plan of action for the establishment of the National Certification Body under the IDB MIF/GOJ Quality Jamaica Project.
International Accreditation of Metrology laboratories by PTB (Germany)	One of three Metrology laboratories has been accredited.	Activities are underway for the accreditation of the other two laboratories during the next financial year.
Temperature Inter-comparison Project under the Jamaica/Mexico Bilateral Agreement	At the policy and technical level work has been done on this project.	
Work on website (www.bureauofstandardsjamaica.org)	Work is in progress on the development of this website	
Establishment of a Certification Body within the BSJ under the GOJ/IDB Quality Jamaica Project	Work is in progress on the establishment of this Certification Body.	This is expected to be achieved with the success of the Quality Jamaica Project.
Implementation of a system to monitor and measure internal and external customer Feedback.	The system was not established	The BSJ was awaiting the development of the new Strategic Plan which is now in place to guide implementation.
Enhancement of collaborative	JMA - The BSJ has collaborated with	

TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	CONSTRAINTS/REMARKS
linkages and consultations with key stakeholders such as JMA, JCC, JAPA AND SBAJ.	<p>JMA in several areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted in the development of the Cyber Electronic Customer Communication System. • Participated in the “Buy Jamaica Build Jamaica” Campaign by providing promotional items and personnel to participate in the activities. • Regular briefing sessions on matters relating to new standards that are of international currency and local standards that may affect their businesses. • Three compulsory orders were developed and promulgated to protect the paint, bed and furniture industries. These orders were developed in collaboration with members of the JMA. • Fully paid up member. <p>JCC – The formal relationship with this organization continues.</p> <p>JAPA – The BSJ has collaborated with JAPA as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in regular meetings • Provided technical assistance • Provided discounts for services accessed by JAPA • Fully paid up member 	

TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS	CONSTRAINTS/REMARKS
Establishment of a Certification Body within the BSJ under the GOJ/IDB Quality Jamaica Project	Work is in progress on the establishment of this Certification Body.	The establishment of this Body is expected to be achieved with the successful implementation of the Quality Jamaica Project.
Revision to the Weights and Measures Act	The revision of this Act is in progress.	A revamped Standing Committee on Weight and Measures Legislation is to be established. This Committee will review the Act with the aim of replacing it with a modern Metrology Act.
Establishment of a functional Chemical Metrology Facility	<p>The preparatory work for the establishment of this facility has commenced. The work done so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The architectural design has been drafted • The land has been surveyed. • Soil and other edafic studies have been conducted. 	We are now awaiting financing to start the actual construction of the facility.

6.0 Highlights of Performance for Financial Year 2005/2006

In pursuit of its mission and consistent with the priority policy issues of the Ministry, the following were key areas of performance of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica.

6.1 Policy Issue - 1 (Standards Act) - Standards Compliance Programme

To enhance its role in ensuring compliance of both locally produced and imported goods with the requirements of compulsory product standards (also known as technical regulations) and labelling regulations, the BSJ continued its Standard Compliance/Import Monitoring Programme. This involves inspections, examinations and investigations at the ports of entry and establishment in the domestic market.

ACTIVITIES	ACHIEVEMENTS		VARIANCE	REMARKS
	2005-2006	2004-2005	#	
Inspections of establishments	273	5,150	-4,877	The reason for this decrease is that more emphasis was placed on factory inspections which normally require more time than inspections of other facilities.
Withdrawals from sale	5,323	357,230	-218,051	This significant decrease is indicative of greater levels of compliance being achieved. The compliance rate that obtained in the domestic marketplace for the period under review is 94%.
Ports of Entry visits	143	947	-804	
Consignments inspected	479	4,293	-3,814	It must be noted that only five percent (5%) of imported products in a consignment are inspected.
Consignments detained	36	192	-156	The products that have been detained include equipment and food products that may affect public health, safety and the environment.
Consignment re-exported	0	8	-8	

As part of its standards monitoring and promotion programme, the BSJ executes the following two programmes:

- a. National Quality Awards (NQA) Programme
- b. Gas Pump Certification Programme

(a) National Quality Awards (NQA) Programme

The activities of the 2nd National Quality Award (NQA) Programme were launched in March 2005 and culminated with an Awards Ceremony on World Standards Day, 14th October 2005. This Awards Programme, which was developed by the BSJ as part of its standards monitoring and promotion programme, forms part of a national initiative with the objectives of:

- Promoting the international competitiveness of Jamaican products and services
- Creating a national medium for business excellence

(b) Gas Pump Certification Programme

The Gas Station Pump Certification Programme is designed to monitor the volumetric delivery of products from the gas pumps, thus ensuring that the amount dispensed from pumps is in agreement with the indicated meter reading. Inspections are conducted every six (6) months.

Since April 2005, approximately ninety five percent (95%) of gas stations island-wide have been tested and certified by the BSJ. Consumers, having become more sensitized to the effect and value of the programme, have begun to bring pressure on gasoline retailers, leading to a greater level of compliance in the industry.

6.2 Policy Issue - 2 - Promulgation of Standards

During the year under review, the Bureau advanced its efforts to facilitate the development of national standards. Representatives from industry were co-opted into technical groups to identify and develop standards relevant to the industry which they represented.

The following standards have been approved by the Standards Council:

- **CARICOM Standard for Brewery Products** - This standard is intended to protect the health of the consuming public.
- **Quality Management (ISO 9000:2000 & 9004:2000) standards** - These standards specify the guidelines that organizations should adopt to fulfill the customer's quality requirements; enhance customer satisfaction; and achieve continual improvement in their performance.

- **Jamaican Standard Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cement** - This standard is intended to protect the health and safety of the consumer

The following standards have been approved by the Standards & Technical Committee and are awaiting final approval by the Standards Council:

- **Jamaican Standard Specification for pneumatic tyres for passenger cars** - This standard is intended to protect the motoring public from inappropriate specifications for Jamaican conditions.
- **Jamaican Standard Specification for pneumatic tyres for vehicles other than passenger cars** - This standard is similarly intended to protect the motoring public from inappropriate specifications for Jamaican conditions

Two (2) groups established to facilitate the standards development are:

- a. Jamaica Standards Network (JSN)
- b. National Codex Committee (NCC)

(a) Jamaica Standards Network (JSN)

The Jamaica Standards Network (JSN) is a network of all standards writing organizations in Jamaica, working together to ensure the development of all required national standards, including standards that are to be submitted for consideration as regional (CARICOM) and/or international standards. This network is intended to:

- Facilitate information transfer for the development of standards
- Ensure industry players are sensitive to the dynamics of the global environment
- Respond quickly to market situations
- Remove technical barriers so as to facilitate trade

(b) National Codex Committee (NCC)

The NCC was launched in December 2004. Its Secretariat, housed at the BSJ, is comprised of representatives of the MITEC, MOAL, Pesticide Control Authority (PCA), MOH, and the BSJ. In addition to the NCC, seven (7) sub-committees were established:

- Food Hygiene
- Food Additives and Contaminants
- Meat and Meat Products
- Milk and Milk Products
- Food Labeling
- General Subjects
- Pesticide Residue

6.3 Policy Issue - 3 - Building Code Project

The Bureau is facilitating the development of a National Building Code as well as a Caribbean Building Code. The Jamaica Institution of Engineers (JIE) is providing technical support in the process.

The areas to be covered by the Building Code include:

- Construction of buildings to facilitate access by the disabled
- Small and informal construction
- Pre-stressed construction
- Building of certain structures (for example, hospitals, schools and churches) so that they can more effectively withstand the effects of natural disasters
- Administration and enforcement of building standards
- Energy efficiency

Presently the progress of this project is approximately seventy five percent (75%) and completion is expected by mid 2006. Written submissions of application documents are awaited to complete the process.

6.4 Policy Issue - 4 - Business Competitiveness Enhancement

(a) BSJ/JBDC Product Development for SMEs Programme

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the BSJ and the Jamaica Business Development Centre (JBDC) seeks to provide technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) through the provision of information and technical support to comply with the required standards for products, packaging and labeling, thus enabling them to more effectively compete in the local and global markets.

The achievements include the following:

- Development of manufacturing instructions, quality assurance procedures and a technical information manual in respect of two (2) herbal tea blends.
- Development and production for commercial sale, of mini replicas of the statue located at the Emancipation Park.
- Labeling of food products such as gizzadas, coconut drops and grater cakes.

(b) IDB MIF/GOJ Implementation of Quality Environmental and Food Safety Systems in Jamaica

The BSJ is the executing agency for the IDB/GOJ Quality Jamaica Project, a Technical Cooperation Agreement for the "Implementation of Quality, Environmental and Food Safety Systems in Jamaica", the objectives of which are to develop local demand and capacity to implement quality, environmental and food safety management systems, and to enhance efficiency, quality, competitiveness and export volumes.

The management systems to be implemented in the SME's are: ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).

The following has been achieved:

Component 1 - Raise awareness and achieve a “Buy In” among SMEs regarding the importance of ISO Management and HACCP Food Safety Systems as a tool for continuous improvement and competitiveness.

- Over two thousand persons (2,000) have been made aware of the Project through seminars or workshops.

Component 2 - Develop a local supply of qualified consultants, auditors and trainers specifically trained in the implementation of ISO Management and HACCP systems in SME's

- Over eight hundred (800) persons have been trained in General HACCP Awareness and Internal Auditing.
- Over one thousand (1,000) persons are expected to be trained over a fifteen (15) month period.
- Forty-two (42) trainees have completed the 4-module “Train the Trainer Course.”

Component 3 - Facilitate the implementation of these systems in approximately 100 Jamaican SMEs

- Thirty-one (31) companies have joined the programme and are at different stages of the implementation process:
 - Gap Audits have been conducted in eighteen (18) companies.
 - One (1) company is at the final stage of obtaining certification.

Component 4 - Institutional strengthening to enhance the ability of the Bureau to attain international recognition as a Certification Body

- Plans are underway for the establishment of this Body during the first half of the next financial year.

(c) The Bureau of Standards Trade System (BSTS)

The Bureau of Standards Trade System (BSTS) born out of the Jamaica Trade Point Trade Facilitation Project is aimed at rationalizing public sector processes, thereby seeking to significantly improve trade facilitation.

The system is intended to:

- Assist the BSJ and Customs to monitor the importation of sensitive items in a more targeted and efficient manner.
- Enable a more organized and controlled export system by offering exporters a convenient and controlled export certification application process.
- Eliminate unnecessary paperwork, duplication of information and the time expended moving from agency to agency.

(d) BSJ/JAS Crop Certification Programme

This partnership programme, between BSJ and the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), is supported by stakeholders from various national agencies, including: Pesticide Control Authority (PCA), Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (MOAL)/Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), Scientific Research Council (SRC) and Agro Grace Ltd.

The project seeks to:

- Certify (in the first phase) seven crops: tomato, sweet pepper, hot pepper, carrot, ginger, escallion and thyme from seventeen (17) farms selected from the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, St. Ann, and St. Elizabeth.
- Encourage an increase in the level of acceptance and consumption of Jamaica's agricultural produce within twelve (12) months of completion of the pilot phase.
- Enable the provision of safe, quality agricultural produce for distribution and use in the Jamaica Agricultural Society Central Marketing Programme.
- Assist agricultural producers in fulfilling requirements for export to the European Union as well as other international markets.

6.5 Policy Issue - 5 - Popularization of Standards, Science and Technology

National Innovation Awards Programme (NIAP)

The National Innovation Awards Programme (NIAP) is a joint initiative of the BSJ, the Scientific Research Council (SRC) and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture (specifically the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica – ASTJ). The programme was launched in 2004 and forms part of a national initiative with the objective of popularizing science, technology and standardization to the future generation.

The programme is available to students at all levels of academic institutions, primary, secondary and tertiary. In 2005, project activities were as follows:

- **The Annual Science, Technology and Standardization Essay & Poster Competitions** - Approximately two hundred and twenty (220) entries were received in the following categories: Saving our Seas; Saving our Forest; Saving our Ozone; Saving our Natural Habitat; Saving our Land; and Standardization and Metrology.
- **The Annual Science, Technology and Standardization Quiz Competition** - The competition was held in the eastern and central regions of the island and was open to primary, preparatory and high schools. Over one hundred (100) schools participated in the competition which focused mainly on areas of standardization, science and technology.

- **The Annual Science, Technology and Standardization Summer Camps** - The Science, Technology and Standardization Summer Camps 2005, were jointly hosted by the BSJ and SRC. There were three (3) one-week camps islandwide: in Bluefields, Westmoreland; May Pen, Clarendon; and Kingston. The BSJ hosted the Kingston Camp on its premises. Approximately one hundred and thirty-five (135) students between the ages of 9 and 14 participated in all three camps.
- **The Innovation Awards for Science and Technology**

In November 2005, for the first time, the National Innovation Awards for Science and Technology were presented. The BSJ collaborated with the SRC in executing the activities which culminated in the National Science and Technology Awards Banquet.

The major goals of the Innovation Awards are:

- to sensitize, stimulate and encourage stakeholders - individuals, students, communities and organizations - to use science and technology in their endeavours, ultimately creating an enabling environment for innovation and creativity.
- to celebrate outstanding achievements of innovators in science and technology.

6.6 Policy Issue - 6 - Consumer Protection

(a) Guarding the Ackee Export Market

In light of the recall by the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) of a shipment of canned ackees in brine from Jamaica in December 2005, the BSJ in fulfilling its mandate to protect the health and safety of Jamaican consumers and preserve the integrity of Jamaica's export trade, reintroduced a system of batch by batch testing of canned ackees in brine for two months. The reintroduction of this system means that the six (6) FDA/HACCP-certified processors no longer benefit under the Processed Food Act Exemption (2002) Regulation and therefore need approval and export certificates in line with the other twelve (12) processors who export canned ackees in brine.

In March 2006, the BSJ conducted a workshop on ackee harvesting and delivery, for farmers in St. Catherine. Presentations were made to sixty-seven (67) farmers in attendance, by representatives of the BSJ, JAS and RADA.

(b) Monitoring the Cement Industry

Against the background of the crisis in the cement industry triggered by the recall of all cement produced by Caribbean Cement Company Limited (CCCL) at its plant in Rockfort, from 19 to 25 February 2006, the BSJ has now tightened its monitoring and testing regime to involve a weekly and eventually twice weekly check of the product. In addition, the BSJ will continue to pursue measures designed to ensure the recertification of the CCCL under the National Certification Mark Programme, thus

ensuring that the company and consumers benefit from this quality assurance designation.

6.7 Policy Issue 7 - International Programmes

The participation of Jamaica in regional, hemispheric and international standards issues was further strengthened during the review period with the following activities being the main highlights:

(a) Jamaica's Nomination to the COPANT Board of Directors - Jamaica has been nominated to the Pan-American Standard Commission (COPANT) Board of Directors for the period 2006-2008. COPANT is an association that promotes standardization and related activities. COPANT members are the national standards bodies of twenty-eight (28) countries of the Americas (North, South and Central Americas, and the Caribbean).

(b) Jamaica Holds the Chair for CROSQ - The Executive Director of the BSJ chairs the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) for the period 2004-2006.

(c) Harmonization of Regional Standards - In an effort to facilitate the development and harmonization of regional standards, Jamaica has worked closely with all other member states and CROSQ in the development of regional standards. Based on the work done, the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) approved the following as CARICOM Standards:

- **CARICOM Standard Specification for Grading and Quality Requirements for Table Eggs** (voluntary until January 2008) – This standard seeks to protect health of consumers.
- **CARICOM Standard for Poultry Meats and Poultry Products** (voluntary until January 2007) - This standard seeks to protect health of consumers.
- **CARICOM Standard Specification for QAC Based Aromatic Disinfectant** - This standard is intended to protect the health and safety of consumers.
- **CARICOM Standard Specification for Hand Dishwashing Detergent** - This standard is intended to protect the health and safety of consumers.
- **CARICOM Standard Specification for Synthetic Laundry Detergent** - This standard is intended to protect the health and safety of consumers.

(d) CROSQ/IDB Project: Promoting SME Competitiveness in the Caribbean through Technical Standards

This project, of which the BSJ is one of four sub-executing agencies, intends to encourage the participation of SME's in the standardization process in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and is being executed by CROSQ with funding from the IDB through its technical cooperation facility, the MIF. The four-year project is expected to boost the competitiveness of SME's and facilitate the export of goods and services regionally and internationally.

The other sub-executing agencies are the Standards Bureaux of Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana and Barbados

(e) Jamaica/México Bilateral Agreement

The Technical Cooperation Agreement between Jamaica and Mexico relating to the development of metrology capabilities in Jamaica, facilitated participation of the BSJ in a training course at the Centro Nacional de Metrología (CENAM) in April 2005.

As a result of this training opportunity, the BSJ is now able to more effectively participate in the governance of regulations in the Flow and Volume Industry especially the newly promulgated Weights and Measures (“Measures of Petroleum and Oil Fuel for Trade”) Regulations.

6.8 Other Activities

The following are capital projects which were pursued during the Financial Year 2005/2006:

- Sewage Project
- Revamp Air Conditioning System
- Upgrade of Elevator
- Refurbish Foyer (Lobby - Main Building)
- Upgrade of Training Facility
- Time and Frequency Metrology Project
- Chemical Metrology Project

7.0 Summary of Main Programmes for Financial Year 2006/2007

For this financial year, the focus will be on continuing or commencing implementation of the following projects and programmes:

- Ensure that all critical standards are internationally traceable
- Operate all laboratories based on ISO / IEC 17025 systems
- Upgrade two (2) metrology laboratories (Mechanical and Analytical)
- Develop and submit a new food safety legislation
- Develop and implement an exchange programme for key staff with selected “benchmark organizations”
- Certify fifteen (15) food factories to HACCP Standard
- Certify fifteen (15) establishments in the National Certification Mark Programme
- Establish a certification body within the BSJ under the IDB MIF/GOJ Project
- Implement the Labeling Registration Programme

8.0 Budgetary Outturn and Proposal for Financial Year 2006/2007

The Bureau has been designated a self-financing public entity. For the year under review, actual unaudited expenditure was \$347 M while income was \$526 M. Estimated income for the 2006/2007 Financial Year is \$545 M while estimated expenditure is \$476 M. It should be noted that based on Cabinet approval, excess funds are generally used to fund various development initiatives.

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