

**GREETINGS**

**LAUNCH OF JS ISO 39001 ROAD SAFETY**

**STANDARD**

**BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA (BSJ)**

**WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

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**Salutations:**

- Hon. Mike Henry, Minister of Transport & Mining
- Mr. Victor Anderson, National Road Safety Council
- Ms. Yvonne Hall, Executive Director, BSJ
- Mr. James Rawle, Chairman, Standard Council
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture & Fisheries, it is my great pleasure to endorse the launch of this very important standard, **JS ISO 39001**.

Let me also acknowledge the important role being played by the Bureau of Standards (BSJ) in the development of relevant

standards, and in the process, helping to protect our people and create a better society.

The standard, JS ISO 39001, as you know, is about road traffic safety.

As I am sure the National Road Safety Council will agree – too many of our people are dying on the streets.

Since the beginning of this year (Up to September 19), some 277 persons lost their lives in 229 motor vehicle crashes.

Globally, about 1.25 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes.

Without serious and sustained action, road traffic crashes are predicted to rise to become the 7th leading cause of death by 2030.

Hence, the BSJ's launch of this standard is for all those stakeholders who use the road traffic system, or who have a major impact on the safety of our road transport system. This Standard is intended for application by all organisations regardless of type, size or products and services provided.

Some of the categories of companies and organisations that could benefit include:

- The design, building and maintenance of roads and streets

- Companies involved in the transport of goods and people, and,
- All organisations with personnel working in the road transport system

The standard, therefore, constitutes a valuable asset for saving lives, suffering and a lot of unnecessary costs, through international acceptance and transparency, a holistic and systematic approach, common definitions, and cooperation in the transfer of knowledge in the matter of road traffic safety.

For us in government, ISO 39001 provides an opportunity to further engage our partners in safety. We know, for example, that the Ministry of Transport & Mining along with the National Road Safety Council has been working very hard to reduce the number of road deaths and injuries on our streets.

Together with our partners, the private sector, other ministries, departments and agencies, we must keep working to improve road safety, and we see implementation of JS 93001 leading to significant improvements in road traffic safety for all drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Let me, in closing, encourage all our stakeholders to take a serious look at this Standard to assist you in identifying opportunity areas

for road safety, and in order to take the most effective actions to address issues or gaps for the improvement of road safety at all levels.

Again, we welcome the launch of the **JS ISO 39001 Road Safety Standard**.