



POST-MOU MONITORING REPORT

BACKGROUND

This Monitoring Report represents the sixth in a series of updates on the issues raised in the GOJ/PSOJ consultations which are reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ) which incorporates Appendix A of the MOU - the "timeframes" document - **GOJ/PSOJ Consultations on Obstacles to Doing Business.**



This report is prepared by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Technology in accordance with the expectation of adherence to the timeframes indicated for the issues to be addressed.

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2000

ISSUE – STATUS AND TIMEFRAME FOR REVIEW/UPDATE	
21	<p><u>ROAD REPAIRS – NEWPORT EAST</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Transport and Works reported in September 2000 that it is in the process surveying the roads in the Newport East area with a view to preparing estimates on the work that will need to be undertaken. At that time, the Ministry had indicated that heavy rains had led to delays in the completion of the survey. It is anticipated that once the surveys and costings of the work are completed, contract documents will be prepared and tendered in order for the road works to commence.</p>
22	<p><u>ROLE OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS</u></p> <p>In keeping with the Bureau of Standards' commitment to facilitate trade and remove unnecessary delays, the Bureau requested that the Processed Food Act be amended to allow the recognition of the factories that have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) systems in place. A submission was made in this regard and approved by Cabinet in September 2000. Drafting instructions have been issued for the regulation which should be ready for promulgation within a period of two (2) months.</p> <p>Specifically, the new regulation under Section 13 (1) of the Processed Food Act is being drafted. This regulation will provide exemption for a 12-month period in respect of any processor which has a HACCP or other recognized management system which, in the opinion of the Bureau of Standards, would ensure product safety. Certification of these systems will be the prerogative of the Bureau. It is envisaged that this will remove the batch by batch end-product testing requirement and put the responsibility for maintaining the HACCP food safety system on the processor/exporter. This process certification should offer the following advantages to exporters of processed food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Reduced lead time between production and certification;(ii) Reduced inventory by virtue of an accelerated stock turnover;(iii) Uninterrupted production and export process;(iv) Reduced storage cost; and(v) Reduced testing costs.

	ISSUE – STATUS AND TIMEFRAME FOR REVIEW/UPDATE
	On Thursday, 19th October 2000, the contract for the execution of the Jamaica/SWEDAC National Quality Infrastructure Project was signed and the project officially launched at the Bureau of Standards. The Project commenced on 1st October 2000 and Phase 1, which will result in the development of a National Quality Policy, is currently underway.

**Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Technology
October 31, 2000**