



Dominica Bureau of Standards

STANDARDS COMPLIANCE-INSPECTION UNIT

ABOUT US

In this issue:

- About Us
- Services Offered
- Public Awareness Activities
- Upcoming Plans

Who we are:

Standards Compliance is a sub-unit within the Inspection Unit at the Dominica Bureau of Standards (the Bureau). The Sub-unit is responsible for monitoring all product labels for locally manufactured and imported goods for trade. Currently, goods are monitored under the eight (8) compulsory Dominica National

Standards – Specifications for Labelling. These Standards assist in the welfare, health, and safety of consumers and the environment. The Sub-unit is engaged in various inspection and public awareness activities to ensure that the labelling requirements are adhered to.

Contact Us:

Dominica Bureau of Standards

NCTE Building,

Stockfarm

P.O. Box 1015

Roseau

Dominica

Tel: 767 275 5921

Email:

info@dominicastandards.org

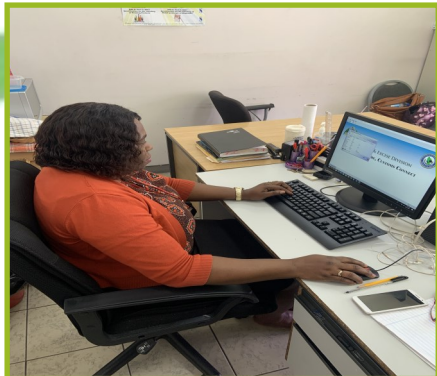


Importance of the Sub-unit:

- ◆ To ensure that substandard goods do not enter our market
- ◆ To ensure that locally manufactured products become competitive in local and regional markets
- ◆ To ensure customers receive value for money
- ◆ To assist local products in accessing regional and international markets
- ◆ To ensure that products imported and produced locally comply with labelling requirements

SERVICES OFFERED

1. Processing of Entries via ASYCUDA World Systems:



To enable the monitoring of imported goods, the Bureau began using the ASYCUDA World System in 2009, the same year that it was incorporated by Customs and Excise Division. Through the

system, entries are monitored and processed in real time which enables importers to receive their goods thus facilitating the process of trade.

2. Market Surveillance

Regular market surveillance is conducted island-wide at retail outlets to ensure that product labels conform to the labelling requirements of the eight (8) Compulsory National Labelling Standards. This activity involves

the inspection of both imported and locally manufactured products. Over the years, a marked improvement has been observed in the labelling of products on the market.



3. Label Evaluation and Approval



Label Evaluation and Registration is a service offered to ensure compliance of all product labels. The applicants are provided with a letter upon approval of labels to signify that the specific requirements are met. Label Evaluation and Registration:

⇒ Ensures compliance with the

compulsory National Standards for Labelling

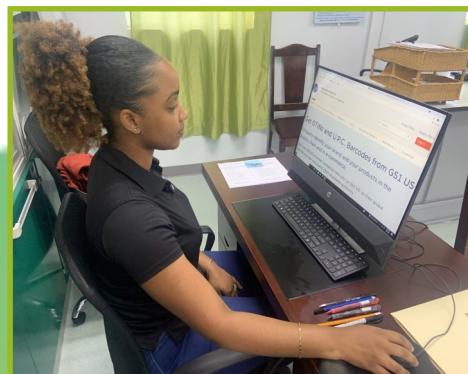
- ⇒ Enables products acceptance by retail establishments on island
- ⇒ Ensures that the products are export ready
- ⇒ Aids in the promotion and marketing of products

4. Sale of Barcodes

A barcode is an optical readable representation of data and plays a key role in supply chains. The data usually describes something about the product that carries the barcode. This service provided by the Dominica Bureau of Standards involves the generation of barcodes using International Guidelines (GS1) and uses the

EAN/UPC symbology, which is the most recognizable family of barcodes in the GS1 System which is:

- ⇒ Affordable
- ⇒ GS1 Guidelines formulated
- ⇒ Accepted internationally



PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

As part of its Marketing Plan, the Unit hosted several training and sensitization sessions on the adherence to labelling requirements and to promote the services of the unit. These sessions targeted individuals and

companies involved in graphic design and printing, government support agencies, local manufacturers, agro-processors, and students of secondary and tertiary schools.

1. Workshop for Graphic Designers and Printing Companies

On 20th April 2021, nineteen (19) individual and companies involved in graphic design and printing

participated in a workshop aimed at improving product labels on island.



2. Workshop for Importers/Supermarkets and Brokers

The Sub-unit hosted three (3) meetings with brokers, importers and supermarket representatives between the months of January and June 2021 in Roseau and Portsmouth. The sessions were aimed at discussing

ASYCUDA World System requirements as it relates to the Bureau and compliance of locally manufactured product labels. The information was well received by the participants.



PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES CON'T

3. Workshop for Local Manufacturers and Agro-Processors

On June 15th and 22nd, 2021, training sessions were hosted for Local Manufacturers and Agro-processors at the Goodwill Parish Hall and Portsmouth Co-operative Credit Union respectively. This formed part of the Sub-unit's awareness and sensitisation programme aimed at increasing conformance to the requirements of the eight (8) Compulsory Dominica National Standards – Specifications for Labelling. A total of sixty-three (63) manufacturers/agro-processors involved in the production of products

such as oils, punches, and confectionaries, to name a few, were in attendance.

The main objectives of these sessions were to encourage adherence to the Compulsory Dominica National Standards – Specifications for Labelling and to promote the services offered by the Bureau. The importance of the Specifications for Labelling was emphasized and their requirements were thoroughly explained and illustrated.



4. School Drive

A total of eleven (11) schools were visited during the period April 26th to May 28th, 2021 as part of the Bureau's awareness and sensitisation programme. This school drive targeted students interested in areas of manufacturing, entrepreneurship, agriculture, and other sciences. This activity was spearheaded by the Standards-Compliance Sub-Unit. The following schools were visited:

- ◆ Portsmouth Secondary School
- ◆ Saint John's Academy
- ◆ Community High School
- ◆ Castle Bruce Secondary School
- ◆ Saint Martin Secondary School
- ◆ North East Comprehensive School
- ◆ Isaiah Thomas Secondary School
- ◆ Dominica State College
- ◆ Wesley High School
- ◆ Convent High School
- ◆ Saint Mary's Academy



PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES CON'T

5. Workshop for Supporting Government Agencies

On 27th May 2021, a meeting was hosted with government agencies providing support to local manufacturers and agro-processors. In attendance were representatives from the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Dominica Export and Import Agency (DEXIA), Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT), Companies and Intellectual Properties, and the Bureau of Gender Affairs. The Sub-unit hopes to continue its collaboration with these agencies for the improvement of locally manufactured products.



UPCOMING PLANS

The following are some of the upcoming plans of the Sub-unit

- ◆ To increase the scope to include tyres, building materials, and vehicle inspections.
- ◆ To test repossessed electrical appliances
- ◆ To resume port and consignment inspections
- ◆ To continue public awareness
- ◆ To host expositions in collaboration with agencies providing support to local manufacturers and local manufacturers and agro-processors
- ◆ To host a school competition providing schools with the opportunity to develop a product.
- ◆ To expand the Inspection Unit's services in the

