



PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT
BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA

Auditor General's Department

December 2016

Summary

- ❑ The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) is responsible for facilitating the timely development, promulgation, promotion and implementation of national and regional standards (and technical regulations) for goods, services, processes and practices. BSJ monitors conformance with the applicable legislations and standards including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Organization for Standards and Quality Act (2005) through inspections and investigations of establishments and the ports of entry as well as through laboratory testing of products.
- ❑ In 2016, we conducted a performance audit to determine whether BSJ was executing its monitoring functions efficiently and effectively, in order to ensure the protection of consumers from substandard products.
- ❑ The audit revealed that BSJ could benefit from more efficient use of its resources, as inspection activities focused mainly on areas that posed minimal risks to consumers' health and safety. The audit also found that quality standards were not consistently reviewed and kept up-to-date to ensure continued applicability and relevance.

Key Findings

1. BSJ monitoring activities mainly focused on conformance with labelling standards.
2. BSJ placed limited emphasis on testing products for conformance with quality standards.
3. No significant improvement in testing of gas nozzles when compared to the status in January 2004.

Key Findings

4. BSJ was not proactive in identifying food processing establishments in order to assess their level of compliance with its standards.
5. To date, BSJ has reviewed only 40 of the 141 mandatory standards to ensure their continued applicability and reflection of evolving threats to consumers' health and safety.
6. To BSJ's credit, a Job Management and Tracking System (JMITS) was acquired to record and monitor inspections and laboratory activities; however, BSJ has not utilised all the components of the software.

Recommendations

1. BSJ should undertake an enterprise wide risk assessment and management to ensure that resources are appropriately matched with risk levels which may be influenced by both legislative and behavioural factors.
2. BSJ should adhere to its schedule for testing gas nozzles as recommended in our 2004 audit report.