



AUGUST 2021

# THE QFACTOR+

## *In This Edition*

### [Export Potential Could be the Key to Region's Recovery.](#)

### [EU-funded Policy Critical for St. Kitts & Nevis' Development](#)

### [TTBS Creating Testing Centre of Excellence for EE Lighting.](#)

**and much more...**

#### **CROSQ Secretariat**

e. [croseq.caricom@croseq.org](mailto:croseq.caricom@croseq.org)  
a. 2nd Floor, Baobab Towers, Warrens, St Michael, Barbados, W.I.  
w. [www.qfactor.croseq.org](http://www.qfactor.croseq.org) / [www.croseq.org](http://www.croseq.org)



## [Export Potential Could be the Key to Region's Recovery.](#)

If there's one thing the last two years have taught us as a region, it's how vulnerable we are to shocks. But it's also shown us how much we need productive sectors to help bounce back from the toll these shocks, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, can take on our economies.

This is why two initiatives being undertaken by the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Component of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Programme are coming at an invaluable time for us in this CARIFORUM region.

The Programme, which includes activities in all 16 countries of the CARIFORUM, involves national dialogues with vital priority sectors in specific countries, as well as value chain analyses and discussions ...

[Read more](#)

# Regional Private Sector Sure to Benefit from Certification

The region's private sector will be one of the major beneficiaries of interventions by the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Component of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Programme.

Among activities currently underway is the certification of five private sector firms – one each in Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Montserrat and St Kitts and Nevis, as part of the aims by the programme to make the region more competitive.

This programme is doing so by implementing quality management systems into these companies' operations, thereby moving them one step closer to standing toe-to-toe with similarly competitive international firms. The systems being implemented range from ISO 9001; ISO 22000 – Food Safety Management Systems; and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point, better known as HACCP.

[Read more](#)

## Regional Cooperation Vital to INDOCAL



*INDOCAL hosted a Quality Symposium to focus on the work it is doing in the 11th EDF TBT Programme.*

Regional cooperation is of vital importance to boost technical and financial support for both public and private policies in a nation. The unity of efforts between national and regional organizations increases the provision of equipment, supplies, as well as advice and training. Factors that strengthen the purposes where they are applied, and in this particular case, are fundamental for the promotion of the Dominican Quality Infrastructure.

Since 2019, the 11th EDF (European Development Fund) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Project has provided the CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic with benefits from the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

[Read more](#)



Minister of International Trade, Industry, Commerce, Consumer Affairs & Labour, Hon. Wendy Phipps.

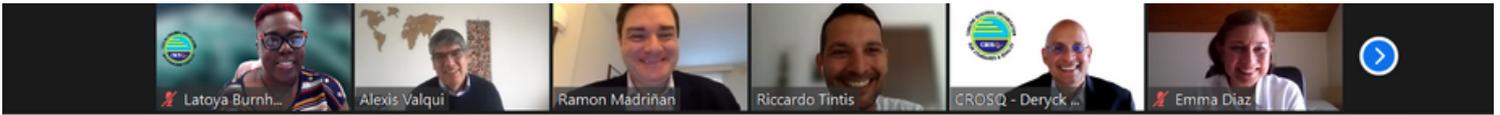
## EU-funded Policy Critical for St Kitts & Nevis' Development

To meet its local mandate and stay competitive and relevant globally, the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) has recently completed several physical upgrades to its premises. The bureau is also currently engaged in developing a National Quality Policy (NQP).

In addition to the aesthetic changes to the plant, the bureau has also upgraded the labs for international accreditation.

“We aim to satisfy the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and meet the needs of the testing and measurements for trade,” the bureau stated.

[Read more](#)



Mr. Giovanni Cervoni of AESA chairs the kick-off launch meeting.



## CARICOM Harmonising Approach to TBT Regulations

The CARICOM Region is harmonizing the way it approaches the application of regulations to technical barriers to trade (TBTs), thanks to an EU-Funded initiative now underway.

The project, managed by TradeComII and administered by CROSQ, was launched on July 20th with a virtual kick-off meeting between the region and Brussels, where the objectives and planned outputs were discussed.

[Read more](#)

# Regional Cooperative Mechanism Helping Labs Get Accredited



*CROSQ Technical Officer,  
Accreditation & Conformity  
Assessment, Mr. Stephen  
Farquharson*

Regional frameworks, like the Caribbean Cooperation for Accreditation that links the services of quality professionals with the businesses that really need their assistance to become accredited or certified, can go a long way toward achieving aspects of sustainability in CARICOM.

This is the view of Technical Officer, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment with the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ), Mr. Stephen Farquharson.



[Video link here](#)

[Read more](#)



File photo by cottonbro of pexels.

## Scientists Building A Safer Region With Reliable Measurement

Caribbean metrologists are recommitting themselves to seeing a safe CARICOM region, with the continued development of the measurement sciences, especially in light of recent challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic and the volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent.

As the world celebrates World Metrology Day 2021 under the theme “Measurement for Health”, Technical Officer, Metrology at the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ), Mr. Nicol Best noted that regional metrologist were doing their utmost to maintain healthy populations in these critical times.

[Read more](#)

# CROSQ Network Highlights

*Mr. Doodnath Singh demonstrating the TTBS Integrating Sphere.*

## TTBS Creating Testing Centre of Excellence for EE Lighting Products

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards' Laboratory Services Division is being developed as a centre of excellence for testing in energy efficiency of lighting products.

The Laboratory came into existence as part of a CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) Project called "R3E" or the Strengthening of the Regional Quality Infrastructure in the Caribbean in the Areas of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies.

In 2018, two members from the Electrical Products Laboratory Ms. Nadine Jeffrey and Mr. Doodnath Singh attended a five-day training programme at LABELO PUCRS institute in Brazil for performance requirements testing to LEDs and CFL lighting product to IEC 62612 and IEC 60969 respectively.

[Read more](#)

## Dominica Improving Quality of Cocoa Exports

Dominica's cocoa bean and cocoa industry came in for some support recently, to better aid the competitiveness of this national exporting product.

The valued intervention came on July 27, 2021, when the Dominica Bureau of Standards and the Dominica Export Import Agency, in conjunction with the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) component of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF), Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Programme, hosted a value chain workshop.

[Read more](#)



[File photo]



# National Quality Dialogue with the Tourism Sector

The National Quality Dialogue launched with the tourism sector in Saint Lucia on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, has been hailed as great for the development of the country's vital foreign exchange earning product.

The statement was made by Director of Product Development with the Ministry of Tourism, Mrs Ann-Margaret Adams, as she delivered the key featured address at the quality forum which was held online with major tourism stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

## Jamaica Takes It All Online

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact face-to-face activities in the quality world, regional bureaux have responded by taking their offerings online. This includes everything from stakeholder engagements to shopping for standards.

The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) continues to impact industry in the virtual space with paced scheduling of a series of Information Hot Spot sessions. This has enabled the bureau to reach far more persons from diverse places in the virtual space, than face-to-face sessions would have allowed.

**Today's Featured Products**

<p>QI Training Course - Risk Management</p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Jamaican Standard Code of Practice for Industry standards developed or adopted, based on the text</p> <p><b>BSJ</b> Bureau of Standards Jamaica BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA</p> <p>JS 311 2009 - Jamaican Standard Specification for Application Document for the International Private Sewage Disposal Code</p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Jamaican Standard Code of Practice for Industry standards developed or adopted, based on the text</p> <p><b>BSJ</b> Bureau of Standards Jamaica BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA</p> <p>JS 1 Part 2 1992 - Jamaican Standard Specification for The Labelling of Commodities - Labelling of Footwear</p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>QI Training Course - Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)</p>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <p>Jamaican Standard Code of Practice for Industry standards developed or adopted, based on the text</p> <p><b>BSJ</b> Bureau of Standards Jamaica BUREAU OF STANDARDS JAMAICA</p> <p>JS 1 Part 24 19 Standard Specification for The Labelling of Commodities - Labelling of C</p>
---	--	--	---	---

*Click image to go to BSJ ecommerce platform*

[Read more](#)

# Dominica Soap Manufacturer Looking to Export Markets

The first certification of the Mahaut-located Dominica Coconut Product (DCP) Successors Ltd by the Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBOS) is enabling the local business to start looking abroad for bigger markets.

The record achievement for the DBOS, in awarding it's first certification on July 13, 2021 after three months of rigorous auditing, has the local soap producers singing the praises of the potential of improving quality to boost the earning potential of domestic companies.

[Read more](#)



*DBOS Director, Mr. Median LaRocque presents DCP Successors Ltd's Quality Manager, Mrs. Sherma Desire-George with the certificate.*



*Staff were on hand to witness the occasion.*

## BSJ Appoints New Executive Director

The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) has a new Executive Director.

Dr. Velton Gooden was appointed by the Standards Council of the BSJ, through Chairman, Mr. Phillip Armstrong, effective June 01, 2021.

[Read more](#)



*Bureau of Standards Jamaica's Executive Director, Mr. Velton Gooden*



## Global Competitiveness and Relevance High on SKNBS Agenda

To meet its local mandate and stay competitive and relevant globally, the St. Kitts and Nevis Bureau of Standards (SKNBS) has recently completed several physical upgrades to its premises. The bureau is also currently engaged in developing a National Quality Policy (NQP). In addition to the aesthetic changes to the plant, the bureau has also upgraded the labs for international accreditation.

“We aim to satisfy the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and meet the needs of the testing and measurements for trade,” the bureau stated.

[Read more](#)

## GNBS Provides Verification for Breathalysers

The Legal Metrology Services Department of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) has finally built capacity to conduct the verification of breathalysers used by Enforcement Bodies, other companies, and organisations. As the institution responsible for measurements in Guyana, the GNBS has long been sought after by these stakeholders to build capacity to provide this verification service. As a result, the Bureau recently procured a Breathalyser Test Bench, which is capable of verifying a wide range of breathalysers.

[Read more](#)





*DBOS Director, Mr. Median LaRocque addressing manufacturers and agro-processors.*

## DBOS Targets Manufacturing Sector

The Dominica Bureau of Standards (DBOS) has targeted its manufacturing sector in an effort to increase conformance to the requirements of eight compulsory national standards for labelling. The Inspection Unit of the DBOS conducted trainings for local manufacturers and agro-processors in two locations at the Goodwill Parish Hall and the Portsmouth Cooperative Credit Union in June 2021, as part of its ongoing awareness and sensitisation efforts. A total of sixty-three (63) manufacturers/agro-processors involved in the production of oils, punches, and confectionaries, to name a few, were in attendance.

[Read more](#)

## Grenada Boosts Capacity in Mass and Temperature

The Grenada Bureau of Standards has established capabilities in the areas of mass and temperature metrology. As one of its strategic goals, the Bureau is looking to enhance these service areas and is now actively pursuing the establishment of calibration and verification services for blood pressure meters. This suite of services supports our health sector to ensure that the users are confident in the measurements provided.

[Read more](#)



*[File photo]*

## Trinidad and Tobago Announces Moratorium on Children's Toys

Stakeholders from the children's toy industry were in July advised of a moratorium period of 60 days for the enforcement of the National Compulsory Standard: TTCS 3:2020, Safety of Toys – Compulsory Requirements. Enforcement will commence on the 6th September, 2021.

[Read more](#)

# TTBS Enforces Mandatory Requirements for Laundry Detergents

Trinidad and Tobago has begun enforcement of a national compulsory standard for laundry detergents following a 60-days moratorium that ended on August 1, 2021.

The announcement about the National Compulsory Standard: TTCS 7: 2020 – Laundry Detergent – Compulsory Requirements, was made jointly by Mr. Gerard Maxwell, Manager, Implementation Division and Mr. Rodney Ramnath, Manager, Certification Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) at a virtual National Stakeholder Consultation in May. The moratorium ran from May 26th and as of August 2021, enforcement of the standard commenced.

[Read more](#)

## NCBJ Certifies Three in ISO 9001

In June, the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ) certified three (3) companies to ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System, a standard that is predicated on a number of quality management principles including a strong customer focus, the motivation and implication of top management, the process approach and continual improvement.

The three (3) newly certified companies are:

1. Tax Administration Jamaica – St. Andrew Revenue Center
2. Newport-Fersan (Jamaica) Ltd
3. JPSCo. – System Protection and Control Department

[Read more](#)

Chairman of BNSI,  
Mr. Ryan Brathwaite



## Barbados Renews Commitment to Building Quality

The Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) has responsibility for the development of the country's quality infrastructure, which is required for the effective operation of domestic markets, and its international recognition. Such recognition is of critical importance to enable access to foreign markets at a time when Barbados is repositioning to increase the exports of goods and services. This is a critical element in promoting and sustaining economic development, as well as environmental and social wellbeing.

[Read more](#)

# Upcoming National Events

BARBADOS, BELIZE, MONTSERRAT, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



## 11th EDF-EPA TBT Programme-related

**REGISTER ONLINE HERE**








## Agro Processors... your views matter

You are invited to join us in a

### Virtual Workshop

Hosted by the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) in collaboration with the Caricom Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

**Objective**

- Increase awareness of quality in enhancing business competitiveness
- Increase understanding of role of Quality Infrastructure (QI) in development of the agro-processing sector
- To provide guidance to QI institutions on matching services to meet the demands of agro-processors.

Tue 07 September, 2021, 9:00 A.M.  
Wed 08 - Fri 10 September, 2021, 9:30 A.M.

**To Register**  
Sessions are hosted via zoom. The registration link can be found in the information section of this post.



Barbados Agro-Processors virtual workshop registration link for technical sessions on Sept 8 - 9, 2021 (below)



Click available images to access Zoom registration links to attend events

## Other upcoming 11th EDF-TBT events (dates to be confirmed & announced)

- **Belize - National CALIDENA Workshop on Liquid Petroleum Gas (TBA)**
- **Montserrat - National Quality Dialogue with Agro-Processing Sector (TBA)**
- **Trinidad & Tobago - "Promoting Dialogue Between the National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) and the Agricultural Sector in Trinidad and Tobago" (TBA)**

\*\*\*Stay tuned to the CROSQ social media pages for confirmations & announcements

## TradeComII -- Phase 2 Project-related



CARIFORUM




Implemented by **giz**




### Virtual Webinar

Hosted by the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) in collaboration with the Caricom Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

## LABELLING AND PACKAGING FOR ACCESSING THE EUROPEAN MARKET

**Date:** Wed 01 September, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

**To Register:** This session is hosted via zoom. The registration link can be found in the information section of this post.



# The CROSQ Network

The CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards & Quality (CROSQ), is a network of bureaux of standards within the 15 Member States of CARICOM. It is headquartered in Barbados, with a mission to facilitate trade and competitiveness of products and services for sustainable development through the implementation of Regional Quality Infrastructure.



Antigua & Barbuda Bureau of Standards



Bahamas Bureau of Standards & Quality



Barbados National Standards Institution



Belize Bureau of Standards



Dominica Bureau of Standards



Grenada Bureau of Standards



Guyana National Bureau of Standards



Haiti Bureau of Standards



Bureau of Standards Jamaica



Montserrat Trade & Quality Infrastructure Division



St Kitts & Nevis Bureau of Standards



Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards



St Vincent & the Grenadines Bureau of Standards



Suriname Standards Bureau



Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards