

by the supplier have expired. If, for example, a supplier offers 60-day payment terms, the Jamaican importer may not enter the auction until after the 60 days have expired.

Despite the seeming complexity of the system, it has generally worked smoothly. Very few complaints of non-payment have been received from Canadian exporters.

Import Controls

Jamaica's import licensing system has been progressively dismantled over the last few years. Virtually all goods may now be imported freely with the following exceptions:

a) Goods to be Imported Solely by the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company (JCTC).

The JCTC is the government's trading arm and has the sole right to import a few products considered sensitive (e.g., motor vehicles) or normally provided to Jamaica as foreign aid (e.g., wheat, sardines and certain other bulk commodities).

b) Banned Items. A few products are banned from entering Jamaica. These include "one-armed bandits," dog-racing equipment and any product originating in the Republic of South Africa.

c) Items Requiring a Specific Import Licence. Some items still require an import licence. These include certain fresh fruits and vegetables, some pharmaceutical products, explosives, firearms and ammunition.

Import Duties

Jamaica uses the Common External Tariff adopted by all members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the 1970s. This tariff uses Customs Cooperation Council Nomenclature. The country has indicated its willingness in principle to adopt the new world standard Harmonized System, but will do so within the framework of CARICOM.

In January 1987 the Jamaican government announced a tariff reform program that will see reductions in duties on most products in line with its IMF-mandated structural adjustment program. Prior to the introduction of this program, cumulative taxes and duties on imports could exceed 200 per cent. In March 1987 the maximum cumulative tax/duty rate was lowered to 68 per cent. Imports of a limited number of products, including automobiles, tobacco, alcoholic beverages and certain fresh fruits and vegetables, will continue, however, to attract duties higher than 68 per cent.

Duty is generally assessed on an ad valorem basis.