

Fostering a Resilient Manufacturing Sector in Jamaica

The Role of the Anti-dumping and Subsidies Commission

The Anti-dumping and Subsidies Commission (the ADSC or Commission) is a strategic trade policy response by the Government to assist producers of goods in Jamaica as they face the impact of globalisation and related risks of unfair competition from some imports and from surges in volumes of even fairly traded goods. The Commission is a portfolio agency of the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, *Jamaica's Business Ministry*, which is in its 24th year of excellent service to the manufacturing sector. The primary role of the ADSC is to investigate allegations of unfair trading practices and increased import volumes and to determine redress for producers in Jamaica in keeping with applicable WTO agreements. Such Government of Jamaica policies bolster the resilience of the manufacturing and goods-producing sector.

Trade Remedies

Trade Remedies are trade defense instruments agreed upon by the World Trade Organization (WTO) members. They are measures, typically duties, which are applied to imports that are causing injury to a member's domestic industry. The Commission administers these Trade Remedies: (i) antidumping duties to counteract dumping; (ii) countervailing duties to counteract subsidization; and (iii) safeguard measures to counteract sudden increases in import volumes. Antidumping and countervailing duties can be imposed for five years initially and extended if a review shows that the same conditions that would cause injury, continue.

Boosting Investor Confidence

Investors in goods-producing industries in Jamaica have acknowledged that the ability to access a trade remedy boosts confidence to invest, bolsters competitiveness at home and increases the ability to penetrate export markets.

Affirmative determinations on behalf of the domestic industry have been issued in 70% of cases completed by the Commission and serve as a deterrent to these unfair trading practices. Companies that are well established in their home market have a strong foundation from which to penetrate markets abroad. Exports is one of the most urgent calls from the Government to expand the Jamaican economy and increase the wealth of Jamaicans. As producers in Jamaica seek to identify or expand into export markets, their strength at home is a critical factor in their success. Trade Remedies contribute to the ability of the producer in Jamaica to thrive at home, and flourish abroad.

The Genesis and Impact of the Commission

Trade liberalization in the 1980s and 1990s, coupled with reduced tariff rates, led to increasing imports of manufactured goods into Jamaica. This had a debilitating impact on local producers and reduced the manufacturing sector's relative contribution to GDP. Manufacturers in Jamaica appealed to the Government to use available means to help them to answer threats to their

business survival. The Commission was forged as an important carve-out by which local manufacturers could be defended against unfair trading practices which negatively impacted businesses in Jamaica that produced the same or similar products as some which are imported. Established in 1999 to administer Jamaica's trade remedies legislation, the ADSC conducts investigations, makes determinations in trade remedy matters and works to increase awareness of these remedies, helping to implement Jamaica's obligations under the WTO Agreements.

Early assessment and appropriate trade remedies are vital in addressing challenges posed by imports. The Commission encourages manufacturers and other producers to contact us if unfairly traded or surges in quantity of imported goods are affecting your business. Manufacturers and other goods producers can access trade remedies through the ADSC. Here's a guide on how to proceed:

1. **Note the Issue:** If you observe and believe that your business is affected by unfair trading practices such as dumping, subsidized imports, or import volumes of goods like your products are increasing substantially,
2. **Gather Evidence:** Collect data and information showing how these imports are causing injury to your business. This includes import data you may obtain from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) or the International Trade Centre (ITC), your financial records, and other relevant information.
3. **Contact the ADSC:** Consult the ADSC to discuss your concerns. We provide guidance on and the process to file for the remedies.
4. **Submit an Application:** File a formal written application for a trade remedy with the ADSC to include a written explanation and evidence showing how the imports are causing injury to your business.

For more detailed information and assistance, contact us and visit our website or get social with us. We will help you navigate the challenges caused by imports within the rules of international trade.

Call Your Trade Remedies Team on 876-978-1800

Visit our website: www.jadsc.gov.jm



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