



Our Service Offering

PwC Jamaica has established a dedicated Customs and International Trade Advisory Services (CITAS) practice to provide customs and supply chain advice and planning for clients engaged in cross-border trade.

The Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) along with other Border Regulatory Agencies (BRAs) oversee a myriad of rules and procedures governing both importation and exportation (with over 120 compliance-related provisions to be complied with by importers/exporters). The risk and costs associated with non-compliance can be very significant and impede the smooth functioning of business operations.

Our CITAS practice can assist you in navigating through both the compliance requirements of the customs and international trade framework and advise you on how your business operations can optimise access to incentives and trade preferences.

90% of international trade is processed by the JCA

<120 Provisions are regulated by the JCA

30% of tax revenues are derived from border taxes

All cross-border traders interface with the JCA

How can our CITAS practice help you?



Legislative and Administrative Framework

We can assist in navigating the complex legislative and administrative framework that exists when conducting cross-border trade. Accessing and understanding the legislative and procedural requirements can be difficult and may result in non-compliance for traders. The risk of exposures to breaches, penalties, detentions and seizures can increase and may result in additional costs and reputational damage to your business.



Trade Facilitation

We can assist in helping you to access expedited trading processes and avoid unnecessary trade restrictions. Through our assessment of your cost savings opportunities, we can help you to access customs programmes designed to reward compliant traders, as well as accessing trade facilitation mechanisms employed by the JCA that increases efficiency in the clearance process.



Cost of compliance

We can assist in lowering the cost of compliance by reviewing your business processes. The cost of compliance can be significant and may affect the profitability of your business. Penalties and breaches levied by the JCA are an unnecessary financial burden and will result in a lower compliance rating for your business. This decreases access to trade facilitation measures that improve the efficiency of the clearance process and may result in delays and additional costs, such as demurrage payments and additional duties.



Trade preferences and incentives

We can evaluate the right customs and international trade incentives and preferences that are relevant to your operations and assist you in accessing same. In addition to local incentives, reliefs and administrative preferences, you may also qualify for preferential benefits under international trade agreements concluded by Jamaica or CARICOM. We can assist in navigating through these rules of origin, with a view to identifying and optimising your entitlement to local or international incentives/preferences in respect of your operations.



Tariff Classification and Transaction Value

We can independently evaluate tariff classifications and customs values determined by you or your customs broker, to assess compliance with JCA requirements and consider the planning opportunities in respect of same. It is prudent not to determine these solely at the point of importation or exportation without conducting prior strategic planning or periodic independent review. Failure to do so can expose businesses to the risk of additional duty assessments in both the pre and post clearance process and can result in unrealised opportunities that save time and costs.



Navigating through Low Transparency

Customs and international trade requirements are not widely publicised and may be unknown, despite trade facilitation efforts by government and BRAs. Difficulties still remain based on the volume of requirements and decentralised access to information. Knowing who to contact and where to access specific information can save time and money, and increase your compliance rating. This leads to accessing more tangible benefits with or without engagement in trade facilitation programmes.

For further information, please feel free to contact any member of our CITAS team or your usual PwC Jamaica contact.

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