

Report for Prime Minister regarding EH operations at the Bridgetown Port

Environmental Health Staffing:

Currently, seventeen (17) EHOs are assigned to the Port system with two (2) rotating in to fill any gaps (vacation and sick leave). Ten of these are assigned to GAIA and seven to the Bridgetown Port. As per the Prime Minister's instruction, another 6 officers will be added to facilitate the 24 hrs. shifts at the Bridgetown Port.

Port Health:

Arriving vessels will be assessed and cleared through the Marine Single Window. Where a public health risk exists, the vessel will be treated according to the procedures laid out in the International Health Regulations. (Vessels arriving from "infected" ports or ports where there may be a public health concern, pratique will be granted only after the vessel had been boarded).

Port Health will audit the boarding systems every quarter to maintain health and efficiency standards. The audit will be guided by the principles of risk management.

In the event of a berthing of a vessel which has no obvious signs of rodent control measures, unloading activities will be suspended until an environmental sanitation inspection is completed.

Food inspection:

The following table shows the quantity of imported foods inspected and released to the public and foods condemned as unsafe for human consumption for the period 2019 to 2023.

Table 1: Foods Inspected and Condemned at B'town Port

Food Inspected	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wholesome Food Released (Kg)	129,484,131	125,220,132	121,919,909	135,228,533	129,892,738
Food Condemned (kg)	332,563	232,130	218,606	156,423	566,536
Total Food Imported Inspected (kg)	129,816,694	125,452,262	122,138,515	135,384,956	135,228,533

This represents an approximate 0.2% probability of condemnation over the stated five-year period of importation. It must be noted that the public health impact of the quoted 2% condemnation can be incredibly significant in a tourist oriented small developing state.

Please find below the proposal for the food inspection risk assessments framework to be implemented at the Bridgetown Port.

1. Environmental Health will engage importers to assist in the improvement of food quality and wholesomeness.
2. The department will also compile a list of importers designated as “trusted traders.” These trusted traders will be given the green light to unstuff and distribute food from containers with a low to medium risk rating without an examination from a Port Health Officer. The list of traders will be reviewed every two years.
3. Foods will be categorized based on their risk profile. The following factors assist with these categorizations;
 - a. Nature of foods, e.g. potentially hazardous or highly perishable foods;
 - b. Historical data;
 - c. Packaging; and
 - d. Post purchasing procedures.
4. Containers that are considered “green” by the Customs department will be quickly cleared from the port but reserved to be inspected at the warehouse.
5. Inspection of foods will be subject to the following inspection protocol;
 - a. Consolidated containers containing high risk foods will attract 100% inspections; there will be a 10% sample size pulled for inspection;
 - b. Consignments from high-risk importers will be subject to 100% inspection; A 10 % sample size will be pulled for inspection;
 - c. Consignments designated as containing medium risk foods will attract a 60% inspection rate. a sample sized of only 5% will be used for inspection;

- d. Up to 40% of food consignments from trusted traders will be inspected based on the risk profile of the consignment;
 - e. Only 20% of low-risk foods consignments will be subject to inspection, 5% sample size will be used for inspection;
 - f. Foods imported as samples will be treated according to their risk profile;
 - g. Consignments of less than 500kgs of medium and low risk foods will not be inspected; and
 - h. Recalled, damaged or any other contaminated/compromised products (insects, rodent, chemicals) from uninspected lots are to be stored in a suitably constructed area for EHOs to conduct the legal procedures pertaining to the destruction and disposal of these products.
6. EHOs will observe the standard 3 days to clear items from the port.