

Department	<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS</b>
Ministry	MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### **Mandate/ Responsibilities**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) has a mandate to advance and promote commerce and consumerism by ensuring that goods are reasonably priced; that the importation and exportation of goods is undertaken in accordance with international trading agreements; that products consumed by Barbadians meet national standards and measurement specifications and that instruments and other devices used in commerce are guaranteed to be accurate.

### **Impact of Electronic Single Window (ESW)**

Traders can create and submit license, permit, certificate and other form (LPCO) applications, edit previously created applications and obtain approval, all online without having to physically visit the DCCA offices. Multiple Participating Government Agencies (PGA) can review applications at the same time and traders benefit from improved transparency of the process.

Interactive tools will guide traders, or those interested in trading, through the product classification process. This will reduce errors in describing commodities, account for trade agreements, provide duty rates, outline requirements and determine what LPCOs are needed, thereby improving data quality and expediting the approval process.

Under ESW, the DCCA will have an efficient, streamlined electronic certification process, receive better quality data, be able to ask questions of traders to clarify the nature of the subject goods and benefit from the coordination of the approval process among agencies. The ESW will provide the DCCA with a suite of customizable reports to access trade data immediately, and a data warehouse that can be used in the future to develop its own reports.

Automating the application and issuing of import/export licenses and permits with the associated quota and restriction management system will remove the need to issue paper licenses and permits and for traders to visit the DCCA offices for this purpose.

Automating the process will also provide immediate up-to-date information on quota and restriction situations for regulatory agencies and traders.

In addition, should the principals involved in the import process, or any other information submitted, change from what was initially applied for, the trader can initiate the write-off process for the original LPCO and change the information, both pre and post-arrival.

### **Web Site**

<http://www.commerce.gov.bb/index.php/departments-a-agencies/department-of-commerce-and-consumer-affairs>



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