



CCLEC E-NEWSLETTER 3rd Quarter 2020



COVID-19 AND THE FUTURE OF BORDERS

At a recent CARICOM IMPACS Virtual Security Conference, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Albert Sandy, was invited to present on “Covid-19 and the future of borders.”

The PS emphasized that the Covid-19 pandemic highlights the importance of border security agencies to national and global security, political stability, economic prosperity, social peace, global health and the preservation of life and standards of living.

Seeing that national borders of the Caribbean basin are porous, mainly maritime, inadequately manned and equipped, it is imperative that our borders are mobile (collectively moved further out from the region, and manned through intra and extra Caribbean collaboration). This does not propose expanded physical demarcation of political borders, but rather the implementation of collaborative agreements, with foreign governments, to perform certain border security functions for the region, so as to detect

security, health and economic threats before they enter the regional space.

In addition, he said that regional and national borders of the future must be Smart, single-windowed, electronically connected, intelligence driven, risk based and cyber secure in order to facilitate legitimate trade and travelers, while interdicting illicit activities and actors. Future regional and national borders must leverage and exploit existing and future tools and structures of the World Customs organization, CCLEC, IMPACS, and WTO among others, to maintain a high quality of human resource capabilities to facilitate economic growth and defend the state and region.

The CCLEC SailClear was listed as a live online CCLEC tool, already in wide use,

that caters to pre arrival notification by pleasure yachts to border security agencies and features port health declarations for use in managing the current pandemic in the maritime sphere.

The PS pledged the willingness of CCLEC to collaborate with all partners of good will to secure the health and economic welfare of the Caribbean basin as part of the global effort to conquer Covid-19 and other transborder ills but stressed the need for governments to adequately resource border security agencies and their functions in a consistent and well-planned manner.

TRAINING DURING AND AFTER COVID-19

The global pandemic will cause major disruption in the delivery of training by many administrations and a fresh approach to managing training must be considered. Given the funding challenges for fully sponsored training, it is even more exigent for administrations to fully adopt e-learning as part of this new structure for training, although it is recognized that it cannot be a complete replacement for face-to-face and group interaction.

Collaboration with other agencies

WCO: Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE).

In June the WCO, with support from the CCLEC, delivered a sub-regional training course for Customs administrations in the Caribbean in the field of Strategic Trade Control Enforcement (STCE). The main objective of the training was to strengthen national capabilities in preventing illicit trafficking and smuggling of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and related items. Over two hundred participants throughout the globe participated in the training.

United Nations International Narcotics Control Board (INCB): NPS and dangerous substances

CCLEC also partnered with the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to deliver a two-day Webinar in English on NCB global intel sharing systems and safe handling of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and dangerous substances for Customs officers from CCLEC member countries.

The course was intended for governments law enforcement personnel from the Caribbean and Latin America to increase their intelligence exchange, awareness raising and interdiction and risk mitigation capacity to effectively respond to the threats posed by dangerous substances that are not under international control. Fentanyl related substances with no legitimate use have resulted in increased overdose deaths worldwide.

A total of seventy-seven participants attended the training from across the English-speaking Caribbean. The course is also being offered to French and Spanish administrations and will take place in October.

ACCP: Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

The Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP) extended an invitation to CCLEC members to participate in a 12 week (one hr/week) basic training certificate for Law Enforcement and Justice officials on “**Online child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**”. The training was organized by the International Centre of Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) and UNODC and started on September 22nd. A total of seventeen officers participated in this training.

CCLEC e-learning Program

The CCLEC Junior Officer Basic Course (JOB) is now being piloted and will be available for use by all members. This course is designed for new entrants with a minimum of two years’ experience and can be delivered through a blended approach when necessary or self-taught for refreshers. The JOB covers eighteen topics namely:

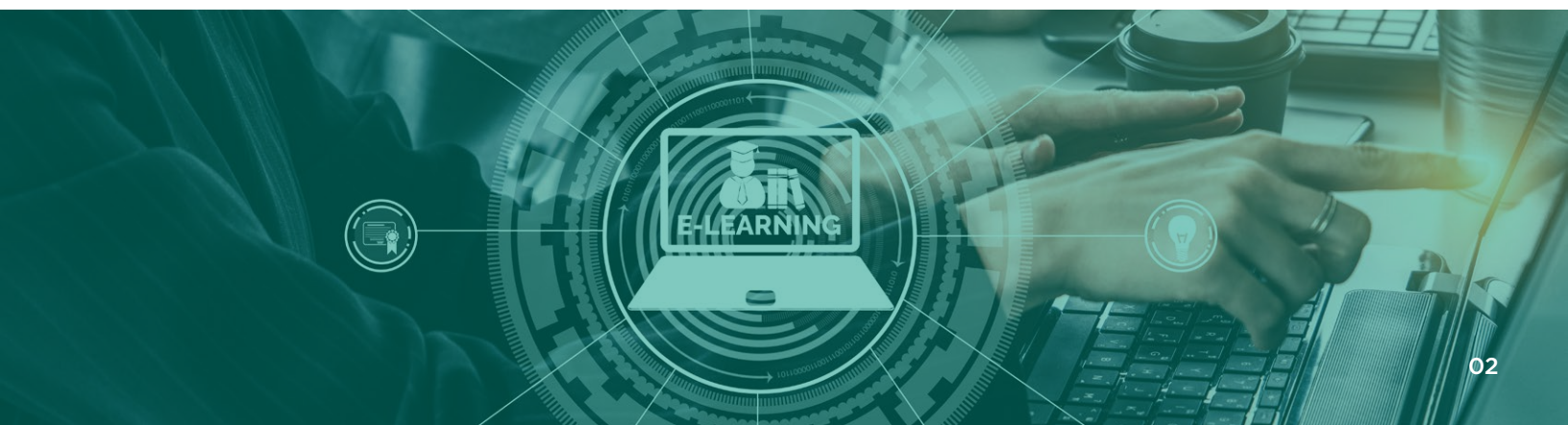
1. Customs Overview	10. Assessment and Selection of Travellers
2. Communication	11. Drug Identification and Testing
3. Legislation	12. Passenger and Baggage Search
4. Prohibitions and Restrictions	13. Arrest, Detention and Seizure
5. Initial Processing	14. Tariff Preferences
6. Situation Defusion	15. Tariff Classification
7. Cargo Reporting and Processes	16. Note Taking and Report Writing
8. Risk Assessment	17. Ethics and Integrity
9. Conducting Vessel and Aircraft Search	18. Customs Valuation

The CCLEC is also in the process of developing a Basic Intelligence course and advanced modules in Classification, Valuation, Rules of Origin and Risk Management. These modules will be available by March 2021.

As part of CCLEC’s training strategy, the Secretariat intends to organize virtual seminars for the more complex Customs subjects such as Classification, Valuation and Rules of Origin and partner with other international organisations to maximize knowledge through e-learning.

The Secretariat will continue to deliver or assist with RCS virtual training when the designated CCLEC trained trainers are unable to deliver the training face-to-face. Administrations requiring train-the-trainer training can contact the Secretariat.

CCLEC is grateful to the UKBF for providing funding assistance for the development of these online courses.

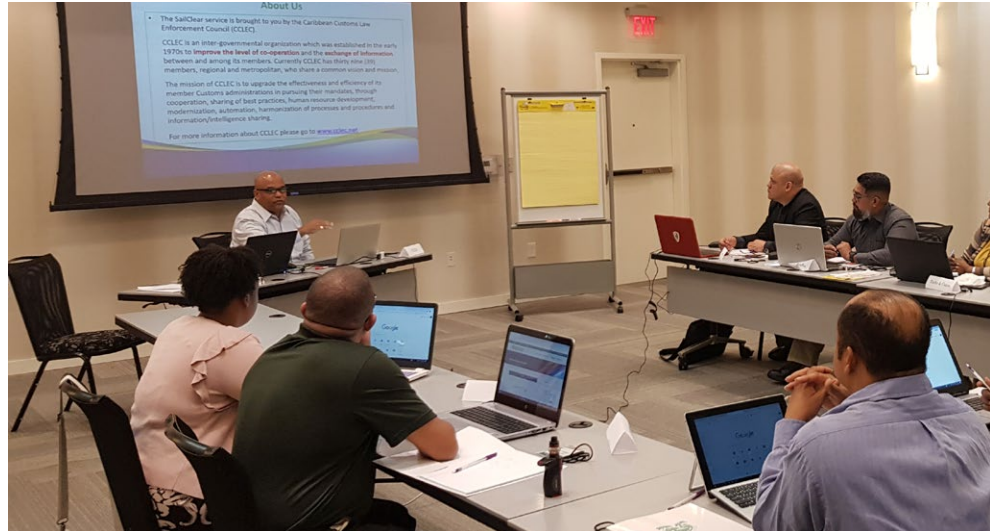




VIRTUAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR CCLEC MEMBERS

Over the past three decades thousands of officers have benefited from CCLEC sponsored training thanks in large part to CCLEC donors, members and partners. However, changes in circumstances have resulted in a declining financial and training opportunities in more recent times. CCLEC's focus and strategy is to respond to the needs of members within the constraints of limited financial support and exorbitant travel costs. As part of the strategy, training materials developed or obtained from strategic partners such as WCO, IDB, CARTAC etc., are being made available in a CCLEC virtual resource centre for easy access by administrations.

The primary purpose of the Caribbean Customs Resource Centre (CCRC) is to support the Customs community, to advance knowledge and develop capacity. CCLEC is aware of the ever-expanding amount of publications and websites available to Customs and the objective of the CCRC is not to compete or replace what currently exists but to assist the members to easily acquire resource material located at the CCLEC



Secretariat archives which could be beneficial when preparing in-house training, presentations or research.

The use of smart technology and automation to train staff will advance skills and knowledge necessary to function proficiently. CCLEC recognizes this imperative and has developed the e-learning platform to assist members in accessing the fundamental knowledge required to become a proficient Customs officer.

In addition to the e-learning, CCLEC has also developed a number of automated tools such as the RCS Suite (RCS2019, SailClear, Incidence Report Database, Regional Airport Declaration for private aircrafts, Vessel Tracking System), Business Intelligence system, Human Resource Management System (HRMS) and Persons of Interest database). All these tools are available to members free of charge. **RCS is available in French and Spanish.**

CCLEC DEVELOPS TOOL FOR ANALYZING TRADE DATA



Customs Administrations collect vast amounts of data on travelers, goods, shippers, consignees and overall trade. For many administrations data captured through their trade system is not being fully exploited to maximize border protection, facilitate legitimate travelers and traders, reduce illicit trade and increase Government revenue.

The ability to analyze current and historic data, coupled with the capacity to perform predictive analysis is key to effective border management. In response to the growing need for analysis of trade data, the CCLEC has commissioned, with funding assistance from the UKBF, the development of the CCLEC Business Intelligence (BI) tool which will enable members to move from a reactive to a proactive stance in managing non-compliance, and assist in the objective to be a data and information led customs administration.

Through this application administrations will be provided with the capability to generate general or statistical reports using their trade data, manipulate and create dashboards, evaluate key performance metrics and benchmarks, all vital to drive their operation and work flows.

We are excited to provide this tool to members as we believe it could change the value and outlook of the data which members collect during their day to day operations.

The BI tool is expected to be available during the second quarter of 2021. Please contact the Secretariat for more information.

ENCOURAGING VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE IN A SMALL ISLAND ECONOMY - ST KITTS-NEVIS CUSTOMS

Kishma Griffin - Customs/Communication Officer



The St. Kitts-Nevis Customs and Excise Department launched its Voluntary Compliance Program (VCP) in late October 2015 as a compliment to the department's newly launched ASCUYDA system. In keeping with the department's mission statement, to serve our citizens, collect and protect all our revenues with fairness, efficiency and integrity and enforce compliance laws at our borders, the CED envisioned itself as becoming a leading organization through our core values, being flexible to change and embracing new innovation.

The VCP was designed for individuals or companies who voluntarily present themselves to the CED in good faith to disclose discrepancies and omissions in exchange for reduced or no penalty quantum. The voluntary disclosure is limited to a twelve-month period of disclosure. Members of the VCP

remain in the program if they meet the requirements. Repeat offenders are barred from enjoying the VCP benefits. Clients who are enrolled in the program enjoy a host of benefits, which include but not limited to, preferred treatment, special benefits for low risk traders, facilitation of Customs processes in ports, increased Green lane treatment, faster processing during physical checks and reduced Customs intervention e.g. inspection and documentary checks.

The application process requires the client to complete the designated VCP Application form, complete the self-assessment questionnaire and submit to the Voluntary Compliance Task Force, located at our Customs Headquarters. The St. Kitts-Nevis Customs and Excise Risk Management Unit (RMU) is tasked with the mandate to set, adjust and renew the risk profiles for each client enrolled in the VCP.

The RMU is responsible for ensuring compliance from these companies and potentially new companies. This compliance is based on historical data and used to determine if the client is a suitable candidate for the program. The St. Kitts & Nevis Customs & Excise also has a Post Clearance Audit Unit (PCA) that audits the VCP clients on a yearly basis to ensure compliance. These two arms of the Customs & Excise Department are integral in ensuring the Voluntary Compliance Program operates in the manner it was constructed to. At present, the Voluntary Compliance Program has enhanced the St. Kitts Nevis Customs & Excise Department services and made trade facilitation easier for our clients.

The Customs & Excise Department is currently in the process of reviewing the program.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CUSTOMS HEAD

CCLEC welcomes the following Head of Customs:

Mr. Eduardo Sanz Lovatón,
General Director of Customs, Dominican Republic

Algernon Belfon,
Acting Comptroller of Customs, Grenada

Mr. Peter Chiquot,
Acting Comptroller of Customs, St Lucia

Mr. Jomo Butler,
Acting Comptroller of Customs, St Kitts & Nevis

Upcoming Events (Virtual)

1 October	-	RCS Training, Barbados
19-20 October	-	INCB Spanish
21 October	-	INCB French
October	-	1-day Counter terrorism Seminar
October	-	1-day Money Laundering Seminar
3 November	-	Pre-Conference EXCO
4-5 November	-	Annual Conference
6 November	-	Post Conference EXCO