

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
CUSTOMS & EXCISE DIVISION**

NOTICE TO IMPORTERS NO. 6 OF 2024

**SUBJECT: CANCELLATION AND RENEWAL OF BONDS –
REVISED PROCEDURES UPDATED**

The attention of all Importers is drawn to Section 267 of the Customs Act, Chapter 78:01 which governs the conditions with respect to bonds and securities relative to Customs and Excise Officers are to note that there is no stipulation in the said Section or in the Banking and Insurance Regulations which limits the maturity date of a Customs Security Bond where the Surety is a Bank or Insurance Company.

In the circumstances, Officers are to note the revised procedure for the treatment of Customs and Excise Bonds:

- i. The system of the automatic cancellation and renewal of Customs Bonds ceased with effect from **1st May, 2023**.
- ii. Existing Bonds shall remain **valid in law** until cancelled by the Comptroller of Customs and Excise, except in the instance of a C54 Bond which expires on the date set by the Comptroller on the Bond.
- iii. The confirmation letter from the Surety shall be submitted by the Principal on an annually on the anniversary date of the Bond to allow for the verification of the Security in accordance with Section 267 of the Customs Act, Chapter 78:01, to satisfy the Comptroller as to means of the Surety/Sureties. Samples of the letters are attached as:
 - *Appendix A* - where the surety is an **insurance company**; and
 - *Appendix B* - where the surety is a **bank**.
- iv. The Customs Border Control System (CBCS) shall generate a Report to allow for a review of the quantum and activity of the business of the Principal.
- v. A review of the CBCS Report on all Customs Bonds shall be conducted to determine if the existing Bond should be cancelled in accordance with Section 267, and a new Bond executed by the Principal and the Surety to be approved by the Comptroller. The reviews shall be conducted by the following Offices:
 - Customs C67 Bonds - Collector, Warehouses
 - Customs C57 Bonds - Collector, Approved Undertakings
 - Excisable Bonds – Collector, Excise, in accordance with Sections 11 & 12 of the Excise (General Provisions) Chapter 78:50
 - All other Bonds – Collector, Central Services

An Importer may request the cancellation or the renewal of a Bond in circumstances which may include, a desire to change the quantum, change the surety or change the business model including the closure of the business.

Circular No. 7 of 2023 which excluded bonds and securities relative to Excise, Section 11 and 12 of the Excise (General Provisions) Chapter 78:50 is now Amended.

Importers are to be guided accordingly.



Ms. Yasmin Harris
Comptroller of Customs & Excise (Ag)
Custom House, Port of Spain
Ref. No.: C&E 3/16/1/1/2
Dated: 19/02/24