

Customs detains pork products in Western Jamaica

The Jamaica Customs Agency's Contraband Enforcement Team (CET) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Services Division detained (constructively warehoused) a significant quantity of imported pork products (pork hock and pig's feet) from major supermarket/retail outlets in Montego Bay, St. James.

The operation which occurred between Thursday, May 23 and Friday, May 24, 2013 revealed pork products originating from the USA and Canada which were imported without the requisite permits. The Ministry of Agriculture has not issued any permits for pork hock and pig's feet since October 2012.

The retail operators have been requested to provide information with regards to the source of their suppliers. Failure to do so will result in a breach of Customs Act, payment of possible penalties and seizure of the products. Jamaica Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture wishes to remind the public that whereas there are no documents prohibiting the importation of pork products; for food safety purposes an importer must request and receive an import permit that specifies certain health standards. Without an approved permit the quality of the product is deemed questionable. NB: The names of the retailers have been withheld pending the finalization of the investigation/breach procedure.