

CONSUMERISM

In furthering its commitment to develop a vibrant consumer protection ecosystem in Barbados, the Ministry of Energy, Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Commerce (MESBE) is embarking on establishing a National Consumer Protection framework.

The Policy is intended to create a strong, vibrant consumer protection ecosystem that raises awareness and empowers a knowledgeable and discerning consumer. Additionally, the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) will work with the NGO community to facilitate and advocate for a vibrant consumer body to be established in Barbados.

The DCCA in collaboration with key partners, which includes the Fair Trading Commission (FTC) and the Office of Public Counsel will work together to effectively and efficiently advance the national consumerism agenda.

Implementation of the CARICOM Rapid Alert System for the Exchange of Information on Dangerous (Non Food) Consumer Goods (Carrex)

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is the administrator of the Recall Section of the Consumer Protection Act Cap 326D. This role has given the DCCA the mandate to be the National Contact Point (NCP) for the CARREX System which is a CARICOM Rapid Alert system for the Exchange of Information on Dangerous (non-food) Consumer Goods. CARREX functions as a rapid information exchange mechanism between Member States and the CARICOM Secretariat, on preventive and restrictive measures taken by the fifteen (15) Member States on consumer products found on the market that pose a serious risk to the health and safety of consumers.

GOODS WHICH ARE PART OF THE CARREX SYSTEM	
1. Toys	19. Furniture
2. Motor Vehicles	20. Gas and Heating Appliances
3. Electronic Appliances	21. Hobby/Sports Equipment
4. Lighting Equipment	22. Recreational Crafts
5. Lighters	23. Food Imitating Products
6. Lighting Chains	24. Decorative Articles
7. Gadgets	25. Laser Pointers
8. Machinery	26. Chemical Products
9. Stationery	27. Hand Tools

10. Cosmetics 11. Children’s Equipment 12. Childcare Articles 13. Clothing 14. Protective Equipment 15. Textiles & Fashion Items 16. Household Appliances 17. Kitchen/Cooking Accessories 18. Machine Tools	28. Articles for Gardens & Camping 29. Communication and Media Equipment 30. Construction Materials 31. Fashion Products 32. Firearms 33. Accessories for Pets 34. Pyrotechnics 35. Other
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CARREX operates through an online portal that allows consumers in any of the Member States to alert their National Contact Points about a product which they have detected to cause harm and is a safety hazard. This information is forwarded to the other Member States and it can then be withdrawn from the CARICOM markets. Action is taken to ensure that manufacturers address consumer safety concerns. The DCCA works tirelessly to protect consumers from danger and harm.