



FTCNewsLine is an on-line quarterly newsletter of the **FAIR TRADING COMMISSION** that contains information on competition matters dealt with by the Fair Trading Commission as well as other competition agencies from around the world. The aim is to provide readers with insights into some of the matters that are prosecuted in other jurisdictions; and to assist businesses and consumers in better identifying issues that may pose competition concerns.

Competition legislation is specific to each jurisdiction and activities that are prohibited in one jurisdiction are not necessarily prohibited in other jurisdictions. For information on the prohibitions under the Jamaica's competition legislation, the **FAIR COMPETITION ACT (FCA)**, please visit our website at www.jftc.gov.jm.

In this Issue we feature issues related to the period July 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015.

ISSA settles with FTC, required to issue public apology

In September 2015, the FTC entered into a Consent Agreement with the Inter-Secondary Schools Sports Association (ISSA). In promoting the ISSA Boys and Girls Championships 2015, ISSA issued several advertisements inviting members of the public to purchase tickets to see the event. The Staff became aware that some ticket holders who turned up at the National Stadium were denied entry to the venue where the Championships were being held.

The Staff investigated the matter and concluded that ISSA breached Section 37 of the Fair Competition Act which prohibits businesses from making to the public, representations that are false, misleading or likely to be misleading. ISSA agreed to settle the matter in accordance with the Fair Competition (Notices and Procedures) Regulations 2000, by way of a Consent Agreement wherein ISSA was required to pay the FTC's costs and issue a public apology.

FTC Study on the Groceries Sector

The Fair Trading Commission completed a study of the grocery sector in September 2015. The objective of the study was to understand the main impediments to competition in the sector. The main finding is that the development of private labels offers the greatest scope for stimulating competition in the sector. Private labels refer to products sold under the retailer's own name or a name created by the retailer for its exclusive use.

The general perception among consumers is that private labels were lower quality alternatives to the branded products. This limited the extent to which private labels competed with branded products. Today, this perception is not as rigid as it was in former years, which is mainly due to the improvements in the quality of private labels. In some instances, private labels were manufactured by producers of branded products.

The study concluded that retailers are highly motivated to deliver higher quality, more affordable products for final consumers.

The study formed part of the discussion at the Latin American Competition Forum which was held in Montego Bay on September 23-24, 2015.

OTHER NEWS

FTC hosts 2015 Latin American Competition Forum

On September 23-24, 2015, the FTC together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) hosted the 2015 Latin American Competition Forum at the Montego Bay Convention Centre. Sixty-one persons from twenty-seven countries and international organizations from North America, Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe attended the event.

The LACF is an annual event which brings together competition agencies of Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, for the purpose of discussing topical competition issues. The focus for this year was on ex-post analysis of agency effectiveness and advocacy activities, and competition in the retail sector. The forum was organized into the following sessions: (1) Structural Issues in the groceries Sector: Mergers and Regulatory Issues; (2) Measuring Competition Advocacy's Impact in Latin America and the Caribbean; and (3) Competition Issues in the Groceries Sector: Focus on conduct.

The LACF was preceded by Jamaica's Competition Day seminar at which the topic "Transforming Jamaica Digitally: From Flintstones to Jetsons" was explored. The forum materials are available at <http://www.lacf2015jamaica.com/documentation/>.

Shirley Playfair Lecture 2015

The 16th Annual Shirley Playfair Lecture is scheduled for November 16, 2015 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. This year's theme is "Competitive Markets in Restricted Goods: the Case for Marijuana". The lecture will focus on the significant economic benefits which Jamaica stands to reap from commercializing the cultivation and distribution of marijuana and derivative products as well as developing the appropriate framework for distributing nutraceuticals produced in Jamaica, with specific reference to marijuana. As is customary, the Lecture is open to the general public; and admission is free.

FTC participates in motor vehicle policy forum

Mr. David Miller, Executive Director of the FTC participated in the motor vehicle policy forum, held on September 8, 2015 in Kingston. The forum was hosted by the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce and the Trade Board Ltd. The purpose of the forum was to sensitize consumers about the revised Motor Vehicle Policy, and to discuss issues affecting consumers and businesses in the industry.

The much talked about motor vehicle model year issue drew the attention of persons in attendance, wherein Mr. Miller explained the core issues of the Courts June 2015 judgment in the FTC v. Crichton Automotive Ltd. matter in which the FTC was successful.