

THE INSPECTORATE AND DISINFESTATION UNIT'S ROAD TO ACCREDITATION

The Inspectorate and Disinfestation Unit (IDU) has been inspecting food establishments, food shipping containers and cargo ships since 1958. Over the years, the art of food and feed inspection has greatly improved, with the skills being known but not fully documented. Record keeping was at minimum, and thus traceability was affected. With little or no record keeping and in some cases inefficient filing in the IDU, traceability and accountability of inspection activities was an arduous task. We are now operating with an organized records management system that makes traceability and accountability of inspection activities much better.

Scheduled staff meetings and proper recording of minutes have become the norm, which previously were not seen as important.

The frequency and importance of internal audits, which seemed irrelevant to the unit a few years ago, now is so important such that staff members are being trained as auditors and an audit team is now in place. Each staff member is now knowledgeable about audit.

Gone are the days when the origin of documents was unknown. Each document is now controlled so as to preclude the use of obsolete documents.

Most importantly, the morale and work ethic of staff has seen great improvement. The focus is now to make a difference rather than to collect a pay cheque. From inception of the accreditation journey, the team of inspectors embraced the idea of the unit being accredited for inspection. They are the fact that FSPID Inspectorate and Disinfestation Unit is the first Inspection body, not only in Jamaica but in the English-speaking Caribbean, to be accredited for food and feed inspection of ships containers and premises in conformity to ISO/ IEC 17020:2012.

The process has improved cohesiveness of all departments at FSPID, as all departments played an integral role in reaching this great milestone.



Inspector Charles Dawkins and Technical Assistant Linval Robinson carrying out an inspection and sampling on a cargo ship.