



Tourism Health, Safety and Environmental Standards Certification & Recognition System

The adverse impact of health, safety and environment (HSE) issues faced by the Caribbean tourism industry can largely be prevented. However, industry-wide adoption and implementation of standards-based, quality improvement approaches are needed, along with enhanced food and environmental safety training, improved hotel based health monitoring and auditing systems, in partnership with the public sector. Currently, there are no operational Caribbean-wide HSE standards for the hospitality industry. CARPHA is working with national, regional and international standards organizations to develop and implement a core set of credible Caribbean-wide Health, Safety and Environmental “clean and green” Standards, Certification and Recognition System to improve health, safety and environmental quality in the hospitality sector.

The Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world hence the health of Caribbean economies is closely related to the health of its tourism industry. However, tourism is vulnerable to health, safety and environmental sanitation (HSE) threats, including disease outbreaks/crises, environmental degradation and deficiencies in environmental sanitation and safety, challenging the sustainability of Caribbean tourism

In today’s Caribbean tourism operating environment, visitor health and safety, destination and services quality, with tangible links to community development, have emerged as hallmarks for a viable, sustainable and reputable tourism product. With increasing attention now being paid to the environmental, health and social impacts of tourism operations, the sector has continually been encouraged to acknowledge its responsibility and demonstrate performance in these areas

The adverse impact of health, safety environment (HSE) issues faced by the Caribbean tourism industry can largely be prevented through industry-wide adoption and implementation of standards-based, quality improvement approaches (Caribbean-wide HSE standards). Currently, there are no operational Caribbean-wide HSE standards for the hospitality industry, and instead the latter use different international standards. There are also no certification systems to ensure the implementation of the standards, and no industry wide health monitoring systems. With increasing attention now being paid to the environmental, health and social impacts of tourism operations, the sector has continually been encouraged to acknowledge its responsibility and demonstrate performance in these areas.

CARPHA is working with national, regional and international standards organizations to develop and implement core set of credible Caribbean-wide Health, Safety and Environmental “clean and green” Standards, Certification and Recognition System to improve health, safety and environmental quality in the hospitality sector. These standards will be designed to meet national and regional requirements and to confirm with UK and US standards

The following seven Caribbean wide-HSE quality standards would be developed, with accompanying certification and recognition schemes.

- Food Safety and Sanitation
- Energy Management and Efficiency

- Water Treatment and Management, including Recreational
- Sewage Treatment and Efficiency
- Solid Waste Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Environmental Management Systems

Certification will be sought through the Caribbean regional Standards Organization (CROSQ) and other recognized certifying bodies. Certified hospitality institutions will be recognized and published on CARPHA's website with links to regional international tourism and health websites

Benefits The adoption and implementation of quality HSE standards by the Caribbean tourism industry will reduce the adverse impact of HSE issues increase the contribution of the sector to the economic well being of the region. Countries will also have a set of credible Caribbean-wide HSE tourism standards with the accompanying certification schemes. Established travel and tourism certification schemes do not provide any specific standards for food safety and sanitation or best practices in sewage treatment, energy management, waste management, pest management and water treatment. This will be the comparative advantage of the HSE standards. Implementing these standards would protect the region's fragile environment and lead to safer and better quality environmental product and standards-based certified destination, increasing the comparative advantage Caribbean tourism.