



VAT Simplifying the collection of Tax.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**IMPORTERS CAN APPLY FOR FREE STORAGE FACILITY**

**Castries July 23, 2012;** The VAT Implementation Project Office announced today that the process has been finalized for Importers wishing to utilize the three months free storage at the sea ports. **The Facility is available only to businesses who meet the threshold for Value Added Tax (\$180,000 taxable sales).**

To qualify importers must apply using the prescribed form “**Application For Free Storage Certificate**” which must be completed in quadruplicate, for submission to the VAT Implementation Project Office at the Mongroo Building on upper Bridge Street (upstairs Western Union).

The eligibility of the importer will be verified by the VAT Office and once satisfied the document will be signed, dated and officially stamped. In ascertaining the eligibility, the VAT Office may require proof of the sales turnover of the applicant.

According to the Project Coordinator, Adria Sonson “The application process need only be completed once and can be used for multiple shipments of a commercial nature”.

The certificate will entitle the importer to store imported goods rent free (with certain conditions) at Port Castries or Port Vieux Fort during the period July 1 – September 30, 2012.

Further clarity on the regime can be sought from the VAT Implementation Project Office, The Customs & Excise Department and the Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority. **Forms can be downloaded from the website of these agencies.**

**The End**

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