

CARIBBEAN: Three Caribbean IPOs Join TMclass, St. Kitts Transitions to HDB

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In July, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago joined TMclass, a search tool used for classifying goods and services. Belize followed on September 13.

It was also announced in July that St. Kitts and Nevis, which joined the TMclass in July 2020, would begin to use, and accept, the Harmonized Database of goods and services (HDB). St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize will also use the HDB, while Trinidad and Tobago will use the alphabetical list of the Nice Classification.

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and all EU member states, as well as 18 intellectual property offices (IPOs) outside the EU, use the HDB. The database contains more than 78,000 pre-approved goods and services terms in all 23 official EU languages and the official languages of the various Caribbean jurisdictions' registries, which include Dutch, English, French, and Spanish.

In addition to those three Caribbean jurisdictions, Cuba and the Dominican Republic participate in TMclass. The Dominican Republic also participates in the HDB.

The recent Caribbean adoptions of TMclass was undertaken as part of the CARIFORUM Intellectual Property and Innovation Project (CarIPI), which is funded through the EU and implemented via the EUIPO in partnership with numerous Caribbean IPOs. CarIPI participants that have yet to join the TMclass system are Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Suriname.

TMclass is used by 87 national, regional, and global IPOs. [The tool is available online.](#)

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