



# IGAT *insider*

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade



Standards Council of Canada  
Conseil canadien des normes

## Staff Insider

IGAT welcomes Ms. Liza Bowman  
as Policy Analyst

## Summer 2006

### Highlights:

- SCC to host ISO General Assembly in Ottawa in September
- SCC to host Standardization in Academia Conference in November
- Launch of a study on the value of standardization in Canada
- Update on federal Smart Regulation Initiative
- Updates on recent International meetings
- Recent work of SCC Advisory Committees
- New publications
- Coming events

## Inside IGAT

### International Organization for Standardization (ISO) General Assembly

The 29<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly is being hosted by the SCC in Ottawa from 2006-09-10/16. In addition to plenary meetings, which will be attended by ISO members from around the world, an Open Session on Healthcare will be held on 2006-09-14. For more information on the ISO GA, visit: <http://www.isocanada2006.ca>

### Standardization in Academia Conference

SCC will host the Standardization in Academia, in Ottawa on 2006-11-20. The event will bring together members of the academic community who are researching a wide variety of standardization-related issues. It will also allow for more rigorous discussion of the potential for a Canadian Centre for Standardization Research, a key initiative identified in the Canadian

Standards Strategy Update 2005-2008. Additional information will soon be available on [www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca).

### Study of economic value of standardization in Canada

SCC has contracted the Conference Board of Canada to undertake a study of the economic value of standardization in Canada. Research for the study will include economic modelling, case studies and interviews across a variety of sectors. The study is scheduled for completion in March 2007.

For more information, contact Liza Bowman – ([lbowman@scc.ca](mailto:lbowman@scc.ca)).

## • Current Policy and Trade Issues

### Smart Regulation

The Government of Canada's Smart Regulation Initiative will become part of the Treasury Board Secretariat's mandate, as of 2006-07-01, moving from its current home at the Privy Council Office.

SCC will continue to work with the federal government to advocate the importance of integrating standardization into a modern regulatory policy. It is currently participating in the following Smart Regulation Theme Tables and related initiatives:

- Environmental Sustainability;
- Safety and Security;
- A Healthy Canada, Improving Coordination and Cooperation (including National and International Regulatory Cooperation); and,
- Strengthening Regulatory Governance (including Instrument Choice and the Government Directive on Regulating - GDR).

The implementation plan for Smart Regulation can be viewed at: [http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/ps-dp/2005/0324\\_e.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/ps-dp/2005/0324_e.asp).

The draft Government Directive on Regulating can be viewed at: [http://www.regulation.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=smartregint&doc=GDR2\\_e.htm](http://www.regulation.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=smartregint&doc=GDR2_e.htm).

For more information, contact Allan Wilson - ([awilson@scc.ca](mailto:awilson@scc.ca)).

### **“Standardization Across Canada” Events**

These forums are designed to disseminate information on standards and the NSS to existing and potential Canadian stakeholders. These meetings will also help to develop inter- and intra-provincial and territorial standardization policy networks.

Throughout 2005, forums have been held in:

- Edmonton, Alberta 2005-04-27
- Halifax, Nova Scotia 2005-05-11
- Saskatoon, Saskatchewan 2005-05-26
- Toronto, Ontario 2005-06-10
- Iqaluit, Nunavut 2005-09-08

In January of 2006 a session was held in Quebec City with presentations by M. Jacques Girard (Director, Standards and Certification, BNQ), M. Philippe Fontaine, (PTAC QC representative), and the SCC's Director of Standards, Mike Bourassa.

The sessions have been well attended and positive feedback has been received by the organizers. Additional forums are planned for the remainder of 2006, based on requests from provincial and territorial stakeholders

For more information, contact Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor - ([jwtaylor@scc.ca](mailto:jwtaylor@scc.ca)).

### **Costa Rica Development Fund**

In April of 2004 CIDA identified the SCC as the potential lead Canadian partner for capacity building assistance and transfer of expertise in standards, conformity assessment and technical regulations projects to Costa Rica through the Costa Rica Competitiveness Development Fund, an initiative funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The SCC put forward three proposals that would facilitate a reduction in technical barriers to trade, a knowledge transfer to assist in improving standards, regulations and conformity assessment procedures. These projects are as follows:

- Organo de Reglementación Técnica (ORT) project
- Instituto de Normas Técnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO) project

- Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA) project

Significant progress has been made on the ORT - Good Regulatory Practices Project, which partners the SCC with the Technical Regulations Unit (ORT) of the Costa Rican Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade (MEIC). Activities completed to date include: a Costa Rican National Notification Authority processes gap analysis; the development and delivery of a three-day training session on obligations and best practices for the National Notification Authority; and a two-day workshop including a practical hands-on approach to implementation of the TBT Agreement and good regulatory practice (GRP). Both sessions received very positive feedback from the participants. Activity on the remaining two projects is expected to begin in the Summer 2006.

For more information, contact Andrea Ciemny - ([aciemny@scc.ca](mailto:aciemny@scc.ca)).

## **• Around the World – What We Are Doing**

### **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

#### **WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 2006-03-15/17**

**2006-06-16/17 - Conformity Assessment Workshop:** Canadian head of delegation Brenda Dunbar (DFAIT) chaired one of the three sessions of a workshop on "Different Approaches to Conformity Assessment and the Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results".

Canadian Guillaume Gignac, Senior Manager, Product Management, QMI, delivered a presentation on Canada's forest certification experience that looked at Canada's approach to date and linked it to the underlying principles of the TBT Agreement, specifically non-discrimination and mutual recognition.

#### **Fourth Triennial Review:**

The TBT Committee began working on its fourth triennial review. The process, which takes place every three years notes progress made on items from the last review and establishes a work program for the next three years.

Topics under discussion for inclusion in the review were:

- Implementation/Administration of the Agreement;

- Good Regulatory Practice;
- Conformity Assessment;
- Transparency;
- Technical Assistance and Special and Differential Treatment; and
- Intellectual Property Rights Issues in Standardization, Terms and Definitions.

At the meeting, Canada presented on paper on Instrument Choice that paper recommends that the Committee include at least one workshop on Good Regulatory Practice in the Triennial Review.

### **WTO/TBT Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 2006-06-07/09**

#### **Counterfeiting Paper:**

Canada tabled a paper entitled, "Counterfeiting of Certification Marks Affixed to Goods Where There Exists a Health and/or Safety Concern." The aim of the paper was to establish the relevance of this topic to the TBT Committee, encourage further discussion, and if interest warrants, a workshop. The paper may be viewed at the WTO website (<http://docsonline.wto.org>), and located via its document symbol, G/TBT/W/265/Rev.1

#### **Fourth Triennial Review:**

Members commented on the Fourth Triennial Review draft report released by the TBT Committee Chair in May 2006. The current draft contains the following topics from the last review for further work:

- Good Regulatory Policy,
- Conformity Assessment Procedures, Transparency, Technical Assistance and Special and Differential Treatment.

Significant discussion was also had on whether the topic of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues in Standardization should be included in the Review.

The next meetings of the WTO-TBT Committee are scheduled for 2006-10-03/04 and 2006-11-01/02.

The 2005 TBT Annual Report can be viewed at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/tbt\\_e.htm#events](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm#events).

WTO/TBT Meeting Minutes can be viewed at: [http://www.wto.org/English/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/tbt\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm).

Conformity Assessment Workshop Presentations can be viewed at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/meeting\\_marc\\_h06\\_e/tbt\\_conformity\\_16march06\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/meeting_marc_h06_e/tbt_conformity_16march06_e.htm)

For more information, contact Jeffery Westgarth-Taylor - ([jwtaylor@scc.ca](mailto:jwtaylor@scc.ca)).

## **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**

### **ISO Developing Countries Committee (DEVCO) Chair's Advisory Group, 2006-03-14/15**

The ISO DEVCO Chair's Advisory Group (CAG) was formed at the request of ISO Council to assist with the monitoring, planning and implementation of Action Plan for Developing Countries. SCC staff (L. Wright) attended the DEVCO CAG meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 2006-03-14/15.

The CAG noted that the Technical Management Board (TMB) business plan identifies support for developing countries as a priority and has established a key strategic objective to target awareness raising efforts and promoting cooperation, and that related discussions with the TMB will be held during the DEVCO Plenary in September.

It was also reported that the Joint Committee on Coordination of Assistance to Developing Countries on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS) background paper (initially drafted by Canada) has been used to develop a presentation and a brochure entitled "Metrology, standardization and conformity assessment - Building an infrastructure for sustainable development". The brochure is now available on the ISO website (see link below).

The draft agenda for the next ISO/DEVCO Plenary to be held in Ottawa 2006-09-11/12 was also reviewed. Discussion group themes include:

- Twinning – experience to date from members
- Enhancing standardization through the use of IT tools
- Good Regulatory Practice – national focus/ national standards bodies and regulators

Canada will have a leadership role in the organization and delivery of the GRP sessions.

#### **ISO/DEVCO Website:**

<http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/comms-markets/developingcountries/iso+developingcountries-03.html>.

#### **ISO/DEV CO Brochure:**

[http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/otherpubs/pdf/devt\\_3pillars\\_2006-en.pdf](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/otherpubs/pdf/devt_3pillars_2006-en.pdf)

For more information, contact Leanne Wright, CAC/DEVCO Secretary - ([lwright@scc.ca](mailto:lwright@scc.ca)).

## **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)**

### **IAF Executive Committee Meeting, Rome Italy, 2006-03-15/17**

IGAT Director Elva Nilsen attended the meeting in her role as Vice-Chair of IAF and made note of the following key items.

**IAF Strategic Planning:** Three key issues were identified at the strategic planning session:

- Increased Stakeholder Participation;
- Reputation and Recognition; and,
- Confidence Building.

Final outcomes will be presented at the next IAF annual meeting.

**Cooperation with ISO:** "What is accreditable?" will be an issue on the agenda of the next meeting of the IAF-ILAC-ISO Joint Working Group.

**Cooperation with IEC:** The first meeting of the IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB) - IAF Panel took place on 2006-03-01. IEC indicated it wants to work more closely with IAF members, starting with pilots of joint assessments.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The 20th IAF Annual Meeting will be held in Cancun, Mexico, 2006-11-06/14.

For further information, contact Anneke Olvera - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)) or Elva Nilsen - ([enilsen@scc.ca](mailto:enilsen@scc.ca)).

**IAF Website:** <http://www.iaf.nu/>.

## **• Regional Organizations**

### **Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)**

#### **PASC Plenary, Cape Town, South Africa, 2006-05-02-05**

The Canadian delegation to the meeting was SCC Executive Director Peter Clark, SCC Director, Standards, Michel Bourassa and John Walter and Lance Novak of CSA.

The PASC meeting consisted of four events:

- Workshop on Training Needs of National Standards Bodies (NSBs) in Developing Countries
- Plenary Session
- Executive Session
- PASC Standing Committee

#### **Items of Interest:**

There will be a request to CIDA from SADC (Southern African Development Community), a 14 nation group, for a group workshop on WTO Enquiry Point and use of SCC's Export Alert platform.

PASC will next meet in late April 2007 in Cartagena, Columbia following a joint meeting with the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT).

For more information, contact Leanne Wright, CAC/DEVCO Secretary - ([lwright@scc.ca](mailto:lwright@scc.ca)).

### **Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)**

#### **PAC Executive Committee Meeting, Rome Italy, 2006-03-18-19**

Elva Nilsen attended the PAC Executive Committee in her role as chair and made note of the following items.

**Transition to ISO/IEC 17011:** All PAC MLA group members and applicants, including the SCC, completed their declarations of compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 *Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*, by the deadline of 2006-01-03, with the exception of one.

**Promotions:** The next Edition of the PAC newsletter will be published shortly and available on the PAC web site ([www.apec-pac.org](http://www.apec-pac.org)). The PAC CD, a promotional tool, is also being updated.

#### **PAC Plenary Meeting, Hanoi, Vietnam, 2006-05-27 to 2006-06-04**

Elva Nilsen, in her role as Chair, and Joan Brough-Kerrebyn, Manager, Quality Management Systems, SCC, attended and made note of the following items.

**Cooperation amongst APEC Specialist Regional Bodies:** Members welcomed the participation of the Chair of PASC at the Plenary and the commitment of both organizations to closer cooperation in the future. Members also noted that agreement has been reached in principal for a MoU with APLAC, and it was anticipated that this would be signed later in the year.

**Technical Committee:** The Hanoi meeting was chaired by Joan Brough-Kerrebyn. Members discussed the ongoing revision of all PAC documentation to ensure compliance with the requirements of the AF A series documents and with ISO/IEC 17011.

**Environmental Management Systems (EMS):** The PAC MLA for EMS continues to expand, with 10 signatories to date being; JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand), SCC (Canada), CNAB (PR China), KAN (Indonesia), JAB (Japan), KAB (Korea), DSM (Malaysia), EMA (Mexico), NAC (Thailand) and TAF (Chinese Taipei).

For further information, contact Anneke Olvera - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)) or Elva Nilsen - ([enilsen@scc.ca](mailto:enilsen@scc.ca)).

**PAC Website:** <http://www.apec-pac.org/home.htm>.

## • At the SCC: Committee Activities

IGAT provides the Secretariats for four Advisory Committees that provide advice to the SCC Board. The committees are the Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT), the Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC), Canadian Advisory Committee on ISO Conformity Assessment Matters (CAC/CASCO) and the Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO).

### **Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)**

ACT provides strategic advice to Council on key trade issues and developments, which impinge on voluntary standardization.

#### **ACT Teleconference Meeting 2006-01-23 and in-person meeting 2006-03-24**

Members were given an update presentation on the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) by Industry Canada representative Daniel Dubé (Internal Trade & Outreach). He reviewed the ongoing AIT review process, specifically focusing on standardization and regulatory harmonization, and noted that senior provincial and territorial trade representatives are supportive of a stronger role for the NSS & voluntary standards.

Members reviewed a draft discussion paper on examination of Alternative Approaches of Standards-Development and Conformity Assessment. A revised draft will be reviewed at the 2006-09-05 teleconference.

For more information, contact Stephen Head, ACT Secretary - ([shead@scc.ca](mailto:shead@scc.ca)).

### **Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)**

PTAC advises and make recommendations on matters related to voluntary standardization and to promote cooperation and communication between the provinces, the territories and the Council.

#### **PTAC Teleconference - 2006-05-03**

PTAC members reached a unanimous position with respect to the issue of official language requirements for National Standards of Canada, namely that all NSC's are to be published in both official languages except by exception, which is to be applied for by the SDO. Also discussed were anti-counterfeiting efforts, and the recent Alberta-British Columbia Agreement on harmonization of Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility.

#### **PTAC Meeting - 2006-06-01**

Issues discussed included regulatory concerns about the problems posed by competing standards in the area of hydrogen as a vehicle fuel source, and possible opportunities to achieve greater inter-provincial harmonization through the use of newly developed management system standards for occupational health and safety.

For more information, contact PTAC Secretary, Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor - ([jwtaylor@scc.ca](mailto:jwtaylor@scc.ca)).

## • Enquiry Point and Export Alert!

The SCC continues to expand the implementation of *Export Alert* in WTO countries.

SCC has implemented its *Export Alert!* hosting agreement with the Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards. Discussions are ongoing with Bhutan, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Ghana, India, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

SCC coordinated a five-day study tour for a delegation of Ukrainian officials, from 2006-02-27 to 2006-03-03. The tour was part of a CIDA capacity building project to support the establishment of a Ukrainian National Notification Authority and National Enquiry Point as

required under the WTO TBT and Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreements.

SCC's Enquiry Point provided a "Train-the-Trainer" workshop to a delegation from Costa Rica 2006-03-21/23. The workshop was aimed at strengthening Costa Rica's capacity to provide clients with access to e-information on WTO notifications, and to fulfill its obligations as the National Notification Authority.

SCC's Enquiry Point hosted two Chinese interns (2006-04-18 to 2006-05-03) as part of the CIDA Canada-China WTO Capacity Building Project. The project provided practical work experience to the interns on transparency and trade issues, and fostered a greater understanding of Canadian regulatory policy formulation and implementation processes.

For more information please contact Andrea Spencer, SCC Enquiry Point Coordinator - ([aspencer@scc.ca](mailto:aspencer@scc.ca)).

## Recent Publications of Interest

A selection of recent reports, papers, etc. of interest to our subscribers:

**DFAIT - Opening Doors to the World – Canada's International Market Access Priorities – 2006.**  
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/cimap-en.asp>

**US Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee - 2005 National Export Strategy.**  
<http://ita.doc.gov/media/Publications/blurbs/nes2005blurb.html>

**American National Standards Institute (ANSI) - EU Block Voting - Weighted Voting in ISO and IEC.**  
<http://public.ansi.org/ansionline/Documents/Standards%20Activities/Background%20Papers/ISO-IEC%20-%20EU%20Bloc%20Voting%20-%20Weighted%20Voting.pdf>

**Policy Research Initiative (PRI) – The Emergence of Cross-Border Regions Between Canada and the United States – Roundtables Synthesis Report – May, 2006.**  
[http://policyresearch.gc.ca/doclib/NAL/NAL\\_xborder\\_SR\\_200605\\_e.pdf](http://policyresearch.gc.ca/doclib/NAL/NAL_xborder_SR_200605_e.pdf)

## Coming Events

### August

31 CAC/DEVCO Meeting, Ottawa  
31 PTAC Meeting, Teleconference

### September

07 SCC Council Meeting #92  
13-15 ISO GA, Ottawa, Canada  
15-17 ISO/DEVCO Plenary, Ottawa Canada

### October

02-03 WTO-TBT Meeting, Geneva

### November

01-02 WTO-TBT Meeting, Geneva  
20 "Standardization Research in Canada" Academic Conference, Ottawa, Canada

### December

07 SCC Council Meeting #93

### IGAT Insider

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade (IGAT) is a branch of the Standards Council of Canada. Our role is to strengthen Canadian policy development and strategic participation with respect to international standardization, international trade and intergovernmental cooperation. The *IGAT Insider* is an electronic newsletter published up to two times per year. The newsletter can be found on the IGAT Web page at [http://www.scc.ca/en/news\\_events/subscriptions/index.shtml](http://www.scc.ca/en/news_events/subscriptions/index.shtml).

We appreciate all suggestions, feedback and questions. Questions and suggestions should be directed to:

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