



IGAT INSIDER

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Winter 2004 (Issue #6)

This issue highlights:

- Developments in current policy and trade issues (Canada Health Protection Act, Smart Regulation, and an update of the Canadian Standards Strategy).
- Information from meetings of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and Pacific Accreditation Forum (PAC).
- Updates on the work of Standard Council of Canada's (SCC) Advisory Committees.

Inside IGAT

- **Current Policy and Trade Issues**

Canada Health Protection Act – Proposed New Legislation

Health Canada officials have developed a proposal outlining the key concepts to be included in a new Canada Health Protection Act. The proposed legislation would replace the *Food and Drugs Act (1953)*, the *Hazardous Products Act (1969)*, the *Quarantine Act (1872)*, and the *Radiation Emitting Devices Act (1970)*. Other existing health protection statutes, such as the *Tobacco Act* and the *Pest Control Products Act*, would remain in effect but would be integrated within the new framework. One of the most significant changes in the proposal is the introduction of a '*general safety requirement*' that would prohibit the manufacture/promotion or marketing of any product that poses an undue risk to health, under reasonably foreseeable conditions of use.

It is important to remember that the present wording and concepts are merely proposals which may be modified or refined prior to being brought into force. The detailed legislative proposal and background documentation are posted on Health Canada's web site at renewal.hc-sc.gc.ca/.

Process for Consultation

Public consultations on the draft legislation began in September 2003 and are expected to run until February or March 2004. All interested parties are encouraged to provide comments and feedback via: Health Canada's [interactive website](#)¹, in writing or during public meetings to be held across Canada.

SCC's Role

The SCC will remain actively involved in the consultation process in order to monitor and/or influence the approach this critical piece of legislation takes to standards and conformity assessment. SCC Advisory Committees have been invited to provide feedback on the legislative proposal to staff responsible for co-ordinating SCC input.

Staff Insider

Kevin McKinley, SCC Director, Standards, was appointed as International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Deputy Secretary-General effective 2003-11-17.

www.scc.ca/en/news_events/news/kmkinley.pdf

Mike Bourassa was appointed to the position of SCC Director, Standards.

¹ www2.itssti.hc-sc.gc.ca/HPCB/Policy/LegislativeRenewal.nsf/ToPar?OpenForm&L=E&

Smart Regulation

The External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation (EACSR)'s workplan and consultation strategy is now available (www.smartregulation.gc.ca). The Committee's Terms of Reference are to:

- Develop a regulatory strategy designed for the 21st century that supports Canada as a sovereign trading nation and offers a high quality of life to its citizens.
- Identify priority sectors and areas requiring regulatory reform in order for Canada to have a strategic advantage.
- Review and provide an external perspective on current regulatory issues identified by departments and stakeholders.

To complete these tasks, the Committee is focusing on six broad issues: International Cooperation, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Cooperation, Process Efficiency, Risk Management, Alternate Instruments and Defining the Public Interest. The Committee's first step will be to review received submissions from industry associations, consumer groups, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders on the subject of regulation.

SCC's Role

The EACSR has asked the SCC to provide input on the six issues and to identify any current regulatory issues. These papers will be posted to the SCC Web site (www.scc.ca).

Canadian Standards Strategy Update

Launched in March 2000, the current Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) focuses on issues facing the Canadian standardization community. The purpose of the strategy is to respond more effectively to the demands of the emerging global economy.

At the June 2003 Standards Council meeting, an update of the 23 implementation items contained in the current CSS was proposed to build on progress to date, to refocus where necessary, and to ensure that the current strategy continues. SCC Advisory Committees have been tasked to examine new and ongoing standardization issues, review the CSS implementation items to date, and based on these discussions produce a *CSS Implementation Activity Update Paper*. Papers will be reviewed by Council.

The Advisory Committee on Trade was the first of the SCC Advisory Committees to review the 23 implementation items during a meeting in late November. Other SCC Advisory Committees will be undertaking their own reviews by 2004.

The CSS update process will also be an important component of discussion at the 2nd National Standards Systems (NSS) conference, scheduled for 2004-11-15/19 in Calgary, Alberta. Information will be posted to www.scc.ca.

• Around the World

67th International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) General Meeting (2003-10-12/18)

A successful IEC General Meeting was held at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, which was hosted and organized by the SCC. Key issues addressed were:

- **Election of Officials:** A new IEC Executive for 2005-2008 was elected, as well as the annual elections for council board and Standardization Management Board. Mr. Renzo Tani, Siemens, Italy was elected President and Mr. Peter Clark, Executive Director, SCC was elected to the council board.
- **Technical Committee (TC) Meetings:** Thirty-five TCs met during the General Assembly. A key committee emerging is IEC/TC 8 – *Systems Aspects of Electrical Energy Supply*, which was fully established at the General Meeting. Its mandate will be to oversee and coordinate with the identified product TCs to put in place systems and services required in the de-regulated energy market. Canada has a lead role in this TC.
- **Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) Workshop:** This perennial workshop provided an overview of the ongoing work of several committees contributing to the effective use of airwaves.

www.iec.ch

26th International Organization for Standardization (ISO) General Assembly (2003-09-17/19)

Held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, key issues addressed by the General Assembly included:

- Discussion of the importance of continuing close cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the WTO's recognition of the contributions of international standards organizations to decrease unnecessary barriers to trade.
- Consideration of the *ISO Horizon 2010*, a five year strategic plan, which is in its consultation phase with stakeholders. The SCC has consulted with its stakeholders through its Advisory Committees and submitted its comments on the plan, which is available at www.scc.ca/en/publications/SCC_ISO-Horizon2010_e.pdf
- Reaffirmation of the importance of ISO's role in continuing to facilitate the participation of developing countries in international standardization work, as outlined in a report by the Task Force on Developing Countries. ISO reported that it is taking measures to better identify the actions of technical assistance in its budget.

www.iso.org

37th ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO) Meeting (2003-09-16)

The ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO) also met in Buenos Aires, in conjunction with the ISO General Assembly. At the meeting:

- Canada (SCC) was congratulated for its continued support of DEVCO activities and for its sponsorship of officers from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago to attend the ISO Networking Conference in Ottawa in May 2003.
- Canada (SCC) and Germany (German Institute for Standardization) were thanked for funding assistance to the MED 2000 project, a 3-year capacity building program to contribute to the economic and social development in 10 developing countries in the Mediterranean Basin and the Horn of Africa. One of the projects *Standards Work on the Net* – a development of a manual for national standards bodies regarding the use of information technology to further standards development – is being translated into Arabic, French and Russian.
- The draft outline of DEVCO's Guidance on Awareness-Raising Campaign was approved.

www.iso.org/iso/en/aboutiso/isostructure/DEVCO.html.

ISO Workshop: Facilitating international trade - Securing effective links between International Standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment (2003-09-18)

Participants at the open session reviewed the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) and explored the progress made in using international standards to harmonize technical regulations at the regional level in Latin America, Europe and Asia Pacific. Industry perspectives on gaining confidence in world markets through conformity assessment were also highlighted.

17th International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Annual Meeting (2003-09-13/21)

Held in Bratislava, Slovakia, key items discussed at the IAF Annual Meeting were:

- **Customer Satisfaction Survey:** IAF conducted a survey to measure Certification / Registration Bodies (CRB) overall satisfaction with Accreditation Bodies (AB), identify areas for potential improvement by AB's, and examine the perceived value of the IAF MLA. A Working Group has been set up to identify proposed corrective actions.
- **Code of Conduct:** This document was approved by IAF members and will be ready for signing by CEO's of IAF Accreditation Body members after formatting and application of the new IAF logo. SCC staff authored this document.
- **ISO/IEC 17024 Certification of Persons:** The draft IAF Guidance on the Application of ISO/IEC 17024:2003 will be circulated to members for approval by a 60 day letter ballot. This document, once approved, will form the basis for the IAF MLA for personnel certification.

- **IAF Seal and MLA Mark:** The IAF Seal and the MLA Mark were approved. The *General Principles for Use, Registration and Protection of the International Mark*, a joint document with International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), will be letter balloted to members for approval. When approved, the MLA Mark will be registered internationally by the IAF Secretariat and oversight of use will be provided by IAF AB Members. AB members will be allowed to use the MLA Mark alongside their own Marks, and to license the IAF MLA Mark to be used on CRB certificates alongside respective AB accreditation marks. SCC's efforts in developing the Mark were acknowledged.
- **Food Safety:** Requirements of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and the *Arrangement between IAF and GFSI for the GFSI program* will be incorporated into the IAF Product MLA and applications for this sector program are invited.
- **Forestry Sector:** SCC presented the results of the IAF Survey on Sustainable Forest Management Accreditation Programs to the IAF Executive Committee. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) to resolve open questions in order to make a decision regarding their membership application, but that IAF would not proceed with a sector program for Forestry at this time.

www.iaf.nu

World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) Meeting (2003-09-23/24)

The WTO-TBT Committee met in Geneva, Switzerland to conclude its 3rd Triennial Review of the TBT Agreement. The main issues addressed in the review were: transparency, conformity assessment, good regulatory practice, trade-related technical assistance and labelling. WTO-TBT discussions on conformity assessment focused on Suppliers Declaration of Conformity, accreditation and Multilateral Recognition Arrangements. A discussion paper on *Canada's Approach to Voluntary Conformity Assessment (G/TBT/W/210)* was well-received at national and international levels.

The outcome of the 3rd Triennial Review in the areas of conformity assessment was less than what had been anticipated however, Canada's suggestions for future work in this area were accepted by the Committee.

WTO-TBT Learning Event (2003-10-21/22)

The role and impact of labelling in trade was the focus of a WTO-TBT learning event in Geneva. Labelling is an important means of communicating product information among buyers, sellers and consumers. It extends to many consumer products including: drugs, cosmetics, food, medical devices, precious metals, and textiles. WTO Members recognize the legitimacy of labelling, but also understand the need to ensure that labelling practices do not have an unnecessary adverse impact on international trade. Participants at the event were encouraged to exchange ideas and discuss their experiences with labelling, Canada presented on its tobacco labelling regulations. There were also presentations on energy, food, and forest labelling.

www.wto.org

• Regional Organizations

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC – SCSC) Meeting (2003-08-15/16)

The APEC-SCSC held its third meeting of 2003 in Phuket, Thailand. A key issue on the agenda was the reduction of Trade and Investment Liberalisation and Facilitation (TILF) funding support, which is provided exclusively by Japan. Funding is being reduced by 35 per cent, a change that will affect the number of projects approved in the future. New proposals will be capped at \$150,000 USD, multi-year projects will require annual re-approvals, and more visible strategic links to APEC objectives will be necessary. Canada (Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade) and Chile are taking the lead to deal with TILF project priorities within SCSC and to establish clear criteria and guidelines for the selection and administration of TILF projects.

APEC-SCSC documents for all 2003 meetings can be downloaded from

www.apecsec.org.sg/content/apec/apec_groups/committees/committee_on_trade/sub-committee_on_standards.html

Background information on the APEC-SCSC is available from a SCC policy brief www.scc.ca/en/programs/trade/apec_scsc_e.pdf

8th Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) Annual Meeting (2003-10-6/10)

Held in Antigua, Guatemala, key items discussed at the IAAC Annual Meeting were:

- **IAF/ILAC Evaluation:** IAF and ILAC agreed to begin an evaluation of the IAAC in 2004 as part of the IAAC efforts to achieve international recognition of its Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA).
- **Peer Evaluations:** The Organismo de Acreditación Argentino (OAA) and the Órgano Nacional de Acreditación de la República de Cuba (ONARC) participated in a peer evaluation with the objective of signing the IAAC MLA.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** Text of an MOU between IAAC and Southern African Development Committee for Accreditation (SADCA) was presented to the IAAC General Assembly in order to strengthen the links of cooperation between organizations.
- **Organization for American States (OAS) Project Update:** Several IAAC-OAS projects were completed in 2003 including a peer evaluation of the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología of El Salvador (CONACYT); a workshop on ISO/IEC 17025 (*General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*); and a workshop for quality managers regarding Guides 58 (*Calibration and testing laboratory accreditation systems*), 61 (*General requirements for assessment and accreditation of certification bodies*) and ISO/IEC 17010 (*General requirements for bodies providing accreditation of inspection bodies*).

www.iaac-accreditation.org

10th Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Annual Meeting (2003-11-25/28)

Held in New Delhi, India, key items discussed at the PAC Annual Meeting were:

- **IAF/PAC Peer Evaluation/Re-Evaluation of SCC:** The QMS program continues to be recognized following the April 2002 peer evaluation. SCC signed the PAC Environmental Management System (EMS) MLA in New Delhi, India on 2003-11-27. SCC is expected to sign the IAF Product MLA at the next annual meeting of IAF in October 2004 in South Africa. A revisit for the EMS and Product evaluation is scheduled for August 2004.
- **Certification Body (CB) Association Membership:** PAC would like to attract CB Association membership in PAC. It was requested that all PAC members contact the relevant body in their country and invite them to become involved in PAC activities.
- **PAC Mission Statement:** A PAC Mission Statement was confirmed as follows: *“To represent the interests of Asia-Pacific economies nationally, regionally and internationally in the area of certification / registration body accreditation and related activities in support of APEC, IAF and WTO /TBT aims and objectives.”*
- **Developing Programs Committee:** It was reported that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sponsored PAC Project on MLA Readiness Project in EMS Certification has commenced with two economies having received training to CBs under Phase One to be completed prior to January 1.
- **Promotions Committee Meeting:** The next PAC Newsletter will be distributed in January 2004. A



Mr. Xiao Jianhua, Chair PAC and Ms. Elva Nilsen, Director,

IGAT shake hands after the SCC signs the PAC EMS MLA

in New Delhi, India on 2003-11-27.

Promotional CD was presented to members and is currently being circulated for comments. Members will be able to use this CD to promote and raise awareness of PAC, and of accredited certification / registration in member economies and across the region. It was also agreed that PAC should work closely with IAF and other regional bodies to develop a renewed promotion strategy and business plan to ensure the harmonization of promotions of IAF, PAC, European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA), IAAC, and SADCA.

- **Inspection:** PAC will not offer a MLA program. PAC members who are not members of Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) will be invited to apply directly to IAF for membership. A common IAF-ILAC Mark for the Inspection Body Program will be developed.

www.apec-pac.org

• **Committee Activities**

Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)

The ACT provided SCC Advisory Committees with an opportunity to send in their comments and experiences on labelling practices both in foreign markets and within Canada. Comments from SCC stakeholders were presented to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) prior to the WTO/TBT Learning Event on Labelling (see page 4).

The Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT) will be developing semi-annual forecasts concerning future trends in standardization and their trade implications. These forecasts will be available to SCC stakeholders. For more information on ACT activities or the labelling submission, contact Erica Bruce, Secretary (ebruce@scc.ca).

Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC-DEVCO)

CAC/DEVCO met on 2003-08-28 to discuss actions for the ISO/DEVCO meeting (see Around the World for more information), and discuss their activities for the coming year. CAC/DEVCO will continue to:

- Provide support for ISO/DEVCO Funds-in-Trust, to sustain technical assistance activities.
- Sponsor DEVCO participation in ISO Technical Committees (TC) 176 and 224 (Drinking Water)
- Continue support of Andean Project for *Export Alert!*, which will use the Spanish version of *Export Alert!* as the mode for dissemination of WTO/TBT notifications.

For more information on CAC/DEVCO activities, contact Bruno Tilgner, Acting Secretary (btilgner@scc.ca).

Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC recently undertook a survey of its members to determine their standardization issues and concerns; identify common standardization issues and priorities; and prioritize PTAC activities for future workplan development. Based on preliminary findings:

- Harmonization at the national and international levels is a major concern.
- Balance between trade and safety imperatives is important.
- There is an opportunity to increase knowledge of the benefits of standardization.

The focus for PTAC will be to improve communications and outreach with the provinces and territories and strengthen inter-provincial and territorial policy networks. For more information on the PTAC survey, contact Allan Wilson, Secretary (awilson@scc.ca).

Coming Events

February

- 22-23 **Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) Executive Committee Meeting** (Santiago, Chile) www.iaac-accreditation.org
23-17 **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – Senior Official Meetings** (Santiago, Chile) www.apecsec.org.sg
www.apec2004.cl

March

- 1-2 **International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Executive Committee Meeting** (Vancouver, Canada) www.iaf.nu
22-23 **World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade Meeting** (Geneva, Switzerland) www.wto.org
24-25 **International Organization for Standardization – Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO-CASCO) Policy Committee Meeting** (Geneva, Switzerland) www.iso.org
25 **Joint Committee on Assistance to Developing Countries in Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS)** (Geneva, Switzerland)

April

- 31 – 2 April **Globe 2004 International Trade Fair & Conference on Business & the Environment** (Vancouver, Canada) Stop by the SCC exhibit! www.globe2004.com

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 three times a year. The newsletter can be found at http://www.scc.ca/en/news_events/subscriptions/igat_newsletter/index.shtml.

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