



IGAT INSIDER

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Spring/Summer 2004 (Issue #7)

This issue highlights:

- Current policy and trade issues, including: the Canadian Health Protection Act, Smart Regulation, and the Canadian Standards Strategy Update
- Updates on recent international meetings, including: the International Accreditation Forum Executive Committee meeting and the World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) meeting
- Recent work of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) Advisory Committees

Inside IGAT

- **Current Policy and Trade Issues**

Canada Health Protection Act – Proposed New Legislation (Update)

The proposed Canada Health Protection Act will replace many of Health Canada's existing statutes (such as the Food and Drugs Act), and integrate other statutes (such as the Tobacco Act). The proposed legislation is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen health protection for Canadians.

The SCC participated in Health Canada's consultations, and made a submission regarding the proposed Canada Health Protection Act in March 2004. The submission proposed:

- Revised wording to emphasize the use of standards as a tool to promote compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements
- Distinguishing in the legislation between standards and technical regulations, and the use of definitions consistent with those used in the National Standards System
- Greater cooperation between the SCC and Health Canada in developing new regulations
- Further examination of the possibility that the 'precautionary principle' may create technical barriers to trade
- Increased usage of available international standards and terminology, where possible, and consideration of Canada's commitments in WTO and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- Strengthened connections between the SCC and Health Canada in order to facilitate standards based solutions to Health Canada issues

More information on the proposed Canada Health Protection Act can be viewed at:

<http://www2.itssti.hc-sc.gc.ca/HPCB/Policy/LegislativeRenewal.nsf/>

Smart Regulation

The External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation (EACSR) is conducting consultations regarding development of a regulatory strategy to foster international trade and develop Canada's competitive advantage. The SCC responded to the committee's call for input on six key issues: international co-operation, federal/provincial/territorial co-operation, process efficiency, risk management, alternate instruments, and defining the public interest.

Staff Insider

Peter Clark was appointed to the Chairman's Advisory Committee of ISO/DEVCO.

Daniel Gagnier was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Council.

Suzanne Loney was appointed to the term position of Policy Analyst in IGAT.

Jolene Burse received her Certified International Trade Professional (C.I.T.P.) designation 30 May 2004 from the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT).

The SCC identified current practices that meet the goals of Smart Regulation for each issue, and submitted several recommendations, including that:

1. The current Government of Canada Regulatory Impact Assessment Statement (RIAS) be revised to include an obligation to consider referencing documentary standards and conformity assessment procedures in all areas of regulation
2. The RIAS be rigorously applied by government regulatory departments and agencies
3. WTO/TBT principles from the Report of the Second Triennial Review, Annex 4 (i.e. transparency, impartiality, effectiveness, coherence, and relevance) be employed when considering the use of international standards
4. Federal regulatory officials be more involved in the development of national and international standards and conformity assessment procedures
5. Accreditation be used to increase public confidence in regulatory processes and outputs
6. Partnerships between regulatory departments and agencies and the SCC or its accredited clients be increased
7. Government regulators be encouraged to adopt common international standards and conformity assessment procedures

EACSR's work plan and consultation strategy, as well as the SCC submission, can be viewed at:
www.smartregulation.gc.ca

Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) Update

Beginning November 2003, SCC Advisory Committees held facilitated sessions to develop input into the revised CSS. Sessions focused on review of the original CSS, noting the actions taken to date and, based on committee review and discussion, recommendation of additional implementation activities. The recommendations will be presented at the National Standards System (NSS) Conference in Calgary in November 2004. The revised CSS is scheduled to be forwarded to the SCC's governing Council for approval by January 2005.

For more information, visit: <http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/strategy.shtml>, or contact Allan Wilson (awilson@scc.ca).

• Around the World

ISO Horizons 2010

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is developing a strategic framework for its activities for 2005 to 2010 with the help of its member bodies. In 2003, input was sought on a document entitled *ISO Horizon 2010 – Standards for a sustainable development – Consultations to update ISO Strategy for 2005-2010*. Fifty-four formal responses to a questionnaire contained in the document were received. The following are some highlights of the feedback:

- ISO should actively promote standardization processes in new fields such as services, emerging technologies, cross-border infrastructures and transactions, and management systems
- Consultations with consumers and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), regulatory authorities, and industry could be improved through communications and promotion, and through the development of new mechanisms to foster participation of underrepresented groups
- In order to facilitate the participation of developing countries, standards should be designed to accommodate their needs, online meetings should be used where possible, and the policy on multilingualism should be reviewed

Canada's submission can be viewed at: http://www.scc.ca/en/publications/SCC_ISO-Horizon2010_e.pdf

ISO/DEVCO

The ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO) presented two documents for decision during the Fourth Quarter of 2003-2004.

- One document entitled: "ISO Support of Actions in Favour of Developing Countries – Nature, modalities and planning", was submitted for decision to ISO/DEVCO member bodies. It describes a methodology for identifying needs, a range of proposed actions, the manner in which they are selected, and it sets a framework for the preparation and implementation of the Five-year Action Plan 2005-2010. The Canadian Advisory Committee on Developing Country Matters (CAC/DEVCO) supported the document and further suggested that the use of management system standards be promoted as a means to strengthen conformity assessment procedures in developing countries.

- A second document, “Revised DEVCO Terms of Reference and Setting-up of a DEVCO Chair’s Advisory Group (CAG) “, was also submitted for decision. The CAG will assist in identifying the needs and requirements of developing countries in the fields of standardization and related activities, and it will recommend actions to assist developing countries in meeting these needs. The CAG will also monitor the implementation of the ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries. CAC/DEVCO supported the creation of the CAG, but recommended a more transparent members selection process.

The next meeting will take place 2004-09-13/14.

For more information contact Bruno Tilgner (btilgner@scc.ca).

ISO/CASCO

Canadian experts continue to participate in several ISO/CASCO Working Groups (WGs) and promote the work of ISO/CASCO in Canada. Some recent and ongoing activities include:

- ISO/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) 17011 – Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies – vote closed on 2004-05-25 (Canadian WG 18 expert – Ms. Joan Brough-Kerrebyn – SCC). Canada voted in favour of the FDIS with comments.
- ISO/IEC Draft Guide 60 - Code of Good Practice for Conformity Assessment – vote closed on 2004-05-26 (Convenor of WG 22 – Mr. David Shortall – SCC). Canada voted in favour of the Draft Guide with comments. The document was approved and will be published later in 2004.
- Draft Amendment ISO/IEC 17025:1999 / Amendment 1 - General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories – vote closed on 2004-04-14 (Canadian WG 25 expert – Mr. Ned Gravel – Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL). Canada voted in favour of the Draft Amendment. The document will undergo another round of voting as a Final Draft Amendment later in 2004.
- ISO/IEC Draft International Standard (DIS) 17021 - Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies providing assessment and certification of management systems will be released for DIS voting in either June or July 2004 (Canadian WG 21 expert – Mr. Stefan Janhager – SCC).
- ISO/IEC DIS 17040 – General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies - vote closed on 2004-04-20 (Canadian WG 19 expert – Mr. Joe Gryn – Canadian Standards Association). Canada voted in favour of the DIS. An FDIS will be circulated for vote later in 2004.
- 2004-03-02 Presentation by ISO/CASCO Secretary – The SCC arranged for the ISO/CASCO Secretary Mr. Graeme Drake to give a presentation on the structure and function of ISO/CASCO in Ottawa on 2004-03-02. The presentation was held at the Industry Canada Office of Consumer Affairs. Approximately twenty-five (25) people attended the session and engaged in a subsequent question and answer session with Mr. Drake.
- ISO/CASCO has established a Chairman’s Policy and Coordination Group (CPC). Members are Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Malaysia, Turkey & China. Canada (Mr. Stephen Cross – SCC) has been invited to participate in an observer capacity.

The next meeting will take place 2004-11-09/10.

For more information contact Allan Wilson (awilson@scc.ca).

International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Executive Committee Meeting (2004-02-25/27 & 2004-03-01/02)

The SCC hosted the IAF Executive Committee and related Technical Committee meetings in Vancouver (2004-03-25/2004-04-02). Key outcomes from the meetings:

Customer Satisfaction Survey: IAF conducted a customer satisfaction survey in 2003 to measure Certification / Registration Bodies (CRB’s) overall satisfaction with Accreditation Bodies (ABs), identify areas for potential improvement by ABs, and examine the perceived value of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA). A Working Group met in Washington in November 2003 to identify proposed follow-up actions. The Executive Committee agreed that regional and member input to the proposed actions should now be sought.

Certification of Persons: The IAF Executive Committee completed a survey in 2003 which indicated that 67 percent of its members currently provide accreditation to bodies offering programs for personnel certification according to ISO/IEC

17024:2003 Conformity assessment - General Requirements for Bodies operating Certification of Persons. The IAF Secretary will follow up with those members regarding interest / pressure for an MLA in this area.

Progress with registration of IAF Seal and MLA Mark: The *General Principles for Use, Registration and Protection of the International Mark* were approved. The IAF mark and seal have now been registered in the USA – the first step in the process to allow use of the mark by MLA signatories.

Implementation of the IAF Cross-Frontier Policy: The Cross-Frontier policy is an IAF Policy which provides direction on Section 3 of ISO/IEC Guide 61 for the accreditation of management system certification/registration bodies in situations where a certification/registration body seeks more than one accreditation or accreditation from an accreditation body outside of its own country or economy. The Multilateral Cooperative Accreditation Arrangement (MCAA) was developed to provide for the recognition of the acceptability of the results of each party's assessment and accreditation program based upon the determination of equivalence; it is a method by which ABs can meet the requirements of the IAF cross-frontier guidance. A Task Force has been formed to look at how to improve / refine the MCAA, to collect information on the implementation of the Cross-Frontier Policy, and to prepare guidance on best practices. It will be administered by the MLA Committee and recognized as one method of meeting the requirements of the Cross Frontier policy.

Harmonization of IAF/ILAC MLA Procedures: A Joint Working Group of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and IAF are in the process of harmonizing the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and the IAF Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) policies and procedures documents. The resultant draft will be circulated to the members of the IAF MLA Procedures Sub-Committee and the MLA Committee for review prior to being circulated to all IAF members for approval by 60 day letter ballot. These documents will replace those currently being used by both IAF and ILAC for peer evaluations at the accreditation body level.

Development Support Committee: A procedure for better scheduling of development assistance activities is being developed. Criteria for providing assistance to developing economies are also being re-examined.

Technical Committee Chairmanship: Roger Brockway, the former IAF TC Chair, announced his retirement as Chair, due to a new career as Director-General of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) come May 1st. Nominations for a replacement Chair have been sought and will be considered at the next Board meeting in June.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place 2004-06-17/18.

For more information on IAF, visit: www.iaf.nu or contact Anneke Auer (aauer@scc.ca).

World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting (2004-03-31)

The March 2004 WTO/TBT meeting focused on the upcoming session of the TBT Committee on Conformity Assessment Procedures (2004-06-29). Representatives from the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and ISO/CASCO have been invited to make presentations at the session. The session is a result of one of the recommendations of the Third Triennial Review of the TBT agreement.

For the full report of the Third Triennial Review, visit: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm

The next meeting will take place 2004-06-30/2004-07-01.

For more information contact Suzanne Loney (sloney@scc.ca).

Forum for International Trade Training (FITT) Annual National Conference

FITT is a national not-for-profit organization that develops and provides international trade training programs and services. The programs are delivered across Canada through colleges, universities, private organizations, and on-line. The SCC sponsored, exhibited, and participated in the events at the FITT 7th Annual National Conference, "*Set Your Sights on the World: Strategies and Networks*" in Toronto, 2004-05-30/31. Delegates attending the conference included representatives from SMEs, entrepreneurs, academic officials and senior government officials from across Canada. SCC staff (J. Bursey, IGAT; L. Gibbens & D. Kingston, Standards; M. Pantusa, Corporate Services) attended workshops and speaking engagements. The event provided SCC with the opportunity to raise awareness and promote SCC's products and services. The workshops provided insight on key issues affecting importers and exporters and the latest developments in international trade.

For more information, visit: <http://www.fitt.ca> or contact Jolene Bursey (jbursey@scc.ca).

- **Regional Organizations**

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Sub-committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC) Meeting (2004-02-26/27)

The APEC SCSC met in Santiago, Chile for their first meeting of 2004 to discuss their work plan for the year ahead, and specifically the implementation of APEC Transparency Standards.

APEC is undergoing reform to improve the organization's efficiency and responsiveness to stakeholders, and SCSC members are involved in this process. The SCSC is working to improve engagement with its stakeholders. A dialogue will be held with the business sector during the next Senior Official Meeting (2004-09-25 – 2004-10-04). At the same summit, there will be a joint meeting of the SCSC and Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group to examine opportunities for the reduction of compliance costs for small and medium-sized businesses.

The next meeting will take place 2004-09-27/30.

For more information, visit:

http://www.apecsec.org.sg/content/apec/apec_groups/committees/committee_on_trade/sub-committee_on_standards.html or contact Suzanne Loney (sloney@scc.ca).

InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) Executive Committee Meeting (2004-02-22/23)

The IAAC held their most recent Executive Committee meeting in Santiago, Chile. Key discussion items included preparation for the IAF-ILAC assessment that took place in March 2004, as well as a review of the IAAC fee structure and budget and financing options. SCC is hosting the next meeting of the IAAC Executive Committee 2004-07-22/23.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place 2004-07-22/23.

For more information contact Suzanne Loney (sloney@scc.ca).

- **Advisory Committee Activities**

Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)

The former Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has been split into two separate departments: Foreign Affairs Canada and International Trade Canada. Mr. Darren Smith, Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Desk Officer, International Trade Canada, gave a presentation on the current status of FTAA negotiations at the ACT meeting on 2004-03-26. The 17th meeting of the FTAA Trade Negotiating Committee was recessed when countries agreed that more time was needed to complete their task. Informal meetings took place 2004-03-31/2004-04-01, and following these meetings the Co-Chairs announced that further progress was necessary before the 17th meeting could be resumed.

ACT is developing a mechanism aimed at identifying areas in which the SCC can contribute to resolving trade issues through use of the voluntary standardization system. ACT is consulting with other Council Advisory Committees in order to identify possible issues for analysis. Results of this "Strategic Issues" project will be disseminated to Council, other Advisory Committees, and interested stakeholders.

For more information on the new International Trade Canada, visit: <http://www.itcan-cican.gc.ca/>

The next meeting will take place 2004-10-07.

For more information on ACT activities, contact Suzanne Loney, Acting Secretary (sloney@scc.ca).

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

CAC/DEVCO continues to seek funding for various technical assistance projects. Development assistance issues received considerable attention during the WTO/TBT Triennial Review. The committee is considering establishing a trade related technical assistance (TRTA) central website where developing countries could post their technical assistance needs in order to better coordinate requests for assistance.

The SCC has recently been involved in several assistance projects. In early April, the SCC provided orientation and training to a delegation from Cuba's national standards body. The SCC also provided financial assistance to enable

Indonesia (TC 207), Egypt (TC 207, TC 176), Mali (TC 224), and Argentina (TC 224) to participate in ISO Technical Committee meetings. The SCC also supports Trinidad & Tobago (Steve Williams) as Co-Chair of COPOLCO WG 22.

The next meeting will take place 2004-08-27.

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

Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC held its 30th meeting (in-person) on 2004-03-22/23 and its 31st meeting (via teleconference) on 2004-05-26. PTAC completed their input into the revised Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) and selected Mr. Israel Lyon (ON) as the new PTAC Chair.

The next meeting will take place 2004-09-09.

For more information on PTAC activities, contact Allan Wilson, Secretary (awilson@scc.ca).

Export Alert! Goes International

On February 4, 2004, the SCC entered into a hosting arrangement with the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Labour for the implementation of *Export Alert!* in Austria. Pursuant to the contract, the SCC will develop an *Export Alert!* notification system to provide Austrian stakeholders with English notices of draft regulations issued under the WTO/TBT Agreement and the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The Austrian Ministry will be responsible for handling requests for full texts of draft regulations, comment deadline date extensions, as well as comments originating from Austrian customers. It is expected that the system will be implemented during early FY 2004-05.

Within the SCC

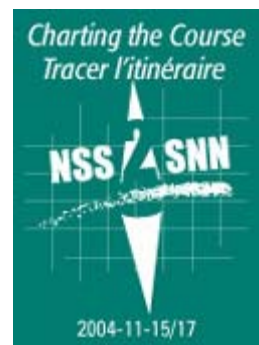
- **2nd National Standards Systems Conference (2004-11-15/17)**

Preparations are well underway for the 2nd NSS Conference to be held this fall in Calgary. The Fairmont Palliser Hotel has been selected as the venue for the event, which will bring NSS stakeholders from across the nation together from November 15-17, 2004 to “chart the course” of standardization in Canada.

A diverse list of speakers is being assembled to stimulate discussion and debate about some of the key issues that will impact the NSS as it maps future directions. Among other things, sessions over the two-day event will address: economic realities, health and safety concerns, emerging industries and technologies and environmental challenges. In addition, participants will be invited to take part in training workshops, break-out sessions, committee meetings and scheduled social activities. The event will also provide an opportunity for the SCC to once again honour the notable achievements of its members at an Awards Banquet to be held on November 16. Results of CSS consultations will be presented, and further input will be sought.

Information about the conference, including registration details, copies of the program, and opportunities to sponsor activities will be posted to the SCC website (www.scc.ca) as they become available. Interested individuals can also receive automatic e-mail updates about the NSS Conference by registering online.

For more information on the conference, visit: <http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/conference.shtml>



Coming Events

June

- 17-18 International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Executive Committee Meeting (Bern, Switzerland) www.iaf.nu
29 WTO/TBT Committee Workshop on Accreditation and Conformity Assessment (Geneva) www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm
30-1 WTO/TBT Committee (Geneva) www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm

July

- 6-9 Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Plenary (Seoul, Korea) www.apec-pac.org
21-23 InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) Executive Committee Meeting (Ottawa) www.iaac-accreditation.org

August

- 27 CAC/DEVCO

September

- 9 SCC Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (Teleconference)
13-14 ISO/DEVCO Annual Meeting (Geneva) www.iso.ch
15-16 ISO General Assembly (Geneva) www.iso.ch
25-4 APEC Senior Officials Meeting III (Santiago, Chile) www.apec2004.cl

October

- 4-13 Joint International Accreditation Forum – International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation General Assemblies (Cape Town, South Africa) www.iaf.nu www.ilac.org
7 SCC Advisory Committee on Trade (Teleconference)
10 CAC/CASCO (Tentative date)
25-29 InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation General Assembly (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago) www.iaac-accreditation.org

November

- 3-4 WTO/TBT Committee (Geneva) www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm
9-10 ISO/CASCO Plenary (Amsterdam, Netherlands) www.iso.ch
11-12 International Federation of Standards Users (IFAN) International Conference (Amsterdam, Netherlands) www.ifan-online.org
14 SCC Advisory Committee on Trade (Calgary)
15-17 2nd National Standards System Conference (Calgary) <http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/conference.shtml>
18 SCC Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (Calgary)

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 on the IGAT Web page at http://www.scc.ca/igat/index_e.html.

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

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