IGAT insider
Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

**Standards Council of Canada
Conseil canadien des normes**

> **Staff Insider**
>
> IGAT welcomes Ms. Amélie Malenfant and Mr. Andrew Webb as our new Policy Analysts.
>
> IGAT also welcomes Jo-ann Julien as our new Manager. Welcome all.

Fall 2007

Highlights:

- National Standards System Conference 2008, Announcement
- Current policy and trade issues
- The Cabinet Directive On Streamlining Regulations
- Update on the Costa Rica Development Fund
- Updates on recent international meetings including the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) and the IAF Plenary
- Ottawa hosts the signing of the PAC-IAAC MoU
- Recent work of SCC Advisory Committees
- Coming events

The 2008 National Standards System Conference

The next **National Standards System (NSS) Conference** will be held from **June 2 to 4, 2008 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador**.

Delegates from across Canada will examine the role for standardization in an evolving world as they explore the impact on their business of such emerging global dynamics as:

- Political and economic change;
- Technological progress;
- Public-privacy concerns;
- Renewable resources;
- Sustainable practices; and

- Other environmental concerns.

Learn more. Be part of the process. Join the 2008 NSS Conference.

Visit www.scc.ca today to find out how!

Inside IGAT

- ### Current Policy and Trade Issues

The Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation

The new *Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation*[1] came into effect on April 1, 2007. This directive replaces the Government of Canada Regulatory Policy adopted in 1978, and was revised in 1986, 1994 and 1999.[2] It applies to all departments and agencies at all stages of the regulatory lifecycle.

The directive is the culmination of extensive consultation with federal departments, agencies and stakeholders and seeks to strengthen regulatory management and improve co-ordination and cooperation on regulation across the federal government and with other jurisdictions in Canada, and internationally.

Thanks to SCC participation, standardization has a more prominent role in the new directive. The National Standards System is identified as source for internationally accepted best practices and test methods for regulators to use in their efforts to enhance market access and reduce duplicative testing and/or certification. In addition, SCC's RegWatch is cited as a tool for regulators to identify and monitor Canadian and international standards that are referenced in Canadian laws and regulations.

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[1] http://www.regulation.gc.ca/cdsr-dcrr_e.pdf
[2] http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/ri-qr/ra-ar/docs/publications/regulatory_policy_e.pdf - Canada's Regulatory Policy (1999) was a seven-point directive to all federal regulation-making authorities concerning subordinate regulation-making powers.

Canada

Standardization-related tools are identified as instruments for regulators. Specifically, in order to meet their policy objectives departments and agencies are encouraged to:

- use standardization tools and approaches offered by Canada's National Standards System (NSS);
- design performance-based technical regulations and/or regulatory requirements;
- make use of relevant national or international standards, guides, and recommendations and conformity assessment procedures.[3]

The Government Directive on Regulation can be viewed at: http://www.regulation.gc.ca/default.asp@language=e&page=thegovernmentdirectiveon.htm

For more information, contact Stephen Head - (shead@scc.ca).

Costa Rica Development Fund

In April of 2004, the Canadian International Development Agency (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 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. As of mid-2007, the SCC is now into the final few months of this flagship program. Updates on these projects are as follows:

Organo de Reglementación Técnica (ORT) Project
Expected to conclude at the end of December 2007, the project has yielded outcomes exceeding ORT's expectations. The assistance provided by SCC as a part of this project contributed to ORT's efforts in improving the operation of its national regulatory structure as demonstrated by the 100% increase of notifications under the TBT Agreement between 2005 and 2006 and the launch of its new National Plan on Technical Regulation in March 2007.

Instituto de Normas Técnicas de Costa Rica (INTECO) project
Launched in March 2006 with a needs evaluation meeting in Costa Rica of INTECO's operations, the project is expected to conclude at the end of December, 2007. One of the key outcomes achieved includes INTECO's reappointment as the national standards body designated under the National Quality Law in April, 2007. SCC is currently mentoring INTECO in implementing improved processes for its standards information and sales service as well as in meeting Canadian SDO accreditation requirements.

Ente Costarricense de Acreditación (ECA) project
The knowledge transfer of the value of accreditation through a training session on ISO/IEC 17011 in October 2006 completed the first output of the project, which is expected to conclude at the end of December, 2007. As a result of SCC's gap analysis and recommendations following on-site witness audits, ECA is currently reviewing and improving its key accreditation procedures and requirements for laboratories as well as for product and management system bodies.

For more information, contact Begonia Lojk - (blojk@scc.ca).

• Around the World – What We Are Doing

World Trade Organization (WTO)

WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 2007-03-21 and 2007-05-05/06

SCC staff (J. Westgarth-Taylor) participated in meetings of the TBT Committee which were held 2007-03-21 in Geneva. He also participated in WTO-TBT meetings held 2007-05-05/06 in Geneva

As a member of the Canadian delegation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee, the SCC supported the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) by assisting with the presentation which accompanied Canada's updated statement under Article 15.2 of the Agreement. Article 15.2 Statements provide notice to the committee of implementation and administration of the Agreement. In this case, the updated statement was made as a result of changes to Canada's regulatory policy created via the *Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulation*(see above). The presentation provided Canada with an opportunity to showcase Canada's efforts in the area of Good Regulatory Practice before an international audience.

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[3] See: pp. 5-6, Cabinet Directive on Streamlining Regulations, Section 4.4, 2007.

Canada also intervened at the 2007-03-21 meeting to request that the secretariat update the committee's Decisions and Recommendations Document (G/TBT/1/Rev.8) which has not been updated since 2002. The request came from SCC's own enquiry point and will serve to consolidate the various decisions and documents of the committee into a single, more user-friendly source.

The next meeting of the WTO-TBT Committee are scheduled for 2007-11-09.

WTO/TBT meeting minutes can be viewed at: http://www.wto.org/English/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm.

For more information, contact David Shortall - (dshortall@scc.ca).

International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

IAF Executive Committee Meeting, San Francisco, USA, 2007-03-29/30

SCC Staff (E. Nilsen – in her role as Vice-Chair of IAF) attended the IAF Executive Committee meeting in San Francisco. Key topics included a proposal for a Multilateral Agreement (MLA) for ISO 13485 (Medical Devices), implementation of the revised IAF Strategic Plan, and succession planning.

IAF Executive Committee Meeting, Beijing, China, 2007-06-(10-15)

The second industry day forum "IAF China Day" was held 2007-06-09 in Beijing. A presentation was given by Thomas Facklam, IAF Chair, on the IAF Strategic Plan to identify and achieve expectations

For further information, contact Amélie Malenfant (amalenfant@scc.ca) or Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca).

IAF Website: http://www.iaf.nu/.

• **Regional Organizations**

Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)

PAC Executive Meeting, San Francisco, 2007-03-(24-25)

SCC staff (E. Nilsen – in her role as PAC Chair) attended the PAC Executive Committee meetings held in San Francisco, USA.

PAC is currently revising all of its program policies and procedures. The intent is to harmonize requirements amongst the regions and internationally to the extent possible. The PAC Executive Committee prepared for the July plenary in Singapore by laying the groundwork for a number of MLA agreements.

PAC Annual Meeting, Singapore, 2007-05-(09-13)

E. Nilsen (in her role as PAC Chair) attended the 14th PAC Annual Plenary held in Singapore. Key issues discussed included meeting the needs of accreditation body and certification body clients in the government and private sector, credibility of certification, and how to encourage the uptake of accredited certification throughout our region.

A two-day workshop to train peer evaluators also took place along with a two-day training course on ISO/IEC 17021 for accreditation and certification body staff.

MLAs
ANSI (USA), TAF (Chinese Taipei) and KAS (Korea) signed the Product MLA during the PAC meetings in Singapore. They join JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand), SCC (Canada), EMA (Mexico) and SAC (Singapore), to bring the total number of signatories of the Product MLA to seven.

NABCB (India) and PAO (Philippines) joined JAS-ANZ (Australia and New Zealand), SCC (Canada), CNAS (PR China), KAN (Indonesia), JAB (Japan), KAB (Korea), Standards Malaysia (Malaysia), EMA (Mexico), NAC (Thailand) and TAF (Chinese Taipei) as EMS signatories, during the Singapore meetings. This brings to the number of signatories to 12.

Following the signature of BoA/STAMEQ (Vietnam) in Singapore, there are now 15 signatories to the QMS MLA: JAS-ANZ (Australia & New Zealand), SCC (Canada), CNAS (PR China), HKAS (Hong Kong, China), NABCB (India), KAN (Indonesia), JAB (Japan), KAB (Korea), Standards Malaysia (Malaysia), EMA (Mexico), PAO (Philippines), SAC (Singapore), NAC (Thailand) and TAF (Chinese Taipei).

For further information, contact Amélie Malenfant (amalenfant@scc.ca) or Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca).

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

InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

IAAC General Assembly, Ottawa, Canada, 2007-08-17

The IAAC held their 12th General Assembly in Ottawa, Canada, hosted by the SCC, the week of 2007-08-12. On 2007-08-16 PAC and IAAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The arrangement encouraged increased cooperation on accreditation to foster the development of related programs in the Americas and Asia- Pacific regions. "The arrangement will allow us to share best practices, and technical skills in various areas including training and development and peer evaluations. The MoU represents an important step forward toward strengthening the standards infrastructure required for making economies within our regions more competitive in today's global marketplace," noted PAC Chair, Elva Nilsen.

For further information, contact Amélie Malenfant (amalenfant@scc.ca) or Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca).

• 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 that affect voluntary standardization.

ACT Meeting 2007-03-27, Ottawa
Members met in Ottawa to review membership, receive updates on both internal and international trade and received a report from the Conference Board of Canada on the results of their study on "The Economic Value of Standardization in Canada."

There have been two new appointments to the ACT, and one reappointment. Mr. Graham Dalmage and Mr. Mark Richardson were appointed as the CPIC and Federal Government representatives respectively, and Mr. Alan Barber was reappointed as a PTAC representative.

For more information, contact Stephen Head, ACT Secretary - (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 Meeting - 2007-04-12
PTAC held its 42nd meeting in Victoria, British Columbia at the offices of the PTAC BC member on 2007-04-12.

PTAC Research Project: The PTAC research project on inter-provincial trade barriers was undertaken in late 2006. The project did not proceed according to the original project plan due to constraints of both time and money. Three PTAC members (ON, AB, BC) have confirmed their jurisdiction's willingness to pool their resources with the SCC and re-launch this effort.

Counterfeit Certification Marks and SCC's role: PTAC has in the past brought the issue of counterfeit certification marks and the possible role for the SCC to participate on an organization such as the Canadian Anti-counterfeiting Network (CACN). PTAC supported the potential development of a paper to Council on this subject by the PTAC Secretary.

Election of PTAC Chair: The current PTAC Chair, Mr. Israel Lyon, was re-elected unanimously for a second three-year term. The Chair's new term will began 2007-04-28 and run till 2010-04-27.

For more information, contact PTAC Secretary, Leanne Wright (lwright@scc.ca).

• Enquiry Point and Export Alert!

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

On February 1, 2007, the SCC launched Version 3 of *Export Alert!,* designed by A. Spencer and E. Audet. Subscribers can now monitor regulatory changes directly under the WTO TBT and SPS Agreements, track the status of their information requests, access full texts, and link to a number of related information resources.

SCC staff provided input to a *Questionnaire on the Operation of SPS Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities*. Member countries' responses will be used to prepare a summary paper on the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.

SCC staff hosted a delegation from the Institut National de la Normalisation et de la Propriété Industrielle (INNORPI) of Tunisia, July 2007-07-(17-19) to assist and train INNORPI staff in enquiry point operations.

For more information please contact Andrea Spencer, SCC Enquiry Point Coordinator (aspencer@scc.ca).

Coming Events

October
26   **CAC/CASCO;**
19-31   **ILAC/IAF General Meeting, Sydney, Australia**

November
7   **CASCO CPC Group, Geneva Switzerland;**
7-9   **WTO/TBT, Geneva, Switzerland;**
8-9   **23rd ISO CASCO Plenary, Geneva, Switzerland;**

December
2-7   **APLAC General Assembly, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
6   **SCC Council 97th Meeting**

March
3   **ILAC Executive Committee Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**