



# IGAT insider

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade



Standards Council of Canada  
Conseil canadien des normes

## Staff Insider

IGAT welcomes back Ms. Anneke Olvera as Senior Policy Analyst and Ms. Jolene Burse as Liaison Officer

IGAT welcomes Mr. Stephen Head as Policy Analyst

## Winter 2005-2006

### Highlights:

- 2005 World Standards Day Celebration and Standards Council of Canada (SCC) 35th Anniversary
- Current policy and trade issues, including Smart Regulation
- Updates on recent International meetings including the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting, the ISO General Assembly, the ISO/DEVCO, the ISO/CASCO Plenary and the IAF/ILAC Plenary Meetings
- Recent work of SCC Advisory Committees
- Recent publications of interest
- Coming events

### Inside IGAT

#### 2005 World Standards Day Celebration and SCC 35th Anniversary

In honour of both World Standards Day and SCC's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, over 150 National Standards System (NSS) stakeholders, committee members, accredited clients and potential partners, as well as consumers and members of the Canadian public attended a full day of activities including speeches, exhibits and four presentation workshops. The workshop themes included:

- "The Business of Standards" - presented by Hugh Krentz, SCC Chairman.

- "Focus your future on standards: Get Involved!" - presented by Chantal Marin-Comeau, SCC Advisory Committee Member and Acting Director, Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB);
- "Working towards Smart Regulation" - presented by a panel including Pat Paladino, SCC Director of Conformity Assessment, Mike Bourassa, SCC Director of Standards and, Ken Moore, ISSR Senior Policy Analyst, Privy Council Office, Implementation Strategy for Smart Regulation (ISSR);
- "The Consumer's viewpoint" - presented by Jeanne Bank, SCC Advisory Committee Member (CPIC) and Manager, Consumer Program, External Affairs, Canadian Standards Association (CSA); and

### • **Current Policy and Trade Issues**

#### Smart Regulation Implementation

The SCC continues to be involved in the Government of Canada's (GoC) Smart Regulation Initiative. To support its implementation, the Privy Council Office (PCO) has created several "Theme Tables" (interdepartmental committees) to guide Smart Regulation (SR) activities and to facilitate stakeholder input. The SCC currently participates in the following SR 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).

#### Items of Interest :

SCC staff, external associates and interdepartmental colleagues attended the 2005-09-08 GDR Regulatory Consultation Plenary in Ottawa. Standardization-related interventions resulted in the inclusion of specific references to the importance of using standardization at the international, federal and provincial and territorial levels in the regulatory development and review process. An updated draft GDR is expected to be released in January 2006.

SCC provided input on the draft International Regulatory Cooperation (IRC) Framework. It is anticipated that this input will also be used to support the development of a

Trilateral Regulatory Cooperation Framework among Canada, the United States, and Mexico under the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP).

The GoC's 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).

Smart Regulation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Report on Actions and Plans can be viewed at:  
[http://www.regulation.gc.ca/docs/report/rap\\_e.pdf](http://www.regulation.gc.ca/docs/report/rap_e.pdf).

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

### **"Standardization Across Canada" Events**

In November 2004, the SCC's Provincial and Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC) met with the National Public Safety Advisory Committee (NPSAC) to develop a mutual understanding of their respective roles and to examine areas of possible future collaboration. PTAC and NPSAC members agreed to work with their counterparts within each jurisdiction to host a series of standardization forums.

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.

To date, sessions 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 |

Upcoming sessions:

- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| • Quebec City | 2006-01-31 |
|---------------|------------|

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

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

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

### **Highlights - World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meetings, Geneva, Switzerland**

The SCC continues to attend WTO/TBT meetings as a member of the Canadian delegation. Full minutes of the TBT meetings are available by following the web links at the end of this section.

#### **2005-06-16/17 & 2005-11-02/03 Meetings – Items of Interest:**

Canada made an intervention with respect to the European Communities' Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH), noting the position paper which Canada had previously submitted to the European Parliament (EP) Industry Committee.

For additional REACH information – see:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/reach/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm).

Canada made an intervention with respect to the European Communities' Directives on the Restriction of the Use of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) in Electrical and Electronic Equipment and the Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment. Canada supported the U.S. statement that there is a lack of sufficient, detailed guidance and a lengthy, onerous and non-transparent exemptions process. The European response to concerns raised indicated that there was no plan for harmonization of conformity assessment procedures among the EC Member States and that it did not view its guidance documents as incomplete.

For additional RoHS information, see:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee\\_index.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/weee_index.htm).

#### **Fourth Triennial Review (November, 2006)**

Topics currently under discussion for inclusion on the 4<sup>th</sup> Triennial Review of the WTO/TBT Agreement Work Programme include: Implementation/Administration of the Agreement, Good Regulatory Practice, Transparency, Technical Assistance, Intellectual Property Rights Issues in Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Labelling, International Standardizing Bodies Rules and Procedures, and Sub-National Compliance with the TBT Agreement.

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).

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

### **Highlights – 28<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly, Singapore, 2005-09-19/23**

The 28<sup>th</sup> ISO General Assembly (GA) and associated meetings were held in Singapore from 2005-09-19/23.

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

ISO's initiative to work with Partner Standards Developing Organizations (PSDOs) is expected to be a positive contribution to the implementation of ISO's Strategic Objective 4, "Being open to partnerships for the efficient development of International Standards". ISO approved the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) as the first PSDO.

Canada (SCC) was elected to the ISO Council representing Group 2 Member Bodies. Prior to the closing of the GA, the SCC Chairman (Hugh Krentz) invited the ISO members to the September 2006 ISO General Assembly in Ottawa.

The 2005 ISO General Assembly Press Release can be viewed at:  
<http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2005/Ref970.html>

### **Highlights – ISO/DEVCO Plenary, Singapore, 2005-09-19/20**

The ISO/DEVCO meeting was held in Singapore on 2005-09-19/20. Delegates included the CAC/DEVCO Chair (Tony Schellinck), Vice-Chair (John Walter) and Secretary, staff and other Canadian observers. The meeting followed the format established last year with three half-day, concurrent break-out sessions on the topics of:

- Establishing an Effective National Quality Infrastructure, Focus on issues faced by Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- Enhancing Developing Country Participation in the Standardization Process – New initiatives
- Good Regulatory Practice - International Standards for Technical Regulations

**ISO/DEVCO Website:**

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

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

### **Highlights – ISO/CASCO Plenary, Geneva, Switzerland, 2005-11-17/18**

The ISO/CASCO Plenary was held on 2005-11-17/18 in Geneva, Switzerland at the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Headquarters. Delegates included the CAC/CASCO Chair (Bill Cunningham), the CAC/CASCO Acting Secretary (Bruno Tilgner). Elva Nilsen, SCC - Director, IGAT, also attended in her capacity as Vice-Chair, IAF.

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

CAC/CASCO Chair (Bill Cunningham) was approved as the Convenor of ISO/CASCO Working Group (WG) 27. This WG will revise ISO/IEC Guide 7 to become ISO/IEC 17007 *Conformity Assessment – Guidelines for drafting standards and specified requirements for conformity assessment applications*. By assuming this role, Canada has also retained a seat at the ISO/CASCO Chairman's Policy and Coordination (CPC) Group.

In addition to approving the 2006 ISO/CASCO Work Plan, attendees agreed that ISO/CASCO WG 21, *Management systems certification*, should complete the development of ISO/IEC 17021 without delay and noted that a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) will be circulated to pursue the development of more specific requirements on auditor competence.



WMO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland – site of the 2005 ISO/CASCO Plenary

#### **ISO/CASCO Website:**

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

For more information, contact Anneke Olvera  
CAC/CASCO Secretary - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)).

## **IAF General Assembly, Auckland, New Zealand, 2005-09-17 and 19**

IAF is a worldwide association of Accreditation Bodies (AB's) and others interested in accreditation in the fields of management systems, products, services, and personnel. IAF members meet annually. The IAF Executive Committee (EC) oversees progress on work items between meetings. Elva Nilsen, Director IGAT, is the IAF Vice-Chair.

### **2005-09-09/17 and 19 IAF General Assembly (Auckland, New Zealand) - Items of Interest:**

The proposed revision to IAF Guidance for Advanced Surveillance and Reassessment Procedures passed letter-ballot and a final draft is being prepared for publication. The proposed draft guidance to ISO/IEC Guide 65 for Product Certification is currently out for letter-ballot.

A Joint IAF-ISO Task Force, established to consider the need for more specific guidance re: auditor competence than that available in ISO/IEC 19011, recommended the work be undertaken by ISO/CASCO WG 21, as a Part 2 to the draft ISO/IEC 17021 document.

It was agreed to proceed with an IAF/ILAC Inspection MLA following agreement between existing regional MLA Members (APLAC and EA) to harmonize their programs (expected by November, 2006)

IAF and ILAC signed an Agreement for Closer Cooperation on 2005-09-17 outlining areas of common interest where the organizations could work together more effectively.

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**

### **APEC-SCSC Meeting, Seoul, Korea, 2005-09-07/09**

The APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC) assists the Committee on Trade and Investment to achieve the standards and

conformance related components of APEC's trade and investment liberalization and facilitation agenda.

The second meeting of the SCSC of 2005 took place on 2005-09-08/09 in Gyeongju, Korea. Meeting attendees endorsed 296 new target standards for Voluntary Action Plan (VAP) alignment activities, and requested that Indonesia develop a roadmap for SCSC interaction with Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs) by mid-2006.

APEC SCSC members thanked the Korean chair for his leadership during the Korean year and Vietnam accepted nomination as Chair and host for 2006. In accordance with established practice Australia (who will host APEC in 2007) accepted appointment as the 2006 Vice-Chair.

### **APEC-SCSC Website:**

[http://www.apec.org/apec/apec\\_groups/committees/committee\\_on\\_trade/sub-committee\\_on\\_standards.html](http://www.apec.org/apec/apec_groups/committees/committee_on_trade/sub-committee_on_standards.html).

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

## **PAC Plenary Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 2005-07-02/10**

PAC is an association of accreditation and other bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programs. The work of PAC, a regional body of IAF, is accomplished through its members and committees including the Executive Committee, which oversees all activities between Plenary meetings. Elva Nilsen, Director, IGAT is the Chair of PAC.

### **Items of Interest :**

Technical Committee (TC) members discussed the need for revision of PAC application and peer evaluation documents as a result of adoption of ISO/IEC 17011. It was confirmed that all Accreditation Bodies, including SCC, will be required to self-declare compliance to ISO/IEC17011 by 2006-01-31. The TC also agreed to encourage IAF to complete draft guidance for January 2006 in order to retain the present level of harmonization amongst accreditation bodies.

It was confirmed that re-evaluation of SCC for its Quality Management System (QMS), Environmental Management System (EMS) and Product programs will occur in the second quarter of 2006 as part of a joint evaluation effort with IAAC. A successful re-evaluation

is necessary to retain PAC and IAAC MLA signatory status.

SCC has been requested to participate in peer evaluations of the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ), Korea Accreditation System (KAS), and Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF) in FY 2006/2007, and to conduct the internal audit of PAC operations.

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 Meeting 2005-10-24**

ACT met in 2005-10-24 in Ottawa. Discussion items included:

**Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)** – Members were given an update presentation by Industry Canada on recent AIT related activities and were asked to contribute suggestions as to where standardization could be applied to overcome ongoing internal trade obstacles.

**Canadian Centre for Standards Research** - Based on the input of ACT members, the research paper will be substantially revised to propose (1) the completion of a study to ascertain some hard economic data on the value of standardization to the Canadian economy, and (2) focus on the organization of an academic conference that can also serve as a way to gauge interest in the creation of a Canadian Centre for Standards Research.

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

### **Canadian Advisory Committee on ISO Conformity Assessment Matters (CAC/CASCO)**

CAC/CASCO coordinates and provides Canadian input into ISO/CASCO document development activities and represents Canada at annual ISO/CASCO plenary meetings.

#### **CAC/CASCO Meeting 2005-10-28**

CAC/CASCO members held their annual in-person meeting on 2005-10-28. Discussion items included:

**2005 ISO/CASCO Plenary** – Members reviewed the 2005 ISO/CASCO Plenary discussion papers and finalized Canadian positions in advance of the Plenary.

**2006/2007 CAC/CASCO Workplan** – Members approved the 2006/2007 Workplan which included Canadian participation in both the standards development and governance activities of ISO/CASCO.

**Membership Update** – Committee members welcomed a new federal government representative (Dr. R. Rotter, Health Canada) which strengthened regulatory participation on the Committee.

For more information, contact Anneke Olvera, Secretary - ([aolvera@scc.ca](mailto:aolvera@scc.ca)).

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

CAC/DEVCO continues to represent Canada and to support various technical assistance projects aimed at helping developing countries improve their capacity to participate in standardization activities.

#### **CAC/DEVCO Meeting 2005-09-09**

CAC/DEVCO members met via teleconference 2005-09-09. Discussion items included:

**Financial Support** – Members agreed to continue supporting the participation of co-chair (Trinidad-Tobago representative) of the ISO/COPOLCO Priorities Committee. Members also agreed to continue support of developing country participation in the technical work of ISO, specifically: TC 207 - Environmental Management Systems, TC 176 - Quality Management, and TC 224 – Drinking Water.

**Financial Support – New Projects** – Members agreed to provide funding to one (1) developing country expert

to participate in ISO/CASCO Working Group (WG) 27 - *Conformity Assessment – Guidelines for drafting standards and specified requirements for conformity assessment applications* (WG 27 is convened by Canada-SCC). They also agreed to support one (1) developing country expert to participate in the ISO Social Responsibility Working Group; and to support two (2) experts to participate in the World Water Forum (Mexico, March 2006).

For more information, contact Leanne Wright, Secretary - ([lwright@scc.ca](mailto:lwright@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 2005-09-07**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PTAC was held in Iqaluit, Nunavut on 2005-09-07, and a 'standardization forum' which included NSS-SCC presentations was held 2005-09-08. Members received a presentation on counterfeit electrical products (specifically moulded case circuit breakers) from the Electro-federation of Canada and prepared provincial and territorial positions in advance of the September SCC Board meeting.

#### **Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee, Iqaluit, Nunavut, 2005-09-07**



Left to right: Hazel Cail (AB), John Purdy (NU), Brendan Reding (SK), Philippe Fontaine (QC), Israel Lyon (ON – PTAC Chair), Jeffery Westgarth-Taylor (SCC, PTAC Secretary), and Kristina Stevens (BC)

#### **PTAC Meeting 2005-11-29**

PTAC met via teleconference on 2005-11-29. In addition to reviewing and approving the draft 2006-2007 PTAC Work Plan, PTAC members welcomed Andrea Dicks to her first PTAC meeting. Andrea Dicks is Director of Policy with the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

PTAC continues to track a number of papers addressing inter-provincial issues including, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce paper entitled, *Obstacles to Free Trade in Canada: A Study on Internal Trade Barriers, Report on Trade: Canadian Federation of Independent Business*, and several iterations of the Council of the Federation paper, *Enhancing Regulatory Governance: Harmonization of Regulations and Standards*.

For more information on PTAC activities, contact Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor, Secretary - ([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. Malaysia's *Export Alert!* Notification System is now online, while the Trinidad & Tobago *Export Alert!* Notification System is expected to go online in early 2006. Hosting discussions are also underway with Bhutan, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Ghana, India, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Vietnam.

SCC's Enquiry Point Coordinator (Andrea Spencer) gave a presentation on 2005-10-18 at the request of the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) at Carleton University (Ottawa), to Chinese officials regarding Canada's experience operating the WTO/NAFTA Enquiry Point. Other presenters included International Trade Canada (ITCan) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), who presented TBT and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) policy perspectives, respectively.

For more information please contact Andrea Spencer - ([aspencer@scc.ca](mailto:aspencer@scc.ca)).

### **Recent Publications of Interest**

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

**World Trade Report 2005 – Exploring the Links Between Trade, Standards and the WTO.** See: [http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/anrep\\_e/world\\_trade\\_report05\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/anrep_e/world_trade_report05_e.pdf).

**Performance and Potential 2005–06 - The World and Canada: Trends Reshaping Our Future** – The Conference Board of Canada. See: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/pandp/>.

**Canada's Performance 2005: The Government of Canada's Contribution** – Treasury Board. See: [http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/report/govrev/05/cp-rc\\_e.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/report/govrev/05/cp-rc_e.asp).

**International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** – material related to standards and trade. See: <http://www.iisd.org/standards/>.

## Coming Events

### January

23 ACT Teleconference Meeting

### February

23-24 APEC-SCSC, Hanoi, Viet Nam

### March

13 WTO/TBT Workshop on Accreditation & Certification  
14-15 WTO-TBT Meeting  
11-15 IAF Technical Committee Meeting, Rome, Italy  
15-17 IAF EC Meeting, Rome, Italy  
18-19 PAC EC Meeting, Rome, Italy

### April

19 PTAC Teleconference Meeting

### May

10 SCC Council Meeting #90  
11 SCC Council Strategic Session  
23-26 ISO/COPOLCO, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
29-2 (June) 20<sup>th</sup> PAC Plenary, Vietnam

### *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/igat/index\\_e.html](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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