



IGAT INSIDER

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

DECEMBER 2001

Keeping You Informed!

This is the first issue of the *IGAT Insider*, an on-line publication that will keep you informed about the activities of the **InterGovernmental Affairs and Trade** (IGAT) branch of the *Standards Council of Canada* (SCC). This first issue provides a general overview of IGAT's activities. Future *Insiders* will focus on current and upcoming research, hot issues and more detailed descriptions of the activities of international and regional accreditation bodies.

A New Information Source!

The new **International Trade section of the SCC Web site** is your source for information on trade-related and standards issues, international agreements, and the activities of IGAT committees. Bookmark our location to keep up-to-date on these issues.

 http://www.scc.ca/igat/index_e.html

Inside IGAT

• Who We Are

IGAT's role is to strengthen policy development and strategic participation with respect to the SCC's participation in international standardization, international trade and intergovernmental affairs. IGAT staff:

- Play a key role in a number of international and regional conformity assessment forums
- Provide standards-related information, policy development and analysis
- Operate the World Trade Organization (WTO) / NAFTA Enquiry Point under contract to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)
- Manage Canada's largest standards-related document centre.

[Click here](http://www.scc.ca/who_we_are/chart_e.html) for IGAT's organizational chart (http://www.scc.ca/who_we_are/chart_e.html).

• Around the World – What We Are Doing

ISO/DEVCO: Assisting developing economies

The International Organization for Standardization's Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO) is celebrating its 40th year of identifying and addressing the standardization needs of developing countries. Today there are 101 members of ISO/DEVCO from both developed and developing countries, including the SCC. The SCC is taking an active role in guiding developing economies to participate more fully in the development of standardization activities so as to increase their trade capacity and market access.

Activities

ISO/DEVCO held its 35th meeting in Sydney, Australia on September 14 and 15, 2001. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Canada took the lead in stressing how important it is for developing countries to provide input to the upcoming meeting of the WTO/Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee so their needs are considered.
- Canada received recognition for its contribution to the Robert Oteng Fellowship, and its sponsorship for developing countries' participation in Working Group 22 of ISO and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Guide 60.
- DEVCO is working with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to help countries in the Mediterranean and Horn of Africa regions upgrade their communications technology infrastructures.

DEVCO Web-site

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

Staff Contact

Leanne Wright, Senior Policy Analyst and Secretary, Canadian Advisory Committee (CAC)/DEVCO (lwright@scc.ca)

IAAC: Working together in the Americas

The Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) was created in 1996 to promote co-operation among accreditation bodies and interested parties within the Americas. The SCC became a member in 2000.

David Shortall, Manager, International Trade, (dshortall@scc.ca) is the SCC representative, and he is providing guidance and advice to this organization as it develops its first Quality Management Systems (QMS) multilateral recognition arrangement (MLA).

Activities

IAAC's 6th Annual Meeting, held in Mexico City, September 30 through October 5, 2001, discussed the following:

- IAAC's incorporation
- Review of policies and procedures for IAAC's MLA for Certification Bodies and for Laboratories. The IAAC is developing MLAs for these two programs for the Americas that will enable these countries to participate in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) MLAs. The SCC will apply to be a signatory.
- Approval of application for associate membership of the Honduran Council of Science and Technology.
- David Shortall made presentations on *Accreditation and Conformity Assessment in the Americas* and the *ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO)*. Copies of his presentations are available from Erica Bruce (ebuce@scc.ca).

IAAC Web-site

<http://www.ibpinetsp.com.br/iaac/>

Staff Contact

David Shortall, Manager, International Trade (dshortall@scc.ca)

IAF and ILAC: First Joint Meeting

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) is the association of national accreditation bodies for management system, products and personnel certification. The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) is an international cooperation between the various laboratory accreditation schemes operated throughout the world.

Activities

The first joint meeting of the IAF Plenary and ILAC General Assembly took place in Kyoto, Japan (October 28 – November 10, 2001). Agenda items were:

- Progress made in extending the IAF MLA to accreditation of EMS Registrars and Product Certification organizations.
- IAF guidance on the application of ISO/IEC Guides.
- New quality manual for the IAF.

Elva Nilsen, Director, IGAT, and Joan Brough-Kerrebyn, SCC's Quality Manager, represented the SCC at these meetings.

Staff Contacts

Anneke Auer, Policy Analyst (aauer@scc.ca)
Elva Nilsen, Director (enilsen@scc.ca)

Web-sites

IAF: <http://www.iaf.nu/>
ILAC: <http://www.ilac.org/>

PAC: Facilitating cooperation among Asia Pacific Economies

The Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) is an association of accreditation bodies and other interested parties from APEC member economies whose ultimate objective is the creation of a global system that grants international recognition of certification or registration of management systems, products, services, personnel and other programs of conformity assessment. PAC operates within the framework of the IAF and in cooperation with other regional groups and accreditation bodies around the world.

Activities

The 8th Plenary meeting of PAC was held in Beijing China, September 2-8, 2001. During this meeting:

- Two new Full Members were admitted (China National Regulatory Commission for Certification and Accreditation and Korea Accreditation System).
- EMA (Entidad mexicana de acreditación - Mexico) signed the QMS MLA.
- PAC made significant progress toward its plans to extend its MLA to Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Product Certification organizations.

PAC Web-site

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

Staff Contacts

Anneke Auer, Policy Analyst (aauer@scc.ca)
Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca), Director, IGAT is the Vice-Chair of PAC and Chair, PAC Promotions Committee.



Xiao Jianhua, Chair PAC and Elva Nilsen, Vice-Chair
8th Plenary Meeting, Beijing China

• At the SCC: Committee Activities

IGAT provides the Secretariat for four Advisory Committees that provide advice to SCC's governing board.

Advisory Council on Trade

The Advisory Council on Trade (ACT) advises and makes recommendations to the Council on international and internal trade-related matters.

The committee has up to 16 members, who represent industry, government, standard development organizations, consumers and conformity assessment users.

Staff Contact

David Shortall (dshortall@scc.ca)

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

CAC/CASCO, a subcommittee of SCC's Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (ACCA), represents Canada in ISO/CASCO's meetings and document development activities. The ISO/CASCO Secretariat in Geneva circulates draft international

guides and standards under development of Working Groups (WG) to CASCO members, including the SCC, for comment. Canada currently participates in 13 ISO/CASCO WGs through CAC/CASCO.

The committee has 16 committee members, who represent product certification bodies, registration organizations, laboratories, consumers, accreditation interests and conformity assessment users.

Staff Contact

Allan Wilson, Senior Policy Analyst and Secretary, PTAC (awilson@scc.ca)

Next Meeting

November 16, 2001

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

The SCC plays an active role in ISO/DEVCO (as described in *Around the World*) through a Canadian advisory committee, CAC/DEVCO.

The Committee has a maximum of 16 members from government, economic development agencies, industry, and standard development organizations.

Staff Contact

Leanne Wright (lwright@scc.ca)

Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC is one of the two SCC Advisory Committees referenced in the *Standards Council of Canada Act* (http://www.scc.ca/aboutscc/sccact_e.html). PTAC is composed of 13 members — one from each Canadian province and territory. PTAC meets four times a year and provides advice to SCC's 15 member Council on standards and conformity assessment matters from a provincial-territorial perspective.

Staff Contact

Allan Wilson (awilson@scc.ca)

Next Meeting

November 22-23, 2001

- **Great Information -- Technical Document Centre**

The SCC's Technical Document Centre (TDC) houses the most comprehensive and up-to-date standards collections and bibliographic standards databases in Canada. The Centre is **open by appointment to the public** from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Printed Standards are Available!

Full-text electronic and printed standards can be consulted at the Centre free of charge.

For more information on the TDC: http://www.scc.ca/infocentre/tdc_e.html or talk to Anne Sharkey (asharkey@scc.ca), Information Resources Officer at (613) 238-3222 (ext. 460).

- **New Features for Export Alert!**

Export Alert! is a free e-mail notification service to help Canadians keep abreast of regulatory changes in Canada and in global markets. The notification gives you access to the full texts of draft regulatory measures and the opportunity to comment on changes.

A forthcoming **new** feature is the ability to select countries of interest as well as subjects of interest. E-mail notifications will be available in HTML format, making it easy to request a copy of full regulatory texts.

For more information, to modify your existing profile or to register: http://www.scc.ca/exportalert/index_e.html or talk to Isabelle Delage (idelage@scc.ca), Coordinator at (613) 238-3222 (ext. 491).

- **Information and Research Services**

Need information on standards- and regulatory-related questions?

Our Information Officers can respond to questions as diverse as:

- Identifying standards for chocolate in Mexico
- Whether particular windows comply with existing European requirements
- Whether a laboratory's SCC accreditation is recognized outside of Canada.

Check out their information: http://www.scc.ca/infocentre/info_res_e.html

Regional and International News

Pursuing new regional arrangements

PAC peer review for EMS MLA

IAF/PAC peer review for Product Certification MLAs

Most recognition agreements require a peer evaluation to help assure participants that their policies and practices are comparable. The SCC is preparing to undergo a number of evaluations in early 2002. We'll undergo an initial evaluation by PAC as an EMS MLA signatory. In addition, IAF and PAC will evaluate SCC as a potential signatory to their Product Certification MLAs.

Reevaluating regional arrangements

PAC QMS MLA

In 1998, the SCC was one of the first signatories to the PAC QMS MLA, which now has 11 accreditation bodies as signatories. As part of this agreement, the SCC must be re-evaluated every four years. This comprehensive peer re-evaluation will be undertaken in early 2002.

APEC Action Plans are now on-line

Every member of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is required to prepare a yearly Individual Action Plan (IAP). The IAP outlines the action that the member is taking to help realize APEC's goal of free and open trade. Chapter 5 of the report focuses on Standards and Conformance goals.

Canada's and other members' reports can be found on APEC's Web site in the Databases and E-IAPs section: <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/>

New Standards Study

ISO looks into standards for corporate social responsibility

ISO's committee on consumer policy (COPOLCO) is carrying out a feasibility study on standards for corporate social responsibility, and has launched an online forum to gather stakeholder views. Examples of corporate social responsibility include investment in community outreach, employee relations, creation and maintenance of employment, environmental stewardship and financial performance. To join the online forum, contact the forum facilitator, Dr. Kernaghan Webb, senior legal policy advisor and chief of research at the Canadian Office of Consumer Affairs, at webb.kernaghan@ic.gc.ca. <http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/commcentre/pressreleases/2001/Ref800.html>

Interesting Links

ISO Bulletin

☞ <http://www.iso.ch/iso/en/commcentre/isobulletin/bulletin.html>

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Trade Negotiations and Agreements

☞ <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/>

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies

☞ <http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/stdpol/index.htm>

The World Bank

International Trade & Development Standards and International Trade

☞ <http://www1.worldbank.org/wbiop/trade/Standards.html>

Trade Shows

Meet SCC staff at these trade shows!

GLOBE 2002

March 13-15, 2002, Vancouver BC

Senior business and government leaders will convene in Vancouver to discuss environmental business opportunities.

☞ <http://www.globe2002.com>

MONDE DES AFFAIRES

Spring 2002, Montréal QC

A business information fair for small- and medium-sized businesses.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY

56th Annual Quality Congress

May 20-22, 2002, Denver, Colorado

☞ <http://www.asq.org/ed/conferences/aqc/>

Conferences and Workshops

Mark your Calendar!

Partners in Progress

National Standards System Conference

March 25-27, 2002

Quebec City, Quebec

Join colleagues and share new perspectives on standardization issues. Watch the SCC Web-site for more information. www.scc.ca

SCC FAQs

Looking for basic information on the SCC? Check out the new FAQs section on the SCC Web site!

http://www.scc.ca/igat/faq/index_e.html

Have Suggestions? Have a Question?

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

Erica Bruce

Tel: (613) 238-3222 (ext. 474)

Fax: (613) 569-7808

ebruce@scc.ca

Receive Our Newsletter

If you would like to be included on our e-mail distribution list, contact Erica Bruce at the e-mail address above.

Next Issue: March 2002

Our next issue is coming in March 2002. The theme for that issue will be *Standardization and Global Trade*, a focus of the National Standards System Conference.

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The *IGAT Insider* is an electronic newsletter published three times a year to keep you informed about our activities and services.

The newsletter can be found on the IGAT Web site at http://www.scc.ca/igat/index_e.html.

For more information:



Standards Council of Canada

Conseil canadien des normes

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