



IGAT INSIDER

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

MARCH 2002 (Issue #2)

Standards Council Web site gets a new look

The Standards Council of Canada Web site has a new look. Check it out at www.scc.ca.

The new design is just the first of a number of changes coming over the next few months. Plans are in the works to turn the site into a Web portal, making it a one-stop source for standardization information from throughout the National Standards System and around the world.

Inside IGAT

• Staff News

The Solicitor General's Office has presented Information Officer Fadly Barsoum, with an award for his standards research contribution to the Canadian Public Safety Information Network Core Data Dictionary. Congratulations Fadly!

• International Organizations

ISO/CASCO: Serving the needs of global trade

The purpose of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO), is to:

- study means of assessing the conformity of products, processes and services to appropriate standards;
- prepare international guides and standards relating to the practice of testing, inspection and certification of these products and services; and
- promote mutual recognition and acceptance of national and regional conformity assessment systems.

CASCO has a number of Working Groups (WGs) that develop and review international guides and standards. Canada participates in 15 CASCO WGs.

Activities

The latest CASCO plenary meeting was held in Geneva on November 29-30, 2001. The Standards Council was

recognized for sponsoring the participation of two developing countries, Tunisia and Costa Rica.

At the plenary, *ISO/CASCO Strategies 2002-2004*, the committee's first strategic plan, was approved. The plan focuses on a number of key objectives.

Market relevance

CASCO has set up a Market Feedback Panel so stakeholders can provide their views on current and new conformity assessment guides and standards. You can provide feedback to this panel through the ISO Web site.

Leadership

To increase the participation of developing countries, a joint DEVCO (Committee on Developing Country Matters) -CASCO Group on Conformity Assessment Strategies will be established. Its main project will be the development of an interactive Web site to involve more developing countries in the process of reviewing CASCO documents.

CASCO Communications

The CASCO Communications Group will continue to organize public workshops, and improve the delivery of CASCO's services through the Web.

Optimization

CASCO is seeking more balanced representation of stakeholder groups. Over the coming year, the

committee will develop a framework to address this issue.

Links

ISO <http://www.iso.org>

ISO/CASCO <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/comms-markets/conformity/iso+conformity.html>

Staff Contact: Allan Wilson (awilson@scc.ca)

WTO/TBT meeting: On-going consultations

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee met on October 8-9, 2001. David Shortall, Manager, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade represented the Standards Council at these meetings.

Formal and informal consultations focused on:

Labelling

The European Commission (EC) proposed to seek clarification of TBT rules with respect to labelling. Canada and several other countries favour more informal structured discussions on this complex issue.

Trade-related Technical Assistance for Developing Countries

A questionnaire is being developed to evaluate the needs of developing countries and to determine how the WTO can assist in maximizing participation in the global trading system. The questionnaire will be tabled for approval at the March 2002 meeting.

Links

WTO http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAIT):
Canada and the WTO <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/wto-e.asp>

Staff Contact: David Shortall (dshortall@scc.ca)

• Regional Organizations

APEC-SCSC: Encouraging alignment with international standards and conformity assessment systems

IGAT provides advice and comments to this committee through DFAIT. In addition, to support the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – Subcommittee on Standards and Conformance (APEC-SCSC) in achieving its objectives of promoting mutual recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment systems within the region, five standardization organizations are recognized as Specialist Regional Bodies (SRBs). These organizations are:

- *Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)* <http://www.aplac.org>
Staff Contacts: Stephen Cross (scross@scc.ca)
Joanne Dupont (jdupont@scc.ca)
- *Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)*
<http://www.aplmf.org/>
- *Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP)*
<http://www.nrlm.go.jp/apmp/>

Staff Contact: Graham Cameron
(gcameron@scc.ca)

- *Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)*
<http://www.apec-pac.org>
Staff Contacts: Anneke Auer (aauger@scc.ca), Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca)
- *Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)*
<http://www.pascnet.org>
Staff Contact: Kevin McKinley (kmckinley@scc.ca)

APEC/SCSC Staff Contacts: Erica Bruce
(ebruce@scc.ca), David Shortall (dshortall@scc.ca)

Links

APEC <http://www.apecsec.org.sg/>

APEC-SCSC

<http://www.apecsec.org.sg/committee/standards.html>

COPANT: Promoting Standardization in the Americas

The Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) promotes the development of regional standardization activities among its members. There are 32 members from the Americas, as well as France, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Linda Lusby, the President of COPANT, was formerly Chair of the Standards Council.

Activities

2002 COPANT Assembly, May 15-17, 2002

The Standards Council will host this year's COPANT Assembly. The event will include two days of work

sessions and a one-day seminar on standardization topics. More information is posted on the Standards Council and COPANT Web sites.

Links

COPANT <http://www.copant.org/>
Standards Council <http://www.scc.ca>

Staff Contacts: Rae Dulmage (rdulmage@scc.ca),
Alba Pascual (apascual@scc.ca)

IAF: Second Executive Committee Meeting

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) held its Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Mexico on February 14-15, 2002. Elva Nilsen, Director, IGAT and a member of the EC attended this meeting. Agenda items included:

- progress on IAF QMS Re-Evaluations, and implementation of the EMS and Product MLA's;
- promoting the benefits and value of the multilateral recognition arrangement (MLA) to industry, regulators, certification bodies and government;
- incorporating sector schemes into the MLA;
- renewal of the IAF Memorandum of Understanding with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);

- survey results - acceptance of ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 Certificates; and,
- establishment of an IAF Code of Conduct for Accreditation Bodies.

The next IAF Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 23-24, 2002 in Vancouver, in parallel with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) EC meeting. The Standards Council is hosting these meetings.

Links

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

Staff Contacts: Anneke Auer (aauer@scc.ca), Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca)

PAC: Facilitating cooperation among Asia Pacific Economies

The next PAC EC meeting will be held in Thailand in April 2002. Elva Nilsen, Vice-Chair, PAC will attend this meeting. Current Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) activities include:

- implementation of the PAC project on MLA readiness for Product Certification;
- planning for a 5 day workshop to be held in Mexico August 2002;

- progress on a new Promotions Strategy for the PAC MLA's; and,
- planning for the next Plenary to be held in Mexico August 2002.

Link

PAC <http://www.apec-pac.org>

Staff Contacts: Anneke Auer (aauer@scc.ca), Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca)

• SCC Committee Activities

Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)

The ACT advises the Standards Council on international and internal trade related matters.

Activities

Key items discussed at ACT's January 17, 2002 meeting included:

General Agreement on Trade and Services

A new round of international trade negotiations has begun to remove barriers that limit the international trade of services. (<http://services2000.ic.gc.ca/>)

Annex 4, Second Triennial Review of the WTO/TBT Agreement

Annex 4 provides the basis for recognizing as international standards the work of a broad range of international standardization bodies. The focus of the discussion was on the implications of Annex 4 on the National Standards System. (<http://www.wto.org>)

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

CAC/DEVCO provides advice to SCC's ACT regarding technical assistance and strategies to engage developing countries in international standardization. The committee also represents Canada at ISO/DEVCO.

Activities

Key items discussed at the February 8, 2002 meeting included:

- reviewing proposals for technical assistance projects; and,
- reviewing and providing comments on the WTO/TBT questionnaire of developing country needs (see page 2).

The June 2002 issue of the IGAT *Insider* will provide a summary of current development assistance projects.

Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC provides advice to the Standards Council from the perspective of provincial and territorial governments.

Activities

Key items discussed at PTAC's November 22-23, 2001 meeting included:

- Discussions with DFAIT on PTAC recommendations related to provincial and territorial involvement in the

negotiation of government-to-government mutual recognition agreements (MRAs). The meeting provided insight into DFAIT's current approach to MRA's and thoughts of future activities and challenges.

- The establishment of National Forum on Public Safety, a forum for coordination and advice on policy and performance matters for the national public safety system.

• Coming Soon: A Guide to Consumer Product Safety Legislation

Consumer product safety legislation in Canada can be complex and sometimes confusing. Some products are subject to federal regulation, some to provincial legislation, and some to both.

Consumer Product Safety Legislation in Canada: An Introductory Guide outlines who regulates which aspects of product safety in Canada. It provides a complete list of federal and provincial legislation, along with information on the ministries, departments and agencies responsible for it. The guide will be useful to consumers, businesses and regulators.

Scheduled for publication in spring 2002, the report will be available for online ordering at <http://www.scc.ca>.

- **New Alert! Service for Standards Referenced in Legislation**

Standards and conformity assessment are playing a growing part in legislation and regulation. This new service, based on the Standards Council's popular *Export Alert!* will provide instant e-mail notification of changes to standards and related legislation. Users will be able to find bibliographic information on Canadian standards referenced in legislation, and determine who to contact for more information. Check out <http://www.scc.ca> for more information, or talk to Tanya Burba (tburba@scc.ca), Coordinator, Information and Research Service at (613) 238-3222 (ext. 461).

- **Coming Soon: Export Alert! in Spanish**

In addition to English and French, the Standards Council will be providing *Export Alert!* in Spanish by spring 2002. For more information, check out http://www.scc.ca/alert/index_e.html or talk to Isabelle Delage (idelage@scc.ca), Coordinator, at (613) 238-3222 (ext. 491).

National Standards System Conference: Global Trade and Standardization

Canada's standards and conformity assessment community will gather in Mont Sainte-Anne, Quebec on March 26 and 27 for the first-ever National Standards System Conference. Participants will meet to share ideas and experiences, and chart the future course of standardization in Canada. For details, please visit http://www.scc.ca/nss/conference_e.html.

A highlight of the Conference is a series of sessions on **Global Trade and Standardization**. Here's a list of selected Web sites related to the session topics.

- **Session 1: Trade Arrangements and Standardization – A Global Perspective**

Speaker

John Wilson, Lead Economist, International Trade, Development Economic Research Group, The World Bank

Links of Interest

International Monetary Fund

<http://www.imf.org/>

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

<http://www.oecd.org>

Strategis (Industry Canada) – Trade and Investment

http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/engdoc/homepage.html

The World Bank, Standards and International Trade

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

World Economic Forum

<http://www.weforum.org/>

- **Session 2: The WTO/TBT and SPS Agreements**

Speakers

Victor G. Bradley, Deputy Director, Technical Barriers and Regulations Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAIT)

Billy Hewett, Director, Policy, International Affairs, Policy, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Links of Interest

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/>

DFAIT – Trade Negotiations and Agreements

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

International Trade Rules: An Answer Book on the WTO Agreements

<http://www.intracen.org/worldtradenet/docs/information/itr.htm>

WTO SPS Measures Gateway

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm

WTO TBT Gateway

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm

• **Session 3: Voluntary Accreditation-Based Agreements – Challenges and Opportunities**

Speakers

Takashi Ohtsubo, Chairman, International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

Mike Peet, Chairman, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

Links of Interest

IAF

<http://www.iaf.nu/>

ILAC

<http://www.ilac.org/>

• **Session 4: Developing Countries: Bridging the Standardization and Trade Divide**

Speakers

Gene Hutchinson, Chair, ISO/DEVCO

Tim Miller, Senior Economist, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

Yuen Pau Woo, Vice-President, Research and Chief Economist, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Links of Interest

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

<http://www.asiapacific.ca/>

Canadian International Development Agency

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/index.htm>

ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO)

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

Trade and Development Center

<http://www.itd.org/>

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

<http://www.unctad.org/>

UNCTAD/WTO - International Trade Centre (ITC)

<http://www.intracen.org>

• **Session 5: The Free Trade Area of the Americas – Regional Perspectives on Standardization Issues**

Speakers

Barbara Kotschwar, Senior Trade Specialist, Trade Unit, Organization of American States (OAS)

Linda Lusby, President, Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)

Halina B. Ostrovski, National President, The Canadian Council for the Americas

Links of Interest

Business Network for Hemispheric Integration

<http://www.bnhi.org/>

Canadian Council for the Americas

<http://www.ccacanada.com/>

Free Trade Area of the Americas

<http://www.ftaa-alca.org/>

Organization of American States
<http://www.oas.org/>

Pan America Standards Commission

<http://www.copant.org/>

**United Nations - Economic Commission for Latin
America & the Caribbean**
<http://www.eclacwash.org/>

Can't attend the conference? Watch the Standards Council's Web site (<http://www.scc.ca>) for session summaries and other information.

National News

New Sustainable Forest Management Requirements

Sustainable forest management (SFM) standards have been given a boost by the forestry industry. The Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) announced in January that all member companies will be required to submit their forest management practices to the scrutiny of independent third party audits, and that successful certification will be a condition of association membership in the future. One of the standards to which member companies may choose to be registered, by a Standards Council accredited EMS registration body, is the National Standard of Canada for SFM developed by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA Z809 – SFM System).

For more on the FPAC announcement, go to <http://www.fpac.ca/english/news/press00o.htm>.

Next Issue

The June 2002 issue of *IGAT Insider* will focus on voluntary mutual recognition arrangements.

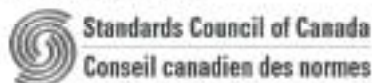
IGAT Insider

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:

Erica Bruce
Tel: (613) 238-3222 (ext. 474)
Fax: (613) 569-7808
ebruce@scc.ca

For more information:



Tel: +1 613 238 3222, Fax: +1 613 569 7808
E-mail: info@scc.ca, Web Site: www.scc.ca

Canada