IGAT *INSIDER*

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Winter 2004-2005 (Issue #8)

This issue highlights:

- Current policy and trade issues, including: the Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) Update 2005-2008 and Smart Regulation
- Updates on recent International meetings including: the ISO
- General Assembly, the ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO), the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO), and the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting
- Recent Work of Standards Council of Canada (SCC) Advisory Committees

Inside IGAT

- ## Current Policy and Trade Issues

The Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) Update 2005-2008

In June 2003, a proposal to update the original CSS was approved by SCC's Governing Council. The update approach used was stakeholder driven, practical, efficient, and relevant. Between November 2003,and May 2004, nine SCC Advisory Committees participated in facilitated sessions and developed CSS update recommendations and activities. Additional materials, such asformal written submissions, and e-mails, were provided by other NSS stakeholders, including the Government of Canada, related advisory groups and bodies, SCC staff and management, and individual Canadians. This material was reviewed, organized and drafted into the updated CSS. Efforts were taken to ensure consistency, where applicable, between the revised CSS and the SCC's Corporate Plan.

The updated CSS is a more streamlined document. The six goals (three international & three domestic) of the original CSS were retained. Supporting these goals are 12 objectives (formerly implementation activities), each with a number of corresponding activities.

The revised structure will enable the SCC, National Standard System stakeholders, and the public to monitor progress of the updated CSS. The CSS Update 2005-2008 is now available at http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/strategy.shtml.

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

Smart Regulation

The Report of the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation (EACSR) was released in September 2004. It outlines the Committee's recommendations based on 15 months of extensive research, consultations and meetings on the state of Canada's regulatory system. The federal government established the EACSR in May 2003 to gain an external perspective and expert advice on redesigning Canada's regulatory approach for the 21st century.

The report places a renewed emphasis on standards in regulations and makes a number of recommendations that are congruent with the National Standards System (NSS). The following recommendations are of particular interest to the SCC and its activities:

- **Take an International Approach:** Echoing the World Trade Organization-Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO-TBT) Agreement, recommendations two and three encourage the government to review and adopt international approaches wherever possible, while recognizing a limited set of circumstances where specific Canadian regulatory requirements may be appropriate. The report makes specific mention of the use of international standards to achieve Canada's policy goals without additional national requirements.
- **Focus Immediately on North American Harmonization:** Recommendation five of the report calls for an immediate and primary focus on achieving compatible standards and regulations, eliminating small regulatory impediments to an integrated North American market, and working towards a single review and approval for all products and services in North America.
- **Maintain and Improve International Harmonization:** While recognizing the importance of our regulatory cooperation with the United States, the report also notes the importance of maintaining key bilateral and multilateral relationships. It specifically mentions Canada's, "long-standing commitment to working with international standard-setting bodies and other jurisdictions". Recommendation seven of the report calls for the promotion of joint and single product reviews for multiple markets and a move towards accepting the approvals and reviews of our U.S. and E.U. trading partners in sectors where there are already well-established, internationally recognized conformity assessment procedures in place.
- **Use Legislative Drafting that is Compatible with the Referencing of Standards:** Recommendation 27 calls, in part, for statutes and regulations to be drafted to allow for the use of modern regulatory techniques. The preface to this recommendation explains 'modern regulatory techniques' as including, "The incorporation into regulations of standards developed by non-governmental bodies, international organizations or other governments, as amended by them from time to time". It further states that, "T]he government should establish a uniform policy on, and seek clear legislative authority for, incorporation by reference in regulations of standards and codes, as they are amended from time to time by external organizations or other jurisdictions".

The EACSR Final report can be viewed at: http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/smartreg-regint/en/index.html.

The SCC submission to the EACSR can be viewed at: http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/smartreg-regint/en/06/01/su-15.html.

• Around the World

27th ISO General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland (2004-09-14/16)

Key issues addressed at the General Assembly included:

- Further cooperation between the ISO and the UN. ISO members were encouraged to engage in dialogue with their United Nations representatives in support of international efforts.
- Further cooperation between ISO and the WTO. The adoption of the report of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee Third Triennial Review, which supports the use of internal standards and conformity assessment procedures, was noted.
- An increased role for international standards in security through the ISO High-Level Advisory Group on Security and support by ISO members for the International Maritime Organization's efforts to increase security in the fields of supply and transportation.

- An invitation to all ISO members to raise their level of activity with developing countries through support of ISO initiatives (Funds-in Trust, ISO MED 2000, Twinning).
- Encouragement of member bodies to adhere to the ISO Code of Ethics and to promote adherence to ISO values by other organizations and individuals engaged in ISO standardization.
- Approval of the ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010 – *Standards for a Sustainable World*, including a reminder to members that the full and successful implementation of the plan will depend upon the efforts of member bodies and other relevant parties.

The next meeting of the ISO General Assembly will be held in Singapore in September 2005.

Further information can be found at www.iso.org.

38th ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO) Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland (2004-09-13/14)

The ISO Committee on Developing Country Matters (ISO/DEVCO) met in conjunction with the ISO General Assembly. The Canadian delegation included: Tony Schellinck (Chair, CAC/DEVCO), Leanne Wright (Secretary, CAC/DEVCO), Begonia Lojk (Manager, Standards Governance, SCC), John Walter (CSA), and Isabelle Delage (ITCan). Highlights of the meeting included:

- Approval of the ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries 2005-2010
- Presentation of the report from the first meeting of the DEVCO Chair's Advisory Group (DEVCO CAG). SCC Executive Director Mr. Peter Clark represents Canada as a member of the Chair's Advisory Group.
- Changes were made to the meeting agenda in response to the recommendation of the DEVCO CAG, to allow for more interaction between the member bodies. This was done through the creation of three (3) discussion groups. They are:
    1. Standardization as a Component of National Quality Infrastructure
    2. Enhancing Developing Country Participation in the Standardization Process
    3. Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation in Standardization and Related Matters
- Canada (SCC) was congratulated for its continued support of DEVCO Activities (ISO Funds In Trust, Med 2000, Twinning, etc.).

The next meeting of ISO/DEVCO will be held in Singapore in September 2005.

For further information contact Leanne Wright (lwright@scc.ca).

20th ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands (2004-11-09/10)
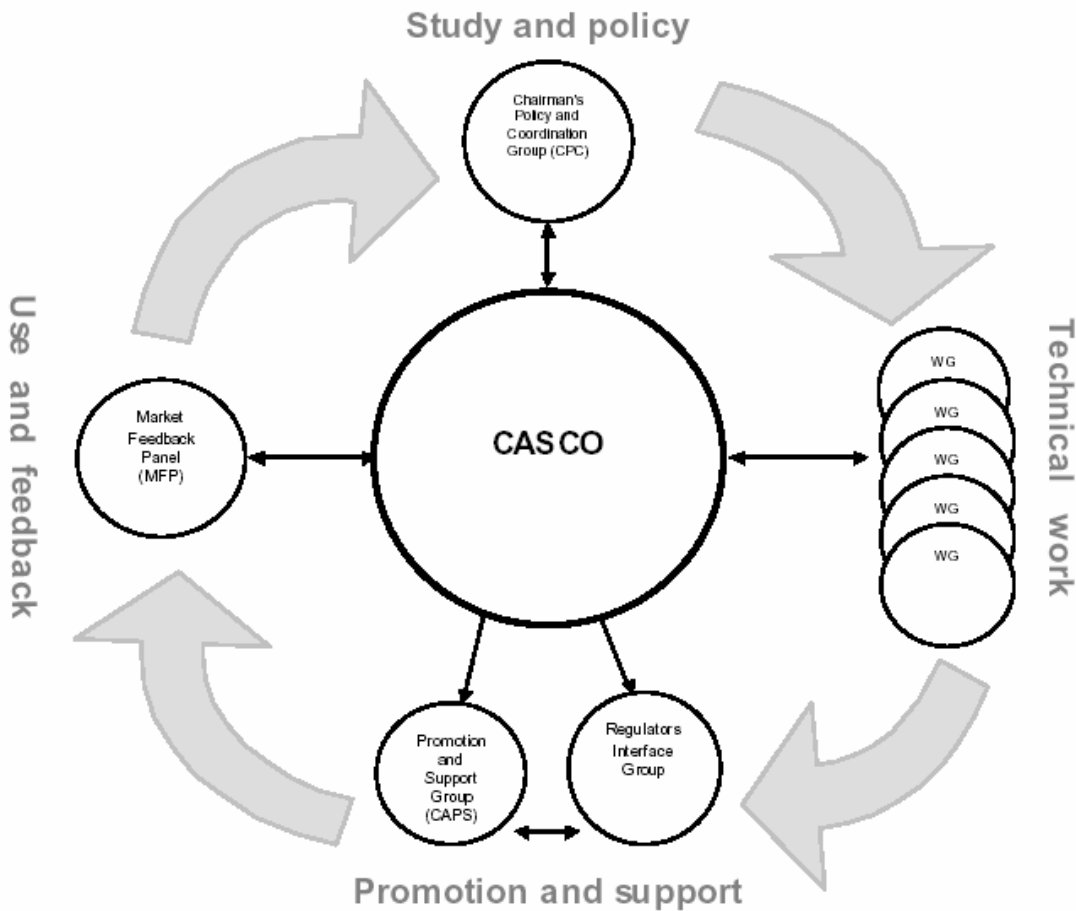
The Canadian delegation to the 2004 ISO/CASCO Plenary included: William Cunningham (CAC/CASCO Chair), Allan Wilson (CAC/CASCO Secretary), and David Shortall (Convenor of ISO/CASCO WG 22 – *Code of Good Practice for Conformity Assessment*). SCC Executive Director Peter Clark also attended the second day of the Plenary. The main highlight of the Plenary was the formal completion of several ISO/CASCO conformity assessment standards and guides. The completed projects included:

- WG 5: ISO/IEC 17000 – *Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles*. Gilles Béland (CAC/CASCO – Hydro Quebec) served as the Canadian expert on WG 5.
- WG 14: Fundamentals of Product Certification – ISO/IEC Guide 67 – *Conformity assessment - Fundamentals of product certification* and ISO/IEC Guide 28 – *Conformity assessment - Guidance on a third-party certification system for products*.
- WG 18: ISO/IEC 17011 – *Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*. Elva Nilsen (SCC) and Joan Brough-Kerrebyn (SCC) served as the Canadian experts on WG 11.

- WG 19: ISO/IEC 17040 – *General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies*. Joe Gryn (CSA) served as the Canadian representative on WG 19.
- WG 22: ISO/IEC Guide 60 – *Code of Good Practice for Conformity Assessment*. David Shortall (SCC) served as the Convenor of WG 22.
- WG 24: ISO/IEC 17050-1 – *Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity - Part 1: General requirements* & ISO/IEC 17050-2 – *Conformity assessment -- Supplier's declaration of conformity - Part 2: Supporting documentation*. Michael De Grood (AltaLink) served as Canada's WG 24 expert.

It was noted that that ISO/CASCO began operating under a re-organized structure and process in 2004. The changes are the result of a review of CASCO carried out in 2003 and approved by the committee and ISO Council..

The structure and process of CASCO is designed to be a logical continual improvement loop of policy, technical work, promotion and support, and market feedback, that may drive further improvement in policy, technical work, as is illustrated in the diagram below. Additional information about the structure of the committee has also been included.

ROLE OF CASCO

The terms of reference for the ISO policy development committee on conformity assessment (CASCO) (as determined by General Assembly resolution 1/1997, and described in the ISO publication, *Memento,* are as follows:.
- To study means of assessing the conformity of products, processes, services and management systems to appropriate standards or other technical specifications.

- To prepare international guides and International Standards relating to the practice of testing, inspection and certification of products, processes and services, and to the assessment of management systems, testing laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, accreditation bodies and their operation and acceptance.
- To promote mutual recognition and acceptance of national and regional conformity assessment systems, and the appropriate use of International Standards for testing, inspection, certification, assessment and related purposes.

Chairman's Policy and Co-ordination Group (CPC)

The CPC provides a forum for the CASCO Chairman to gain input from ISO members on the development of ISO policy positions related to conformity assessment matters, and to achieve co-ordination among activities of CASCO's groups. This includes the review of any new work item proposals (NP), with the advice of the CASCO Market Feedback Panel. This will permit the CASCO Chairman:
- to ensure that the scope and objectives of the NP are sufficiently clear and commonly understandable; and
- to allow the CASCO Chairman to communicate with the submitters of the NP and to request clarification of the NWIP, if necessary.

Working Groups

Working Groups are the specific means by which CASCO develops documents on conformity assessment, such as guides, International Standards and related documents. Working Groups may be established jointly with other document developers, such as ISO Technical Committees. Upon completion of the task, the Group is automatically disbanded.

Conformity Assessment Promotion and Support Group (CAPS)

The Conformity Assessment Promotion and Support Group (CAPS) focuses on promoting and communicating on conformity assessment matters. Its tasks include the provision of advice to international standards developers on the application of Clause 6.7 *Aspects of conformity assessment*, Part 2 of the ISO/IEC Directives.

Regulator's Interface Group (RIG)

The Regulator's Interface Group is a specific promotion and communication group of CASCO that focuses on the involvement of regulators in the development of CASCO documents, and the use by regulators of those documents once published.

Market Feedback Panel (MFP)

The Market Feedback Panel seeks and provides market feedback regarding published ISO/IEC documents or the need for new documents on conformity assessment activities. The Market Feedback Panel also provides answers to questions from users of the ISO/IEC documents on what was the original intent of specific clauses. Such answers are in a "Yes" or "No" format in response to a specific question, with minimal additional clarifications.

(Source: Annex 1 to CASCO 32/2004, Copy of QS-CAS-PROC/01, November 2004; Abridged by Mr. William Cunningham, Chair, Canadian Advisory Committee for ISO/CASCO)

The next ISO/CASCO Plenary will be held in Geneva, Switzerland,in November 2005.

For further information contact Allan Wilson at awilson@scc.ca.

18th International Accreditation Forum (IAF) General Assembly (GA) and Associated Committee Meetings, Cape Town, South Africa (2004-10-03/13).

Key outcome from the 18th International Accreditation Forum (IAF) General Assembly included:

SCC Evaluation for EMS and Product MLA: SCC signed the IAF and PAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) (along with 27 other accreditation bodies and two regions) and Product Certification (along with 22 accreditation bodies and two regions)..

IAF Membership: ThePakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC) joined the organization bringing IAF membership to 44. The Romanian Accreditation Association (RENAR) and Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) signed the IAF QMS MLA, bringing membership in the QMS MLA to 32.

Election of Directors: Elva Nilsen (Director, IGAT, SCC) was re-elected as Vice Chair of IAF for an additional three year term.

Promotions Strategy: The Chairman's Advisory Group on Promotions is developing a communication strategy to raise the profile of IAF. A draft strategy is in development and a decision was made to launch an IAF newsletter.

Customer Satisfaction Survey: Best practices have been identified to address key client concerns. Next steps include sharing "best practices" and reconvening the Customer Satisfaction Survey Task Group to follow up actions taken.

IAF MLA Mark: Applications for registration of the new IAF Logo and MLA Mark are in progress. The licensing agreement, which sets out terms and conditions for the use of MLA Mark by signatories, has been circulated. Once licensed to use the MLA Mark, accreditation bodies will be able to issue Sub-Licence Agreements to permit their accredited Certification/Registration Bodies to use the MLA Mark on their certificates.

Implementation of Cross-Frontier Accreditation Policy: IAF and its regional MLA groups are evaluating the implementation of the IAF Policy on Cross Frontier Accreditation by each MLA signatory and will report further progress of the evaluation/monitoring at the next MLA Management Committee meeting in June 2005. Currently, one-third of critical locations are being evaluated by accrediting AB's.

Technical Committee (TC): Joan Brough-Kerrebyn (SCC Quality Manager) was appointed as a Vice-Chair of the TC.

Guidance to ISO/IEC Guide 17020 *General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection* was published in October 2004.

An 18 month transition period for implementing the revision to ISO 14001 *Environmental management systems -- Specification with guidance for use* was agreed upon.

A draft white paper entitled "The relationship between ISO 14001 management system conformity assessments and regulatory compliance" will be circulated for 60 day comment.

New projects include revised guides on:

- auditing of CRB competence, assessment techniques and scoping
- site auditor time and audit duration, and
- guidance to allow a CRB or AB to refuse to accept a client based on risk.

Cooperation with ILAC: The IAF and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) have approved common peer evaluation procedures which should allow one peer evaluation of SCC rather than two in the future. A questionnaire is currently being circulated in order to gather members' views on the effectiveness of past joint IAF - ILAC meetings and members' preferences for the future.

ISO/IEC Guide 17011: IAF endorsed the adoption of ISO/IEC 17011 *Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies* for implementation by 2006-01-01.

Certification of Persons: The MLA Committee and Executive Committee will prepare an estimate on the annual operating costs of the proposed Personnel Certification MLA, taking into account the cost information acquired from the analysis of the present operating MLAs, before considering any recommendation to proceed.

Development Support Committee: IAF, ILAC and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) signed a memorandum of understanding pertaining to their cooperation in support of developing countries.

IAF-ILAC-ISO MoU: A second meeting was held 2004-11-07 between IAF-ILAC-ISO/CASCO pertaining to joint activities/concerns.

Upcoming Meetings: The next IAF Executive Committee will be held 2005-02-24/25 in Taipei, Taiwan. The 19th IAF General Assembly will be held in Auckland, New Zealand 2005-09-11/21. EMA (Mexico) has been accepted as the host for the 2006 IAF and ILAC meetings.

For more information go to www.iaf.nu or contact Anneke Olvera (aolvera@scc.ca).

World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting (2004-11-3/4)

The TBT Committee met informally on November 3, 2004, and formally on November 4, 2004. These meetings were preceded by a special meeting of the TBT Committee on Procedures for Information Exchange (Transparency, Enquiry Points, their roles and responsibilities in relation to implementation of the Agreement)... A brief informal meeting of interested World Wine Trade Group members was held to provide updates and discuss issues surrounding the EC wine regulations. The Canadian delegation to the WTO/TBT meeting included: Brenda Dunbar (ITCan), David Shortall (Manager, IGAT, SCC),. Andrea Spencer (Enquiry Point, SCC), Tobias Nussbaum (GVWTO) and Regan Khan (AAFC).

For more information contact Jeffery Westgarth-Taylor (jwtaylor@scc.ca).

- ## Regional Organizations

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC) Meeting, Santiago Chile (2004-09-22/28)

Discussions at the fifth APEC SCSC Meeting included: the reduction of compliance costs to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and the opening of dialogue with the business sector. David Shortall (Manager, International Trade, IGAT) was the Canadian representative. He delivered a presentation on the benefit of Accreditation for Developing Countries**.**

For more information, visit http://www.apec.org/apec/apec_groups/committees/committee_on_trade/sub-committee_on_standards.html

Train-the-Trainers workshop on the WTO/TBT Agreement for Officials from the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ) and National Standards Bureau, Barbados (2004-12-01/03)

IGAT and Enquiry Point teamed up to deliver a workshop to members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Originally scheduled for September 2004, the workshop was postponed until December due to hurricane activity in the region. David Shortall (Manager, International Trade, IGAT) and Andrea Spencer (Coordinator, Enquiry Point) gave workshops on the WTO TBT and on Enquiry Point to 26 participants from 13 countries as well as to representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARCICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ). Feedback from those attending the workshops given by the SCC was very positive.

For more information please contact Andrea Spencer (aspencer@scc.ca).

Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Executive Committee (EC) meeting (2004-10-01/02)

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Announcement that PAC has developed a promotional CD
- Discussion of a proposal for PAC to offer three training courses to developing economies in 2005-2006 on the topic of operating accreditation programs. SCC staff Stephen Cross (Manager, Certification and Management Systems) and Joan Brough-Kerrebyn (Manager, Quality Management System) were suggested as trainers for the sessions.

The next PAC Executive Committee will be held in Beijing, China in February 2005. The 12th PAC Plenary will be hosted by the National Accreditation Council of Thailand (NAC) in June 2005.

• Advisory Committee Activities

Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)

ACT held a teleconference on 2004-10-07. Allan Wilson (Manager, Policy Group, IGAT) took over as secretary for the committee. Other highlights of the meeting included:

- An update on SCC activities related to the implementation of the recommendations in the Final Report of the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulations (EACSR)
- A debriefing on the results of the second National Standards System conference held in Calgary, Alberta in November, 2004.
- A review of the draft FY 2005-2006 ACT Workplan, specifically those items related to the Canadian Standards Strategy Update 2005-2008
- Updates from CAC/DEVCO and PTAC

The next ACT meeting will take place in- Ottawa on 2005-03-04.

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

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

CAC/DEVCO continues to support various technical assistance projects aimed at helping developing countries improve their capacity to participate in standardization activities. Recent SCC assistance projects have included:
- financial assistance to enable Belarus (TC 207), Egypt (TC 207), and Argentina (TC 224) to participate in ISO Technical Committee meetings
- Continued support, through a twinning arrangement of Trinidad & Tobago (Steve Williams) as Co-Chair of COPOLCO WG 22.

CAC/DEVCO is also overseeing the "Needs Assessment of the SCC TRCB Project to support the establishment of a WTO Enquiry Point", which is being undertaken in conjunction with Carleton University Centre for Trade Policy and Law

(CTPL) and the Ukraine Ministry of European Economic Integration, " Phase I of this project is scheduled to get under way in March 2005.

CAC/DEVCO is also funding participation by consumer representatives from the Americas in an all-day training seminar to be held prior to the COPOLCO meeting being held in Toronto in May 2005..

The next CAC/DEVCO meeting will take place on 2004-03-04.

For more information on CAC/DEVCO activities, contact Ms. Leanne Wright, Secretary (lwright@scc.ca).

Canadian Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (CAC/CASCO)

CAC/CASCO held its annual meeting on 2004-10-22. During the meeting, CAC/CASCO members reviewed ISO/CASCO documents and developed positions for the Canadian delegation prior to the ISO/CASCO Plenary in November 2004. CAC/CASCO members also reviewed and approved the 2005-2006 CAC/CASCO Workplan. Key elements of the Workplan include:

- Reviewing and commenting on ISO/CASCO documents (draft International Standards and Guides) and preparing Canadian responses for submission to ISO/CASCO. Canadian conformity assessment stakeholders review ISO/CASCO documents and draft responses are examined and shared to ensure consistency among different Canadian standardization committees (e.g. other ISO committees and IEC committees).

- Reviewing ISO/CASCO plenary documents, preparing Canadian positions in advance of annual ISO/CASCO plenary meetings, and leading the Canadian delegation to the ISO/CASCO Plenary.

- Promoting, organizing and facilitating input of Canadian standardization experts into ISO/CASCO Working Groups (WGs). Canada currently participates in six (6) ISO/CASCO WGs and one (1) ISO TC 207/CASCO Joint WG.

- Promoting CAC/CASCO and ISO/CASCO activities among Canadian stakeholders and audiences via presentations, articles and other media.

- Maintaining current ISO/CASCO documents and information on the CAC/CASCO SiteScape forum. This site acts as the central repository for ISO/CASCO related documents for Canadian standardization stakeholders.

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

Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

The 33rd meeting of PTAC was held in Calgary on 2004-11-18. PTAC welcomed Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor as the new PTAC Secretary.

In line with its 2005/2006 Workplan, PTAC plans to develop a discussion paper identifying areas of common trade-related difficulty among provinces and territories and to promote standardization approaches and/or solutions for these trade impediments. PTAC will also engage in research to identify, from a provincial and territorial perspective, sectors that could benefit from the use and acceptance of accreditation-based MLAs.

PTAC engaged in a joint session with the National Public Safety Advisory Committee (NPSAC) in Calgary, (2004-11-18). At the meeting, an interest in providing joint SCC-NPSAC seminars to the various provinces and territories on standardization related issues was identified. Since this initial PTAC/NPSAC meeting, work on providing standardization forums in interested jurisdictions throughout 2005/2006 has been initiated.

The next PTAC meeting will take place 2005-03-30 at the SCC.

For more information on PTAC activities, contact Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor (jwtaylor@scc.ca).

Within the SCC

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

The 2nd NSS conference took place from 2004-11-15/17 at the Fairmont Palliser Hotel in Calgary, Alberta. The conference was a resounding success with over 170 delegates attending. The theme of the conference "Charting the Course" provided a forum to exchange ideas, best practices, and expertise on standards-related issues, and offered a range of perspectives on topical issues and dynamics affecting Canadian quality of life. Sessions addressed economic issues, health and safety concerns, emerging industries and technologies, environmental challenges, and the CSS Update 2005-2008.

In addition, participants took part in training workshops, break-out sessions, committee meetings and a series of highly entertaining social activities. The Conference also provided an opportunity for the SCC to once again honour the notable achievements of many NSS volunteers at an Awards Banquet held on 2004-11-16.

Full details of the conference are posted to the SCC at http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/conference.shtml.

Enquiry Point and Export Alert!

Export Alert! is celebrating a milestone of 5 years of service to exporters. "The SCC is pleased to have provided our clients with this invaluable tool for the past 5 years" said Ms. Elva Nilsen, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade at the SCC. "We encourage our users to continue taking advantage of *Export Alert!* and the many benefits this service has to offer."

In addition to keeping Canadian exporters abreast of regulatory changes in global markets through its Export Alert! Service, the SCC's WTO Enquiry is also helping other countries stay informed. Numerous countries have expressed an interest in the service and several have enquired about hosting arrangements with the SCC for the delivery of Export Alert!, or to assist with the Enquiry Points in their respective countries. Some highlights are as follows:

- Austria has signed a contract for SCC to host Export Alert! on its behalf.
- Canada will provide Bolivia with Export Alert! for a three year period under Phase II of SCC's capacity building pilot project.
- The SCC has entered the proposal stage with Costa Rica to help train and set-up a National Notification Authority.
- Canada and Rwanda have signed a memorandum of understanding forn the development of standardization infrastructure, and operation of an Enquiry Point
- Phase I of "Needs Assessment of the SCC TRCB Project undertaken in conjunction with Carleton University Centre for Trade Policy and Law and the Ukraine Ministry of European Economic Integration to support the establishment of a WTO Enquiry Point" is scheduled to get under way in March 2005.

For more information please contact Andrea Spencer (aspencer@scc.ca).

Coming Events

February

| 24-25 | IAF Executive Committee Meeting, Taipei, Taiwan |
| 20-21 | PAC Executive Committee, Beijing, China |

March

04	ACT Meeting
04	CAC/DEVCO Teleconference
22-23	WTO/TBT Committee, Geneva, Switzerland
30	PTAC Meeting

April

20	86th SCC Council Meeting and Strategic session

May

23	COPOLCO Consumer Representatives of the Americas Training Day
24	COPOLCO Workshop
25	COPOLCO Plenary

June

08	87th SCC Council Meeting

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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