



IGAT INSIDER

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Staff Insider

IGAT welcomes Mr. Chris Marrs as Policy Analyst

IGAT welcomes Ms. Sydney Sackett as acting Liaison Officer

Ms. Anneke Olvera appointed Senior Policy Analyst

Ms. Anneke Olvera appointed Secretary, CAC/CASCO

Spring/Summer 2005 (Issue #9)

Highlights:

- Current policy and trade issues, including: updates on the Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) 2005-2008 and Smart Regulation Implementation
- Updates on recent International meetings including: the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting and the COPOLCO Plenary
- Recent Work of Standards Council of Canada (SCC) Advisory Committees
- IGAT Director appointed Chair of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)
- "Standardization Across Canada" presentation series
- Standardization Education and Research: A Canadian Institution?

2005 World Standards Day Celebration and SCC 35th Anniversary

In 2005, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) celebrates a milestone 35th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the SCC will host a special event on World Standards Day (October 14, 2005) that will include commemorative speeches, several workshop presentations and an exhibit component.

National stakeholders, committee members, accredited clients and potential partners — from government and industry, as well as consumers and members of the Canadian public—have been invited to participate.

For more information and to become involved, as an exhibitor or participant, visit www.scc.ca or contact 35years@scc.ca.

Inside IGAT

Current Policy and Trade Issues

The Canadian Standards Strategy (CSS) 2005-2008 Implementation

In June, 2003 a proposal to update the original CSS was approved by SCC's governing Council. From November, 2003 until May, 2004 nine SCC Advisory Committees (ACs) participated in facilitated sessions and developed CSS update recommendations and activities. Additional materials (including formal written submissions, e-mails, etc.) 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 incorporated into the updated CSS. Efforts were taken to ensure consistency, where applicable, between the revised CSS and the FY 2005/2006-2009/2010 SCC Corporate Plan. The updated CSS implementation plan was reviewed and approved by Council on 2005-06-08.

The updated CSS is a more streamlined document. The six goals (three international and three domestic) of the original CSS have been retained. Supporting these goals are twelve objectives, each with a number of corresponding activities. Examples of activities currently underway include:

- Identify measures to increase the number of regulatory officials (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal) involved in NSS activities including standards development, conformity assessment and policy development (CSS 4.3b)
- Promote to key government and private industry the applicability of standards-based approaches (CSS 6.1a)
- Research and make recommendations on the development of a “Centre for Standards Research” that would conduct, collect and disseminate research on the value and importance of standardization in Canada (CSS 4.4c)

The CSS Update 2005-2008 document is now available at <http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/strategy.shtml>. Progress against the update will also be posted at regular intervals to the SCC website.

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

Smart Regulation Implementation

The Report of the External Advisory Committee on Smart Regulation (EACSR) was released in September, 2004. The report 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 which are congruent with those pursued within the National Standards System (NSS). In support of Smart Regulation the Government of Canada, through the Privy Council Office has created a series of Theme Tables made up of federal regulatory bodies and agencies to:

- Provide a description of key public policy issues and drivers
- Articulate the intended outcomes federal regulators want to achieve for Canadians
- Identify, review and coordinate initiatives among members over the immediate, medium and longer term to support Smart Regulation's forward planning agenda
- Catalyze interest, mobilize expertise, build capacity and foster cooperation among Theme Table members and key stakeholders to achieve progress on challenging regulatory issues
- Provide a forum for stakeholder input
- Propose mechanisms to respond to stakeholder priorities
- Assess and report on progress in implementing specific initiatives among members and in embedding the principles of Smart Regulation in day-to-day operations

The following Theme Tables have been created to bring structure to the implementation of EACSR recommendations:

- Healthy Canada
- Environmental Sustainability
- Public Safety and Security
- Innovation, Productivity and Business Environment
- Aboriginal and Northern Prosperity

SCC is currently participating on all Theme Tables with the exception of Aboriginal and Northern Prosperity and Healthy Canada. SCC staff are also monitoring and/or participating on several other Smart Regulation related initiatives including:

- design of an “instrument choice” framework
- development of an “international regulatory cooperation framework
- development of a Government Directive on Regulating (GDoR)
- Federal/Provincial/Territorial Smart Regulation related activities

Smart Regulation Implementation Theme Tables Plenary Session, 2005-04-07

This one-day plenary session was designed to bring Smart Regulation Implementation Theme Tables together to meet two objectives: to clarify the collective mandate of the Theme Tables; and to begin to develop work plans for each Theme Table. It was noted that the work of the Theme Tables is highly prominent in the move toward alignment, reinforcement and institutionalization of a life cycle approach to regulation. This plenary marked the shift in the Smart Regulation Implementation Strategy from the “inform” stage to the “perform” stage.

Participants stressed the need to include accountability, performance measures and how to report them. The importance of effective communication was highlighted, including the need for transparency, ongoing inter-Table communication and inclusion of “regulatees”, stakeholders and clients. A number of comments highlighted the need to include successes and best practices and to state the mandate in positive terms, including the value of the Theme Tables to the Smart Regulation Implementation Strategy. Theme Table Plenaries will be held every six months.

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

Government of Canada’s Implementation Plan for Smart Regulation can be viewed at: http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/media/ps-dp/2005/0324_e.asp.

Smart Regulation: Report on Actions and Plans can be viewed at: <http://www.regulation.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=report>.

“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. This meeting followed the second annual NSS Conference where one of the dominant themes that emerged was the importance of communications in furthering Canadian standardization work. Seizing on this theme of communications, PTAC and NPSAC members decided 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.

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

For more information on “Standardization Across Canada” events contact Jeffrey Westgarth-Taylor (jwtaylor@scc.ca) or Allan Wilson (awilson@scc.ca).

Standards Education and Research: A Canadian Institution?

Increased trade flows, real-time business transactions, and the need to maintain competitive advantage have led to a sharp increase in both the development and use of international standards. Regional integration and subsequent harmonization of regulatory policies, the advent of the vast free trade area in the European Union, the rising influence of China, India and Brazil, and Canada’s arrangements under the NAFTA, all promise to have enormous effects on the direction and leadership of the global economy in the 21st century.

Many EU and Asian countries have realized the positive links between standardization and prosperity and the need to ensure adequate levels of standards-related knowledge and research. As a result, several countries have created various forms of standards research centres. Since maintaining competitive advantage is vital to the health of national economies, many states are taking the initiative to shore up knowledge and research on standards, their effects on economic performance, and benefits to minimizing modern regulatory requirements in a responsible way.

To help maintain and enhance regional integration and cooperation in both Europe and Asia, a clearly discernable pattern of developing and promoting standards and conformity assessment education and research is developing. In response to both the input received in the Canadian Standards Strategy Update process and to the establishment of these newly created centres of standardization research, the Standards Council of Canada has decided to research and evaluate alternatives surrounding the possible development of a Canadian Centre for Standards Research. The SCC has had the opportunity to meet with two of the founders of The Center for Global Standards Analysis (CGSA), at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., (Dr. William Kelly, Dean of the School of Engineering at Catholic University and Vice Chairman of the Center; Mr. Donald Purcell, Adjunct Faculty, Columbus School of Law), to discuss their experience in establishing the CGSA.

Our American, European and Asian counterparts know that standards education and related sound empirical evidence on the benefits of standards can go along way towards protecting consumers and citizens, while still enhancing the bottom line for business.

Being able to effectively forward the Canadian positions in multilateral fora where standardization policies are developed will require a strong knowledge of standards; both the science behind them, and the politics of consensus required to create them. The future political, scientific and business leaders of Canada need to be aware of what standardization and conformity assessment can do to improve and strengthen the Canadian economy and society. To this end, the SCC via the Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT) as outlined in the Canadian Standards Strategy Update 2005-2008, [Item 4.4 c] will be guiding the exploration of establishing a Canadian Centre for Standardization Studies. A discussion paper is currently under development and will include an environmental scan, and explore a range of options that may be appropriate for the Canadian environment.

For more information on the founding of the CGSA at the Catholic University of America, please see: <http://engineering.cua.edu/StandardsCenter/Article.cfm>.

Around the World

World Trade Organization – Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO/TBT) Meeting, 2005-03-22/23

A Workshop on Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) was held on 2005-03-21 in Geneva, Switzerland ahead of the formal TBT meetings. A representative of Industry Canada made a presentation on SDoC in the telecoms sector. There was a high degree of participation by developing country members at the SDoC Workshop and the following TBT meetings.

Technical Assistance:

A joint Canada-New Zealand proposal for enhancing transparency related to technical assistance was approved by WTO/TBT members. The proposal calls for the development of a voluntary Information Co-ordination Mechanism for the purpose of posting technical assistance needs and supply.

Specific Trade Concerns:

Canada made an intervention regarding the United States' requirements for 'Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling (COOL)', indicating that it viewed the COOL requirements as inconsistent with US obligations under the TBT Agreement. The intent of this legislation appears to be one of simply providing information to consumers rather than addressing safety concerns.

Upcoming Events:

Accreditation and Certification Workshop:

A workshop on accreditation and certification is planned for March, 2006. The draft outline for this workshop will be discussed at future WTO/TBT Committee meeting.

Fourth Triennial Review (November, 2006):

Topics currently under discussion for the future Work Programme of the 4th Triennial Review include: Implementation/Administration of the Agreement, Good Regulatory Practice, Transparency, Conformity Assessment, Technical Assistance, Intellectual Property Rights Issues in Standardization, Labelling, and sub-national compliance with the Agreement.

The WTO-TBT next meets in Geneva on 2005-06-16/17. Highlights will be included in the 2005 Fall/Winter edition of the IGAT Insider.

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

Highlights - ISO TMB: 32nd and 33rd Meeting of The ISO Technical Management Board (TMB), 2005-02-10/11

Advisory Group on Security Final Report and TMB Response

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the TMB created an Advisory Group on Security (AGS) to address security questions raised in the realm of international standardization. ISO TMB Member Bodies were invited to join the AGS. Canada was the only member to have two national representatives appointed. The AGS was chaired by Mr. George Arnold (American National Standards Institute - ANSI).

The Advisory Group on Security submitted its Final Report to the TMB on 2005-01-10 at its 32nd meeting, held 2005-02-10-11. Of the 16 recommendations included in the Final Report, some of those supported by the TMB included:

- Establish a joint ISO/IEC oversight body to coordinate ISO/IEC activities relevant to security but decided to retain this as a strategic advisory group rather than as a steering committee. The roles of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) are:
 - To oversee standardization activities in ISO and IEC relevant to the field of security;
 - To provide advice and guidance to the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB) and IEC Standardization Management Board (SMB) relative to the coordination of work relevant to security, and in particular to identify areas where new standardization initiatives may be warranted; and
 - To monitor implementation of the recommendations in the Advisory Group on Security (AGS) report.
- Establish a sub-group of the ISO/IEC SAG to develop guidelines for the inclusion of security aspects in standards.
- Create a web portal to give information about ISO standards relevant to security with links to similar pages provided by other organizations such as IEC and the International Telecommunications Union Telecommunications Standardization Sector (ITU-T).
- Hold an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) workshop on Emergency Preparedness, noting that ANSI would consult nationally with stakeholders and invited offers to host such an event.

Other TMB Items of Interest

- The TMB accepted the offer of Mr. Peter Clark, Executive Director, SCC to act as the TMB's liaison with the DEVCO Chairman's Advisory Group (CAG).

For more information on the ISO TMB please visit: <http://www.iso.org>.

Highlights – ISO DEVCO CAG, Geneva, Switzerland, 2005-05-26/27

SCC Executive Director, Peter Clark and CAC/DEVCO Secretary, Leanne Wright participated in the 3rd ISO DEVCO Chair's Advisory Group meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Highlights included:

- Enhancing Developing Country Participation in International Standardization - Members of the CAG assisted in the identification and development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure improvements related to developing country participation for the ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010 and the ISO Action Plan for Developing Countries 2005-2010 to be reported annually to DEVCO CAG. The ISO Strategic Plan 2005-2010 identifies 'raising awareness and improving capacity in developing countries' as a strategic objective for ISO (objective #3).
- The Joint Committee on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization (JCDCMAS) background paper "Building technical infrastructures to support sustainable development and trade in developing countries and economies in transition", drafted by SCC, was distributed to CAG members. It has been distributed by ISO as background/reference material for stakeholders, donors and others. The ISO DEVCO Secretary advised that JCDCMAS has established a calendar of shared international/regional events of interest for the group.
- The 39th Meeting of ISO DEVCO will be held 2005-09-19/20 in Singapore. In accordance with the new DEVCO meeting format established last year, there will be three concurrent workshops. The SCC will be taking a leadership role in Session 3 - *Good Regulatory Practice (GRP): International Standards for Technical Regulations*, concerning GRP and the complementary nature of technical and voluntary standards. SCC CAG member (Peter Clark) will facilitate this session. 39th meeting ISO DEVCO - Other sessions will focus on Session 1 - *Establishing an Effective National Quality Infrastructure: Focus on Least Developed Countries (LCDs)*; Session 2 - *Enhancing Developing Country Participation in the Standardization Process: new initiatives*.

Regional Organizations

IAF/PAC

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) are pleased to announce the appointment of Elva Nilsen, (Director, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade) as the new Chair of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) on 2005-07-08. For a complete press release on this item please visit: http://www.scc.ca/en/news_events/pr/pr_details_167.shtml.

A complete listing of IAF/PAC activities will be available in the Fall/Winter 2005 edition of the IGAT Insider.

For further information please contact Elva Nilsen (enilsen@scc.ca).

Advisory Committee Activities

Advisory Committee on Trade (ACT)

ACT Meeting 2005-03-04 and 2005-06-01

ACT met in person 2005-03-04 in Ottawa. The following is a brief overview of items covered:

- A membership review and request for potential candidates was put forward by the ACT Chair, Mr. Jim McCarthy, to bring membership to full strength.
- A presentation was given by Mr. Doug Blair of the Policy Research Initiative (PRI) on the "North American Linkages Project" – Canada-US Regulatory Cooperation.
- A review of the FY 2005-2006 ACT Workplan, specifically those items related to the Canadian Standards Strategy Update 2005-2008.

- Updates were given on recent CAC/DEVCO and PTAC Meetings by the Chair of CAC/DEVCO, Mr. Tony Schellinck, and PTAC Secretary respectively.

ACT also met via teleconference on 2005-06-01. ACT reviewed and commented on three draft paper outlines. These included:

- Researching and making recommendations on the development of a Canadian Centre for Standards Research – (CSS Item 4.4c).
- Examining alternative approaches to standards development and conformity assessment and identifying best practices that could be applied to improve Canadian trade-related activities (CSS Item 2.2b).
- Identifying and examining opportunities for the application of existing standards and conformity assessment measures that could overcome trade-related obstacles in Canada's existing network of multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements (CSS Item 2.2a).

A Joint Working Group of CPIC and ACT met via teleconference 2005-04-26 to discuss the finalization of a Generic Priority Setting mechanism modelled after the CPIC Priority Setting mechanism that may be adopted by ACT and forwarded to all ACs for their use in setting committee priorities. The draft of the Generic Priority Setting document was also reviewed at the ACT teleconference 2005-06-01.

For more information on ACT activities contact Chris Marrs, Secretary (cmarrs@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. Recent SCC project funding has included:

- \$10,000 for the ISO Funds-In-Trust for Developing Countries.
- \$6,000 for developing country participation in ISO TC 207 - Environmental Management.
- Over \$6,000 for developing country participation in TC 207 WG 6 - Greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies.
- \$6,000 for developing country participation in ISO TC 224 - Service activities relating to drinking water supply systems and wastewater systems - Quality criteria of the service and performance indicators.
- \$10,500 for participation of Mr. Steve Williams, Trinidad and Tobago, as Co-Chair of ISO COPOLCO WG 22.

CAC/DEVCO Teleconference 2005-03-04

CAC/DEVCO members met via teleconference 2005-03-04. The agenda included review of proposed development assistance projects, a review of a country specific strategy for development assistance and a review of the Trade-Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) Americas Paper.

The Canadian Standards Strategy Update 2005-2008 identified the improvement of access to existing and new markets for Canadian goods and services and building competitive advantage technology, information transfer and global market intelligence as key goals for the Standards Council of Canada. In support of the SCC's efforts to engage developing countries in international standardization, CAC /DEVCO was requested to develop a vision statement for CAC/DEVCO to guide it in future standardization-related development assistance activities.

The next in-person CAC/DEVCO meeting will take place on 2005-08-25.

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

Canadian Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (CAC/CASCO)

CAC/CASCO is a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (ACCA). CAC/CASCO provides Canadian input into ISO/CASCO document development activities and represents Canada at annual ISO/CASCO plenary meetings. The ISO/CASCO Secretariat circulates draft international guides and standards under development in various

Working Groups (WG) to CASCO member bodies, including the SCC, for comment. Canada currently participates in the majority of ISO/CASCO's WGs. CAC/CASCO has sixteen (16) members who represent product certification bodies, registration organizations, laboratories, consumers, federal and provincial / territorial government(s), accreditation interests and conformity assessment users. The CAC/CASCO meets once per year.

Issues currently under consideration by CAC/CASCO members include:

- ISO Work on certification requirements for food safety management systems (ISO NP TS 22003) Food safety management systems — “Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of food safety management systems according to ISO 22000:2005” and call for nominations for experts on a new joint CASCO / ISO/TC 34 WG.
- ISO 14065 “Greenhouse gases - Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition”: CAC/CASCO members are currently reviewing the Committee Draft (CD) to determine whether it can be advanced to the draft international standards stage.
- Bill Cunningham (Chair CAC/CASCO) has been proposed as WG Convenor for the revision of ISO/IEC Guide 7 - Conformity assessment - Guidelines for drafting specifications suitable for use for conformity assessment.

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

Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)

PTAC Meeting 2005-03-30

The 34th Meeting of the Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee was held in Ottawa on 2005-03-30. In line with its 2005/2006 Workplan, PTAC members reviewed action items in support of the CSS Update 2005-2008 and papers to be submitted to Council.

In response to the PTAC joint session with the National Public Safety Advisory Committee (NPSAC) in Calgary, (2004-11-18) a series of joint SCC-NPSAC seminars to the various provinces and territories on standardization related issues has been initiated (noted earlier).

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

Enquiry Point and Export Alert!

Andrea Spencer (Enquiry Point) & David Shortall (IGAT Policy) delivered a TBT workshop to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States on 2004-12-01/03, in Bridgetown, Barbados. The training was intended to act as a catalyst to aid the successful implementation by CARICOM Member States of the provisions of the WTO/TBT Agreement.

A trilingual NAFTA Brochure (English/French/Spanish) was developed and published in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), NAFTA and Enquiry Point counterparts to help educate the public on the responsibilities of the US, Mexican and Canadian governments under NAFTA. It is also available on SCC's web site (www.scc.ca/en/publications/brochures/index.shtml).

On 2005-03-10, the SCC signed an agreement with SIRIM Berhad for the implementation of *Export Alert!* in Malaysia.

SCC staff, Andrea Spencer (Enquiry Point) and Z. Ignatowicz (MIS) conducted institutional and technical assessments in Kyiv, Ukraine on 2005-03(14-18) as the first phase of a larger project to assist the Ministry of Economy, Ukraine to establish Notification Authorities and Enquiry Points as required under the WTO/TBT & SPS Agreements. This is a cooperative project with the Carleton University Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL). The implementation of the project with the Ministry of Economy could be undertaken in a limited period, with completion by fall, 2005.

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

Coming Events

August

29 CAC-DEVCO Meeting

September

7 PTAC Meeting
14 SCC Board Meeting #88
19-23 ISO General Assembly
19-20 ISO/DEVCO, Singapore
7-9 APEC SCSC, Seoul, Korea

October

14 World Standards Day
24 ACT Meeting
28 CAC-CASCO Meeting
17-21 IEC General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa

November

17-18 ISO CASCO Plenary

December

6 SCC Board Meeting #89

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 three times per 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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