



Standards View

Monthly Electronic Newsletter of the U.S. Commercial Service at Mexico City



Canada

Table of Contents

Standards Attaché Message



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second edition of the Standards View newsletter, produced by the U.S. Commercial Service, Mexico City. While I am based in Mexico, I serve as the Regional Standards Attaché covering Central America, The Caribbean and Canada. Each addition of this newsletter, consequently, will focus on a different area or country. In the case of this month, we have chosen to highlight the standards system of Canada. Although the U.S. and Canada have few standards-related issues to worry about, it behooves U.S. companies to know the system of our top trading partner. In this edition, you will find a listing of the main Canadian standards/conformity assessment organizations with a description of their services, and a brief summary of how the Canadian system works. Of course, we have also provided you with news from Mexican standards entities as well. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Standards View and, as always, we are open to comments/suggestions on the newsletter content.

Dale Wright

Standards Attaché
Mexico, Canada, Central America and The Caribbean

Standards Attaché Message.....	1
Standards Development Organizations in Canada.....	2
Other Standards-Related Organizations in Canada.....	3
Canadian National Standards System.....	4
Regional Highlights.....	5
Standards Reports - Mexico.....	7
Standards Highlights - Mexico.....	7
Standards News - Mexico.....	8
Contact Information.....	9



Standards Development Organizations in Canada

Source:

U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

Doing Business in Canada: A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies.

http://www.buyusainfo.net/docs/x_1174492.pdf

There are four accredited standards development organizations (SDOs) in Canada: the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), and the Bureau de Normalisation du Québec (BNQ). Each of these organizations develops standards through committees representing various interests. SDOs may submit standards to the SCC to be recognized as National Standards of Canada. They can also develop standards-related documents such as codes and guidelines (non-mandatory guidance and information documents).

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
	Canadian Standards Association http://www.csa.ca	The Canadian Standards Association is a not-for-profit membership-based association serving business, industry, government and consumers in Canada and the global marketplace.
	Underwriters' Laboratories http://www.ulc.ca/	Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) is an independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization. They have tested products for public safety for more than 80 years and are accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, under the National Standards System.
	Canadian General Standards Board http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/home/index-e.html	The Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) is a federal government organization that offers client-centered, comprehensive standards development and conformity assessment services in support of the economic, regulatory, procurement, health, safety and environmental interests of stakeholders — government, industry and consumers.
	Bureau de Normalisation du Québec www.bnq.qc.ca	The Bureau de Normalisation du Québec (BNQ) brings solutions to market needs through the development of consensual standards by balanced committees, the implementation of certification programs and the registration of management systems. The BNQ acts as a partner to business, industry, and public and regulatory bodies for the purpose of improving the quality of products, processes and services, as well as their acceptance in all markets.

Other Standards-Related Organizations in Canada

Source:

International Trade Center -
UNCTAD/WTO

<http://www.intracen.org/quality/>

Hyperlink	Name and Website	Description
 Standards Council of Canada Conseil canadien des normes	Standards Council of Canada www.scc.ca	The Standards Council of Canada facilitates the development and use of national and international standards and accreditation services to enhance Canada's competitiveness and social well-being.
	Lab Test Certification Inc. www.labtestcert.com	LabTest Certification Inc. (LabTest) provides a quick, and cost efficient route for product approvals. LabTest handles everything for product certifications, including pre-compliance testing. For organizations with global markets and multiple product categories, LabTest provides a One-Stop-Solution for Domestic and International Markets.
	Intertek Testing Services NA Ltd. www.intertek-etlsemko.com	Intertek's ETL SEMKO division is the global leader in the testing, inspection, and certification of products for manufacturers and retailers around the world.
	Canadian Welding Bureau www.cwbgroup.org	The Canadian Welding Bureau is responsible for the administration of a number of certification standards in connection with welding.
	OCCPP/Pro-Cert Canada Inc. www.ocpro.ca	OCPP/Pro-Cert Canada Inc. (OC/PRO Canada) is Canada's foremost national certifier of organic food products with some 1,400 producers, processors and traders from across Canada. OC/PRO Canada is ISO Guide 65 (EN54011) compliant and accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).
	QPS Evaluation Services http://www.qps.ca/	QPS is a privately owned laboratory providing independent third-party testing, evaluation, inspection and other related services to North American, European, International and other countries' safety standards.

Canadian National Standards System¹

The Standards Council has the mandate to coordinate and oversee the efforts of the National Standards System, which includes organizations and individuals involved in voluntary standards development, promotion and implementation in Canada.

For further details, please visit the following link:

http://www.scc.ca/Asset/iu_files/nss_overview_e.pdf

The National Standards System is Canada's network of people and organizations involved in the development, promotion and implementation of standards.

Overseen by the Standards Council of Canada, the National Standards System consists of over 350 organizations and 15,000 volunteers. The members include:

Calibration and testing laboratories, consumers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments, industry, inspection bodies, international and regional standardization bodies, management systems certification bodies, personnel certifiers and auditor trainers, product/service certification bodies, standards development organizations and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

For further details, please visit the following link:

<http://www.scc.ca/en/nss/stakeholders.shtml>



¹ Standards Council of Canada.

[Hhttp://www.scc.ca/en/index.shtml](http://www.scc.ca/en/index.shtml)

Regional Highlights



Notify U.S

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION
INFORMATION**

<http://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/index/index.cfm>

Notifications from October 25 to November 27, 2007.

1) Canada - Technical Standards Document No. 106 “Brake Hoses” – Revision 1.

Notification Number: CAN/144/Add.2

Motor Vehicles

11/27/2007

Revision made by the Department of Transport on the Technical Standards Document (TSD) No. 106, “Brake Hoses”, which specifies labeling and performance requirements for motor vehicle brake hose, brake hose assemblies, and brake hose end fittings.

2) Canada - Proposed Order Amending Schedule I to the Hazardous Products Act (Domestic Detectors) and Proposed Domestic Detectors Regulation.

Notification Number: CAN/221

Domestic Detectors

11/23/2007

The Hazardous Products Act (HPA) provides the authority to prohibit or restrict the advertisement, sale or importation of products which are, or are likely to be, a danger to the health or safety of the public. Item 33 of Part I of Schedule I to the HPA prohibits the advertisement, sale or importation of certain detection devices, specifically, audible signal appliances, control units, smoke detectors and heat detectors used in household fire alarm systems and smoke alarms for household use that do not meet the applicable requirements of the listed Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) standards. The ULC standards currently referenced are 28 years old and do not provide levels of consumer protection appropriate to current technology. In order to ensure that the referenced standards are always up to date, the proposed amendments will reference standards as amended from time to time.

3) El Salvador – Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO) / Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 71.03.49:07: Cosmetic products, Good manufacturing practices for laboratories manufacturing cosmetic products.

Notification Number: SLV/110/Add.1

Cosmetic Products

11/21/2007

Addendum to the Salvadoran Mandatory Standard (NSO) / Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 11.03.47:07: Pharmaceutical products, Medicines for human use, Quality control, issued on 7/20/2007. Document that establishes the analytical tests which must be carried out by the regulatory authority to verify the quality of medicines; this regulation applies to all medicines imported into or manufactured in Central American Countries.

4) *Canada - Proposed Order Amending Schedule I to the Hazardous Products Act (Glass Doors and Enclosures) and Proposed Glass Doors and Enclosures Regulations.*

Notification Number: CAN/220

Glass Doors and Enclosures

11/14/2007

This proposed initiative is to amend the current *Safety Glass Regulations of the Hazardous Products Act (HPA)* such that the tests referenced therein are in harmonization with those referenced in the National Building Code of Canada (NBC).

5) *Honduras - Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) No. 67.04.48:07: Processed foods and beverages, Fruit nectars, Specifications.*

Notification Number: HND/47

Fruit Nectars

11/1/2007

The objective is to establish the general specifications for fruit nectars in the Central American Region.

6) *Mexico - Draft Mexican Official Standard PROY-NOM-004-SCT/2006: Identification system for units intended for the transport of hazardous substances, materials and waste.*

Notification Number: MEX/128

Hazardous Substances, Materials and Waste

10/25/2007

The notified draft Mexican Official Standard establishes the characteristics and measurements of the placards required to be affixed to vehicle units, lorries, haulage units, road tankers, tank cars, containers, container tanks, portable tanks, intermediate bulk containers and other road and rail transport units in order to identify the hazard class of the substances, materials and waste being transported. This Standard is binding on shippers, carriers and consignees of hazardous substances, materials and waste transported via the main land, sea and air communication routes.

For further details on the mentioned notifications and to download the documents, please visit Notify U.S.

<http://www.nist.gov/notifyus>

Standards Reports - Mexico

1) U.S. Commercial Service – Market Research Library

Mexico: NOMs and NMXs issued by the Mexican Government, during the period October 1 to 31, 2007

Author: Jesús González

Standards Highlights - Mexico

1) DGN – Dirección General de Normas – Secretaría de Economía (General Bureau of Standards– Ministry of Economy).



Vehicular Identification Number (NIV) and International Manufacturer Identification Code (CIFI).

As a result of the issuing of the agreement delegating powers to the Ministry of the Economy concerning the assignation of Vehicular Identification Number and the International Manufacturer Identification Code (CIFI), ever since February 15th the General Bureau of Standards is entitled to assigning the CIFI to manufacturers and assemblers of national vehicles according to the internationally acknowledged practices as well as the Mexican Official Standard NOM-131-SCFIU-2004

Vehicular Identification Number (NIV): Combination of seventeen alpha-numeric signs complying with the specifications of the Mexican Official Standards NOM-131-SCFI-2004, assigned by manufacturers or assemblers for identification purposes.

The NIV must comprise four sections, which make reference to the CIFI, the description of the vehicle, the verifying digit and the vehicle's individual identification.

International Manufacturer Identification Code (CIFI): It is the World Identification Number for manufacturers or assemblers and it has three digits or letters, which take the first three positions of the NIV.

The first three positions are assigned by the entitled entity according to the internationally acknowledged practices. The manufacturer or assembler must directly request the assignation of such number to the previously mentioned Bureau.

For information on the requirements for the assignation of the CIFI, please visit the following link:

<http://www.economia.gob.mx/?NLanguage=en&P=11167>



2) EMA – Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación A.C. (Mexican Accreditation Entity).



Support to Small and Medium Size Companies.

With the objective of increasing competitiveness among the conformity assessment bodies in Mexico, ANCE obtained a grant from Secretaría de Economía (Ministry of Economy) for the project of Small and Medium Size Companies fund.

This project will provide the Certification Organizations with Verification Units, Trail, Diagnostic and Calibration Laboratories, among other resources; in consideration to the economic limitations that many of them face.

For more information, please visit the following link.

<http://www.ema.org.mx/pyme.htm>

Standards News - Mexico

1) COFETEL – Comisión Federal de Telecomunicaciones (Federal Telecommunications Commission).



COFETEL requests to be verified by OECD

Authorities of the Federal Commission of Telecommunications (COFETEL) requested to the Organization for the Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to validate it as a Mexican Regulator Organism that acts according to their recommendations.

Osuna Jaime, president of COFETEL, emphasized that the organization he represents has made significant efforts since 2006 to promote the competitiveness among operators, in order to offer more services to the Mexican people at a reasonable price.

OECD Officials were pleased to see the advancements that Mexico has made in telecommunications and radio transmission.

COFETEL and OECD agreed to exchange the documents generated by both entities, with the aim of coordinating efforts to follow international practices in telecommunications and radio transmission.

For more information, please visit the following link:

http://www.cft.gob.mx/cofetel/html/1_cft/bol2007/COMUNICADO_50.pdf



2) ANCE – Asociación Nacional de Normalización y Certificación del Sector Eléctrico. (National Association of Electric Sector Standardization and Certification).



ANCE Celebrates the 2007 Forum of Excellence

On October 12, ANCE celebrated the 2007 Forum of Excellence with the participation of 370 attendees among clients, consultants, members of its committees and representatives of the entities ANCE interacts with.

Some of the subjects discussed in this forum were the Technological Innovation, Regulatory Improvement, International Standards and the Economic Situation in Mexico.

For more information, please visit the following link:

<http://www.ance.org.mx/documentos/noticias/avanceoctubre2007.pdf>

For information about the U.S. Commercial Service in Mexico City, please visit our website or contact us today:

Website: <http://www.buyusa.gov/mexico/en/>

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