

conditions, is usually accepted as the normal price for establishing dutiable value. Duties are payable in British currency at the rate of exchange prevailing at the time the goods clear Customs.

Membership in the EEC has resulted in both a changed composition and a re-orientation of U.K. overseas trade. Twenty years ago, less than 30 per cent of total U.K. trade was with the "enlarged" EEC; the figure is now 50 per cent. Also 20 years ago, manufactures made up 44 per cent of U.K. imports and 84 per cent of U.K. exports; the figures now stand at 73 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. The trend has been one of increasing concentration on trade within the EEC together with the establishment of multinational manufacturing companies with rationalized production throughout the Common Market.

Some restrictions of a non-tariff nature are still specific to the U.K. These concern primarily animal and plant health regulations and certain quantitative controls, mainly affecting textiles from low-cost supplying countries. Informal international industry-to-industry restraints, as distinct from community action at the government level, are also in effect against such items as Japanese automobiles. Canadian exporters, when confronted with various national standards and approval boards (especially in the electrical and electronics field), as well as health and safety regulations, often experience difficulty competing with domestic U.K. suppliers.

## Government Procurement

The British government has implemented the government procurement codes agreed to under the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The codes provide that:

- countries will not discriminate in their government purchases against goods produced abroad when such purchases exceed £200 000;
- countries must openly publish invitations to bid, supply all documentation necessary to bid and apply the same purchasing criteria to foreign and domestic firms; and
- countries must provide full information and explanations at every stage of the procurement process. This agreement does not apply to services.