

Canada's Legal and Regulatory Framework

Competition Policy:

- A description of the *Competition Act* and its 2002 amendments. Changes include affording full protection against disclosure of information voluntarily provided, and enabling the Competition Bureau to request formal assistance from foreign states in obtaining and transmitting evidence located abroad.
- The measures in place to deal with cases involving practices such as horizontal restraints, vertical restraints, abuse of dominant position, mergers and acquisitions.

Standards and Conformance:

- Products for which national standards have been harmonized with international standards.
- Information on the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). For instance, the SCC now offers accreditation services in the Americas and Asia-Pacific.
- A list of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in areas such as quality management systems, auditor training, registrars, metrology, laboratory accreditation, calibration.
- Information on business tools such as Standards Alert!, and Export Alert!, two new e-mail notification systems designed to meet markets needs.

Dispute Mediation:

- Information on Canada's international trade disputes.
- Modifications to the rules governing trade disputes. For instance, in 2002 Canada, Mexico and the United States adopted a notice designed to clarify their obligations under NAFTA Chapter 11 concerning investor-state disputes.

Intellectual Property Rights:

- Reference to the legislation and regulations governing patents, trademarks, copyright, industrial design, etc.
- Information on the administration and registration of intellectual property.