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MINISTER WILSON APPLAUDS U.S. ACCREDITATIONS BY STANDARDS COUNCIL OF CANADA

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, said today he was pleased by the decision of the Standards Council of Canada to accredit two U.S. organizations, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. and the American Plywood Association.

Accreditation of U.S. organizations in Canada and Canadian organizations in the United States is one of the objectives of Chapter 6 of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

"Standards are becoming increasingly important to international trade and competitiveness, and I commend the Standards Council of Canada for voting to accredit these two organizations," said Minister Wilson. "It is yet another major step in the implementation of the FTA. Improving access for standards organizations in Canada and the United States will enhance trade and benefit exporters from both countries."

In the United States, the accreditation of the Canadian Standards Association's main laboratories to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is now in the final stages.

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