

European Union

Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Directive

Canadian companies exporting electronics/telecoms products to France should consider having their equipment approved by an appropriate French testing organization as soon as possible.

As of January 1, 1996, all electronic products in France must be certified as conforming to the European Union's (EU's) EMC Directive (89/336/CEE).

This Directive requires that electromagnetic emissions be limited to a level which does not

interfere with other electronic devices; and that the electronic device itself has a certain level of immunity to electromagnetic interference and noise.

Once equipment is certified in one EU country, it is deemed conforming in all of the EU. The CE

Mark, stamped on the product, will attest to its conformity to all relevant directives that apply to that product.

In France, COFRAC has authorized a number of laboratories to carry out testing for EMC, including those of Alcatel Cable, Bull, CEGELEC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Merlin Gerin, and SAT; three organizations, Emitech, LCIE, and LNE, have been authorized to deliver the actual certification.

At the moment, Canada is involved in negotiations with the EU on the mutual recognition of conformity assessment in several relevant sectors. In the future, it may be possible for Canadian companies to test to European standards in approved Canadian laboratories.

For more information about this directive or about French companies offering services that may be useful to Canadian companies in this regard, contact T.J. Oommen or Guy Ladequis, Canadian Embassy, High Technology Section, Paris, Tel.: (011-33-1) 44 43 29 58; Fax: (011-33-1) 44 43 29 98.

Numbers to Note

Effective November 25, 1995, the digit "6" will prefix the telephone and fax numbers for the Canadian Consulate General in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. The new numbers will be Tel.: (86-21) 6279-8400; Fax: (86-21) 6279-8401.

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