

Anyone who requires protection of intellectual property rights in Japan will need to engage the services of a lawyer licensed to practice in Japan, who understands both the Japanese and Western systems. The Canadian Embassy can provide assistance in locating appropriate lawyers. Alternatively, your Canadian patent attorney may have a correspondent patent attorney in Japan with whom he can work. Further information may be obtained from the Japan Patent Office (see Appendix D).

Industrial Standards

Knowledge of Japanese industrial standards is extremely important in entering the Japanese market. Although the Japanese government has simplified, harmonized and in some cases, eliminated restrictive standards to bring them more in line with international practices, the Japanese economy remains highly regulated both by official rules and by "voluntary" private standards. A number of regulations regarding phytosanitary standards apply to the importation of plants, animals, animal products and marine products. As well, the Building Standards, Waterworks and Fire Service Laws set out a number of regulations pertaining to building products and codes. Many electrical goods must be safety tested by one of the following authorities in Japan: the Japan Electrical Testing Laboratory (JET), the JMI Inspection Institute, or the Japan Camera and Optical Instrument Inspection and Testing Institute (JCII). In some cases testing can be done by the Canadian Standards Association in Canada (See Appendix C). Pharmaceutical products are also required to undergo a variety of tests, some of which must be performed in Japan. A number of other product categories, including food sanitation and labelling, must meet certain requirements.

The Japan Standards Association (JSA), a non-profit organization under the direction of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, has published some 9,000 Japan Industrial Standards (JIS) currently in force. Over 90 percent of these have been translated into English and are available for a fee through the Standards Council of Canada (see Appendix C). This organization can also provide other JSA publications, such as the JIS Yearbook, which contains general information on Japanese standards, application procedures and listings of all JSA publications with prices. A library and information centre is open to the public at the Standards Council of Canada's Ottawa offices and information may be obtained by telephone at 1-800-267-8220 or, in Ottawa, at (613) 238-3222. Moreover, the JSA will translate any as yet untranslated standards for a fee. Enquiries should be directed to the JSA Sales Department directly. In Japan, further