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conformity assessment for products under EC New Approach Directives that specify legislative health and safety requirements that must be satisfied. Other EC directives dealing with conformity assessment requirements and products under national regulation in the Community will also be included. Under such Canada-EC MRAs, Canadian manufacturers could have their products certified to European requirements by Canadian certification organizations and could apply the CE mark which would allow the product to be sold and distributed throughout the EC. Currently manufacturers must have products approved by European notified bodies, in the absence of notified bodies in Canada. Notified bodies are approved by governments of EC member states to perform required test within their own territories.

For non-regulated products, the European Organization for Testing and Certification (EOTC) was founded on April 25, 1990, to provide a focal point for European testing and certification activities and to promote voluntary mutual recognition agreements based on common criteria. The EN 45000 and 29000 series of European standards relating to the requirements for testing laboratories and certification bodies, as well as quality systems, will be used as the basis for these agreements. The EOTC recognized eight agreement groups for product certification in 1992 and a further eight are expected to be approved in 1993.

Agreement groups will be formed by the testing, inspection or certification bodies active in the market that are prepared to sign and manage mutual recognition agreements or certification schemes. The Standards Council of Canada has initiated discussions with the EOTC with a view to signing a mutual recognition agreement on laboratory accreditation between the Council's National Accreditation Program for Testing Organizations and the EOTC.

In the absence of formal arrangements, Canadian manufacturers may contact Canadian organizations increasing their linkages with counterparts in the EC. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is actively pursuing mutual recognition agreements with various European bodies and is working through the international standards community to ensure access for Canadian products. For example, CSA has received accreditation under the IECEE/CB Scheme, established, and is operated by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). CSA accreditation will facilitate the trade of certain electrical equipment tested to IEC standards and enable the reciprocal recognition of test results. The Council of Forest Industries (COFI) and the Canadian Gas Association (CGA) also have agreements in place that allow Canadian products meeting EC conformity assessment requirements to be certified in Canada.

Clearly there is still much progress to be made before the Single European Market can become a reality. However, Europe's firm commitment to the faster development of standards, coupled with Canada's potential for being included in upcoming negotiations for reciprocal testing and certification arrangements, will help to facilitate access for Canadian business.

## DRAFT EUROPEAN STANDARDS

*In cooperation with CEN and CENELEC, the Standards Council of Canada has developed procedures by which Canadian industry can obtain draft European standards for review, provide input into these draft standards, and purchase published European standards.*

### ALUMINIUM

prEN 904-4

Wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys - Extruded rod/bar, tube and profile - Part 4: Extruded square bars - Dimension and form tolerances

Comment deadline date: 1993-04-07

Price: \$15.75

### CONVEYOR BELTS

prEN 28094

Steel cord conveyor belts - Adhesion strength test of the cover to the core layer (adopted ISO 8094: 1984)

Price: contact SCC

## GATT TBT NOTIFICATIONS

*Listed below are notifications received recently from countries that have signed the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (Standards Code).*

### FIRE PREVENTION

TBT 92.373 Belgium

Draft Royal Decree Establishing Basic Standards for Fire Prevention Which must be Satisfied by New Buildings

Coment deadline: 1993-02-27

**Information regarding GATT TBT/notifications and draft European standards (see sample above) is contained in SCC's bilingual databases, available 24 hours a day, to standard-users in Canada and abroad.**

Our GATT TBT/notifications and draft European standards database contains information on proposed regulations, mandatory standards or certification systems from countries that have signed the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (Standards Code). Summaries of draft standards published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee on Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), resulting from the Single Market initiatives in Europe, are also included. Access to SCC's online database requires only a personal computer, telecommunications software, and a modem.

We also offer a service whereby clients can receive by fax summaries of draft European standards and GATT TBT/notifications that have recently been included in our database.

For further information on how to access standards databases or on our fax service please contact:

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