

ULC is a not-for-profit organization, accredited for testing, certification, and standards development. ULC's services are predominantly in areas related to life, fire and property hazards and security.

The Japanese building code requires that building products used on the exterior of houses must meet high standards for inflammability. Until the certification of ULC, testing of Canadian building products had to be carried out in Japan, making costs too high for many small and medium-sized Canadian firms.

Along with the certification program, Canada and Japan are discussing other initiatives on deregulation and building standards which could lead to greater access for Canadian building products to the Japanese market.

Canada sells about \$3 billion annually in building materials to Japan, making these products Canada's single largest export to that country. Finished building material exports are growing rapidly as North American-style finishing and design gain in popularity.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874

Murray Hardie  
Industry Canada  
(613) 954-3037