

approach to voluntary conformity assessment, which is also available on the WTO Web site (*www.wto.org*) under its official document number G/TBT/W/210.

Canada was a full participant in the Third Triennial Review of the Implementation and Operation of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade conducted in November 2003. The review document can be found on the WTO Web site (*www.wto.org*) under its official document number G/TBT/W/174/Rev.1. Canada's submissions included documents on Canadian objectives for the Third Triennial Review, on Canada's approach to voluntary conformity assessment (noted above), and on Canada's technical assistance and cooperation activities in the TBT field. These documents can be found on the WTO Web site (*www.wto.org*) under document numbers G/TBT/W/196, 210 and 202 respectively.

The biennial Special Meeting on the Procedures for Information Exchange was held in November 2004. Canada's Enquiry Point representative gave an overview of the Enquiry Point's activities in the preparation and submission of notifications, reintroduced Canada's proposal for the creation of a Web-based option for the submission of notifications, and informed delegates of the improvements made to Export Alert! since the system's details were last presented at the June 2001 Information Exchange meeting.

In March 2005, a workshop will be held on Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC). Canada expects to make a presentation on the various approaches to SDoC using the example of electromagnetic compatibility and electromagnetic interference. A second conformity assessment workshop, which will explore different approaches to conformity assessment, is now planned for early 2006.

During the Third Triennial Review, Canada encouraged members to commit to conducting information exchanges on good regulatory practices, and in 2004 Colombia and Mexico submitted experience documents. Chile also provided members with a report of the sixth Seminar on Regulatory Reform held in May 2004, part of a joint initiative by APEC and the OECD. Canada plans to submit a paper on an aspect of good regulatory practice in 2005.

In 2004, Canada continued to urge members to pursue work related to providing TBT technical assistance to developing countries.

## SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

In 2004, the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Committee continued to focus on the implementation-related concerns identified by developing countries. In particular, the Committee continued to consider, as a priority, the implementation constraints facing developing countries, including the issue of special and differential (S&D) treatment and technical assistance. In addition, the Committee finalized its work on equivalence and continued work to clarify how the obligations related to regionalization and transparency would be put into practice. The Committee also commenced discussions on the triennial review of the SPS Agreement, which is to be concluded in 2005.

The Committee had previously agreed on clarifications of the Decision on Implementation of Article 4 of Agreement (Equivalence), and at its March meeting the Committee adopted a proposed further clarification on paragraph 5. Equivalence remains a standing item on the SPS Committee agenda.

In 2003, the SPS Committee had adopted in principle the Canadian proposal to make the provision of S&D treatment more transparent, subject to the elaboration of procedures by the Secretariat. Following discussions on this proposal in the Committee meetings in March and June 2004, at the October meeting, the Committee adopted the elaboration of the procedure to improve the transparency of S&D treatment.

Although the Committee completed a work plan in 2003 with respect to the proposals on S&D treatment referred to the Committee by the General Council, the Committee was not able to reach a decision on any of the specific issues raised. However, the Committee did agree that this would remain a standing item, and discussions will continue in 2005.