

ISO/IEC [international] standards tend to reflect the European requirements. The U.S., recognizing this, are considering a recent congress report to "get on track" and put a strong effort forward to influence the international standards community. (Brief, p. 2 and p. 3)

48. The SCC, in its 1990/1991 annual report, also indicated a need for more government and industry support of Canada's National Standards System to face the pressures of regional and global markets (p.17). The SCC states in its 1991/1992 annual report:

Budgetary constraints have in recent years necessitated a reduction in financial support from SCC for Canadian representation on international standards committees. As was reported last year, however, increased support from industry and individual volunteers is helping to maintain these involvements (p. 14).

49. According to the SCC's 1991/1992 Annual Report, in that year, 192 new National Standards of Canada (NSC) were approved, bringing the total of NSC by the year end to 1749. Adoption of new NSC is apparently the first step towards increasing Canada's influence in international standards development.

50. Although the process of harmonization is indeed slow, progress is at least being made, and improving. For example, although the SCC 1990/1991 annual report mentions only two international standards that were approved as NSC (out of 185), the 1991/1992 Annual Report indicates that 65 of the 192 new NSC approved were *adoptions* of ISO and IEC (i.e., international) standards, and another 14 were *based* on ISO and IEC standards. The increase is a significant improvement and results in the following comment in the 1991/1992 annual report:

The increase in international standards submitted and approved as NSC reflects a heightened awareness among members and users of the NSS that Canadian companies will increasingly be required to meet internationally-accepted standards to maintain existing markets or to broaden into new markets abroad. (p. 12)

51. Despite this positive remark, a statement in the CSA brief was of interest. Commenting on the necessity of Canada being an active player in the international standards arena, the CSA indicated:

This work requires investment, in both financial and human resources, which at the same time under the current situation may reduce some current revenue sources through the sale of standards where international standards become the documents of choice. (Brief, p. 2)

52. The SCC normally does not sell NSC: that right is given to the member SWO who drafted the standard. However, the publication of an adopted international standard as a NSC may create financial uncertainty for the SWO since, although SWOs can sell the national version of an international standard,¹⁹ pursuant to international agreements only the SCC can sell the preferred ISO version.

53. Furthermore, where bilateral standards are developed, agreements for the rights to sell the technical documentation are also negotiated. As a result, the market for the Canadian SWOs with respect to standard documentation may be reduced from a Canadian and a potential non-Canadian market to just the Canadian market (that is, normally the rights are split so that each organization retains only the rights to its own country).²⁰

¹⁹ Normally, the publication of an international standard adopted with or without change as a NSC is done by the SWO responsible for the second level review.

²⁰ The market for certification services may also be reduced.