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*Would U.S. suppliers be requested to comply with the Employment Equity Program for Federal Contractors?*

The Employment Equity provisions will continue to apply only to Canadian suppliers, as will be the case for the U.S. affirmative action programs that now apply exclusively to U.S. contractors. These contractual requirements fall outside the purview of the Government Procurement Chapter as they are not meant to and do not inadvertently confer an advantage to domestic suppliers.

*What will happen to the set-aside program with the Correctional Services?*

This program is consistent with the exception of the GATT Code dealing with products of prison labour. As such it is not affected by the chapter.

*Will the Agreement cause a change in the role of the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC)?*

The principal role of the CCC is to function as a government-to-government contracting agency that identifies Canadian sources of supply for requirements of foreign governments and obtains bid opportunities for Canadian suppliers. Consequently, with the implementation of the Agreement, the CCC will continue to play an important role in providing new or additional export opportunities for Canadian firms.

*Will there be a procurement dispute mechanism?*

The Government Procurement Chapter provides for the establishment of an effective bid challenge system for suppliers who have reason to believe that the rules of the chapter have been infringed. Each party to the agreement has the responsibility to review complaints on its own procurements. As a result, the Canadian government has created the Procurement Review Board of Canada (PRB) as an autonomous body with a mandate to review complaints from suppliers on any aspect of the government procurement process. The PRB's mandate in complaints is limited to those relating to procurements covered by the Free Trade Agreement. Information on the PRB can be obtained from: Procurement Review Board of Canada, P.O. Box 1533, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6P6, Tel: (613) 990-1988, Fax: (613) 992-3686.

*What will happen to the U.S. Small Business Set-Aside Program?*

The Government Procurement Chapter does not apply to U.S. set asides on behalf of small and minority businesses. The same is true under the GATT Code, for which the list of entities covered is identical to the chapter.