

Implementing and Interpreting the Agreement

The Agreement establishes a bi-national commission, headed by Cabinet ministers, to ensure that the trade Agreement is implemented to the satisfaction of both countries. Mandatory notification and consultation procedures have been designed to avoid disputes.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET

With access secured, our exporters can concentrate on taking full advantage of other provisions of the Agreement which will increasingly open the huge U.S. market to Canadian products on a fair, competitive basis.

Tariffs

Tariffs between the two countries will be eliminated by the time the Agreement is fully implemented in 1998. Depending on the sensitivity of the sector affected by the changes, tariffs will be eliminated in one of three different ways:

- immediately as of January 1, 1989;
- five equal steps to January 1, 1993;
- ten equal steps to January 1, 1998.

This schedule provides companies and individuals ample time to adjust to new competitive circumstances. In fact, Canadians have successfully adapted, and prospered, in prior periods of multilateral tariff reductions. Adjustment is a normal, on-going feature of our economy.