



## ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003

Issue 2  
February, 2003

### From the President

Dear Members:

Entering our second decade of operations in 2002, the voluntary cooperation of resources throughout the electro-technical industry — producers, standards developers, testing laboratories, and other interested parties — in each participating country have produced 28 bi-national or tri-nationally harmonized standards. And over fifty active harmonization projects are currently underway.

The first standards harmonized under the auspices of CANENA have entered their first maintenance cycle and the role of the Technical Harmonization Committees continues as a vital element.

The effort has not always been easy and the investment has been great. Along with the significance of these accomplishments comes anticipation from

our membership that the return on their investment will soon be realized.

Through the results of the CANENA member survey conducted at the end of 2001, CANENA's Executive Committee has been directed to establish as a priority the broad promotion of uniform conformity assessment throughout the Nations of the Americas.

Our members believe that progress in this area is key to the payback on the investment that has already been made in harmonizing standards. It is a critical incentive in the development of multi-national and globally relevant standards.

We believe the challenge is for conformity assessment organizations to work with their clients to develop mutually beneficial schemes in order to gain full advantage from the harmonization of both regionally and globally relevant standards.

*Tony Flood— President*



*“CANENA’s Executive Committee has been directed to establish as a priority the broad promotion of uniform conformity assessment throughout the Nations of the Americas.”*

### Feature: Harmonized Conformity Assessment

#### *Tested once ... to harmonized standards*

CANENA is an advocate for international standards that are globally relevant and promotes the benefits of cooperative conformity assessment models such as the IECCE-CB scheme ([www.iecee.org](http://www.iecee.org)).

The concept of global relevance, and its practical application in IEC standards is particularly important to regions having well established legacy systems of electrical safety. Its implementation at the Technical Committee level, is critical to growing the advocacy for IEC standards and broader realization of the benefits of the IECCE-CB scheme.

While some CANENA technical projects directly address harmonization with IEC standards, many others focus on the fruitful goal of reducing the technical differences in existing national standards of the participating countries. At the same time, CANENA promotes its activities throughout the Nations of the Americas to encourage consideration of relevant harmonized standards for adoption or adaptation in support of installed electrical infrastructure and prevailing enforceable installation practices.

CANENA understands that testing laboratories operate in a competitive environment, and respects their prerogative to maintain procedures within the limits of their accreditation and in accordance with market demands.

The testing laboratories that participate actively in CANENA have forged many bi-lateral agreements that have benefited CANENA members and others in particular product areas. In this same spirit of cooperation, the Council believes it is time to explore a standardized approach based on the successful but separate experiences. Each of the laboratories that actively participate in CANENA are IECCE-CB scheme participants. The CB scheme seems a logical model for a regional conformity assessment scheme, based on the regionally harmonized standards such as those developed under the facilitation of CANENA.

The advantages of a regional conformity assessment scheme following the CB model are: 1) elimination of redundant tests, 2) consistent interpretation and application of the requirements, 3) use of established procedures for reporting test results, 4) expand the confidence and value perception in continued harmonization and global standardization, and 5) provide for natural transition to the IECCE-CB scheme at the appropriate time.

#### *Inside this issue:*

- *From the President*
- *Feature: Harmonized Conformity Assessment*
- *Member Matters*
- *Dates to Remember*
- *Technical Activities*
- *Conformity Assessment Organizations*
- *Regional Activities*
- *Global Activities*

## CANENA Member Matters

### CANENA 2003 Action Plan

The CANENA Membership Survey conducted in 2001 as part of a comprehensive Marketing and Communications Plan has driven Council activities during 2002 and will have a pronounced impact on 2003 activities. The results of the survey led to the training session on SDO Harmonization Procedures as part of the 2002 annual CANENA meetings in Orlando, Florida. The results also reemphasized the continued importance CANENA members place on ongoing as well as new harmonization efforts. The following Table describes the highest ranking priorities as identified by the members. A complete tabulation of the 2001 Survey results will be available prior to the 2003 Council Meeting.

In 2003, emphasis will be placed on conformity assessment, the item

actually having the highest importance to the survey respondents, while having only modest performance rating. The entire 2003 CANENA Council meeting is being organized around this topic.

Also for 2003, consistent with the survey results, a training session is being organized as part of the joint meeting of the Technical Harmonization Committee Chairs and the Executive Committee. The session will feature presentations by ANCE, CSA and UL that will separately cover the national standards development and adoption processes in Mexico, Canada, and the US respectively.

The CANENA Executive Commit-

tee is committed to addressing the priorities of the Council through this Action Plan. A follow-up survey will be conducted in the future to meas-

Rank	Topic	Rating	Performance
1	Harmonization of Conformity Assessment in North America	4.51	2.51
2	Harmonization of North American electro-technical standards has both commercial and strategic benefits.	4.38	2.93
3	Training to familiarize participants on the national standards development and adoption processes.	3.64	3.70
4	Training program on using the SDO procedures for harmonizing standards would be beneficial.	3.63	2.93

ure the success of these actions.

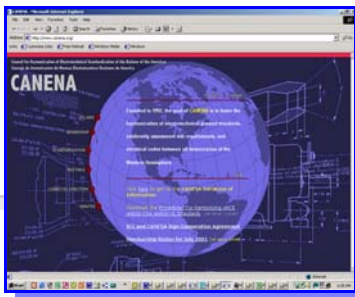
\*Rating and Performance on Scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

## Communications

### Electro-Federation Canada appointed CANENA Registrar

Why does CANENA need a Registrar? Very simply, to improve communications with its members.

CANENA is growing. Based on information gathered by the Executive Committee's Planning Task Group, it is estimated that active participation in CANENA may be 7 to 8 times greater than the official



CANENA membership roster now reflects.

Acting upon a recommendation by the Planning Task Group in 2002, the Executive Committee authorized creation of the CANENA Registrar. CANENA and Electro-Federation Canada (EFC), the trade association for electrotechnical products in Canada, have reached agreement that EFC will provide the Registrar services for CANENA.

In this role EFC will maintain CANENA's membership database and provide the facilities for direct communications to members. Joseph Neu, EFC Vice President and CANENA Canadian Vice President, stresses that "the success of the Registrar, and effective

communications within CANENA is largely dependent upon the contribution of each THC Secretary and Chair." It would appear obvious that those who participate in the technical activities of a THC or THSC clearly value the facility for this work provided by CANENA. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Secretary and Chair of the THC to be certain that each active participant is enrolled as a CANENA member according to CANENA By-Laws. Mr. Neu adds, "it is only in this way that we can effectively communicate with all CANENA participants and demonstrate the full value of membership."



ELECTRO-FEDERATION  
C·A·N·A·D·A

### Dates to Remember

- ◆ CANENA Council 11th Annual Meeting— February 5-6, 2003 Mérida, MX
- ◆ COPANT General Assembly Meeting— May 5-9, 2003 Jamaica
- ◆ CSA International Annual Meeting— June 15-17, 2003 St. Andrews, NB Canada
- ◆ NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition™ - May 18-22, 2003 Dallas, TX
- ◆ IEC 67th Annual General Meeting—October 12-18, 2003 Montreal Canada

## CANENA Technical Activities

Building on solid improvements in 2001, and in spite of continued challenging economic conditions, CANENA's Technical Harmonization Committees achieved significant milestones in 2002.



A most significant milestone saw several of the first standards harmonized within CANENA move into their first cycle of maintenance. CANENA's procedures clearly envision an enduring role for THCs after initial standards harmonization. The series of standards for Fuses and the standard for Flush Device Coverplates are the first however to test the process designed to maintain or increase the degree of harmonization between the participating countries.

The Mexican industry continues to expand its cache of electro-technical standards benefiting from the broad technical resources at work in CANENA. There are presently two active projects based on previously harmonized US-Canadian standards with the

objective of adapting the standards for Mexico. This is the model that CANENA strives to promote to the benefit of the electrotechnical industries in all of the countries of the Americas.

CANENA continues to promote international standardization beyond the Americas, and several THCs include relevant IEC standards as priorities within the scope of their work. While the highest priority for most THCs is to narrow the differences in the existing standards in the region, some are advancing their longer term goals at the same time. Taking advantage of the multinational gathering of technical experts, THCs have begun to develop consensus proposals that can be introduced into their relevant IEC work programs. In the case of THC23BC, the present work program is dedicated to development of a comprehensive proposal to IEC SC23H for inclusion of North American requirements for Appliance Couplers into the IEC 60320 standard.

A notable achievement in 2002



was the publication of the trinational standard for Molded Case Circuit Breakers. The culmination of this effort is a true demonstration of the resolve of CANENA members to accomplish their objectives. During the more than five year process of harmonizing three separate standards, the THC faced significant technical and procedural challenges. The fact that the products complying with these standards are those predominately used throughout the Western Hemisphere provided the sustained motivation to continue. Improvements in CANENA's procedures and the re-commitment during 2001-2002 were pivotal in completing the first harmonized standard for circuit breakers.

### Technical Activities Summary

<b>CANENA THCs:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Recorded Projects:</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Active Projects (2002):</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Final Drafts with SDOs:</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Published Standards (2002):</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>New Projects (2002):</b>	<b>7</b>

## Conformity Assessment Organizations

The participating Conformity Assessment Organizations were asked to respond to the following question:

*Given the competitive nature of the Conformity Assessment business today, how do the testing organizations intend to support the market demand for –tested once accepted everywhere – concept?*



In the words of Rob Griffin, President and CEO of the CSA Group, "CSA Group has been on record for many years as being in support of the concept of "one standard, one test and accepted everywhere". We have demonstrated this over the last decade by adopting hundreds of IEC standards, investing in the CANENA harmonization process in addition to many binational harmonization's across different technologies. In the area of conformity assessment CSA has been among the leaders in international programs that eliminate redundant testing, such as the CB and EX Schemes.

We are actively encouraging other certification companies to change their current practices and allow for mutual component recognition in North America. The recent creation of a number of harmonized standards through the CANENA process now offers another regional opportunity to create conformity assessment efficiencies. CSA Group not only supports this direction, but will also continue to be a leader in making it happen."

According to Don Mader, Executive Vice President of Underwriters Laboratories, "UL supports the "tested once, accepted everywhere" concept in local, regional and global markets through being active in standards harmonization activities, promoting "national treatment" for conformity assessment bodies (like that provided for in the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement and NAFTA) and by urging implementation of "Transportable Conformity Assessment" for both market access and market acceptance. UL also actively participates in the IECEE CB Scheme, is a "founding member" of the IECEE CB-FCS Scheme, and a signatory of the IECEE CB-FCS Multilateral Agreement (MLA)."

Senior representatives of each of these prominent Conformity Assessment Organizations will address the CANENA Council at its annual meeting in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, February 6, 2003, to elaborate on this subject.

## Standardization in the Americas

### Cooperation within the Region

Driven largely by desire for open markets and free trade throughout the Americas, active harmonization of electrotechnical standards is not just taking place in CANENA. The countries that comprise the Mercosur trade pact—Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay—are also making notable progress in reducing separate technical requirements that divide their markets.

The Mercosur Association of Standardization (AMN) is a private sector association established in 1992 via Mercosur Resolution #2/92. It is the sole forum recognized by Mercosur for harmonizing and developing standards on a voluntary, consensus basis. Formal operations began in 1993.

AMN activities are heavily dependent upon support of the standards development organizations in each member country—IRAM in Argentina, ABNT in Brazil, INTN in Paraguay, and UNIT in Uruguay.

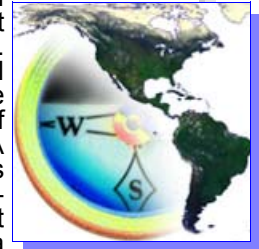
To date, it has been reported that 13 harmonized electrical product standards have been developed within the AMN MSC03 Sectoral Committee. The majority of these are for wire products. Five standards are currently in the balloting process. And, approximately 57 active harmonization projects are underway.

Despite political, economic, and commercially motivated concerns throughout the region, governments in the free countries of the Americas still aspire to reach agreement on the Free Trade Area of the Americas pact (FTAA or ALCA) by 2005. The important work of regional harmonization of electrotechnical standards in both CANENA and AMN is visionary. The common objectives of the two associations benefit the entire region and encourage closer cooperation in the future between these associations.

COPANT Technical Committee 151 was established in 1999. The objective of TC 151 is to provide a central forum for harmonization

and development of electrical product standards in the Americas. The future success of COPANT TC 151 in this role can only benefit from closer cooperation between AMN, CANENA and COPANT.

The results of continued harmonization of regional electrotechnical standards in Mercosur and CANENA and increased cooperation between the two will benefit all participants. Our industries will be poised to take full advantage of the FTAA/ALCA pact, businesses will gain confidence and invest to compete in a global marketplace, and the scope of the technical differences will be narrowed, leading to greater cooperation between our national committees in IEC work programs. And perhaps the most tangible benefit will be improvement in the level of safety and security of electrical systems throughout the Americas.



## CANENA in Global Standardization

### Implementing Global Relevance

The adoption of the principle of global relevance by the IEC brings with it the challenge for regional organizations, such as CANENA, CENELEC, COPANT, etc., to identify and harmonize the essential standardization requirements necessary not only to enhance regional trade but also global trade. This will not be easy and will require a dedication to the development of standards based on a common understanding of the global relevance principle and the rules for its effective use.

The principle of global relevance recognizes that certain regional requirements of an essential and permanent nature need to be properly identified and

addressed in the development of harmonized, globally accepted standards.

The IEC is now in the process of implementing the recommendations of their global relevance task force covering the practical approach for addressing essential differences in requirements in IEC standards. A training program is being developed and, at the time of writing this report, is anticipated to be ready first quarter 2003. To ensure CANENA members are fully trained and able to effectively and efficiently participate in regional and international standardization activities, it is our intention to organize training sessions for CANENA members in cooperation with the IEC national committees in countries represented in the scope of CANENA.

We believe that this proactive approach will ensure our members can advance their technical work programs in a spirit of international cooperation and understanding.



**CANENA President Tony Flood meets Chinese President Jiang Zemin at the IEC General Meeting in Beijing**