



Consejo de Armonización de Normas Electrotécnicas de las Naciones de las Américas
Council for Harmonization of Electrotechnical Standards of the Nations of the Americas

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Global Relevance — bridge or barrier?

It has been said that standardization is not about making everything the same, but rather about managing the differences. When we consider that systems, in fact cultures, for electrical safety have evolved in developed nations for more than a century, it is not practical to expect those nations to readily change the fabric of their culture. While global electro-technical standards present well documented advantages, their development, adoption and implementation is not without cost or risk.

Yet, the momentum for electro-technical standardization is strong. This is because, at the root of our differences, the principles for electri-

cal safety around the world are the same. Just a few years ago, through very extensive independent comparisons, electrical industries in Canada, Mexico and the United States concluded that their national electrical installation codes, their electrical cultures, are founded on precisely the same fundamental safety principles as are included in IEC60364 Chapter 13.

The impetus for continued progress toward globalization of electrical product standards is the realization that there are more common principles to discover and implement as bridges toward our common goals. The principle of *Global Relevance* is our latest revelation, a potential

bridge over wide chasms of differences that have inhibited progress in standardization for years.

Like any new idea, its intent and purpose is not evident to all. Uncertainty breeds skeptics. And, like a new tool, training is essential. Most importantly at this time, however, a common understanding of the principle is essential. Only then will its usefulness become evident.

From the President

Enhancing our role as a partner in regional and global standardization, CANENA continues to reach out to partner with affiliated bodies both in our own hemisphere and globally.

CANENA recently signed a cooperation agreement with CENELEC in Europe complement our similar agreement with IEC.

At the September 2003 meeting of the CANENA Executive Committee, we welcomed Carlos Rodríguez, President of COPANT and Executive Director of INTECO (Institute of Technical Standards of Costa Rica). Señor Rodríguez affirmed the work of CANENA and called for the coopera-

tion of CANENA and COPANT to enhance the value of COPANT TC-151 in continental electro-technical standardization.

At our 2004 Council meeting, CANENA will extend its role as facilitator to interested IEC National Committee members in the region to continue development of a common understanding of the principle of *Global Relevance*.

We are in a period of dramatic changes in electrotechnical standardization, changes that can impact the marketability of many products. It is little wonder that CANENA membership has reached an all time high.



CANENA President Tony Flood with COPANT President Carlos Rodríguez

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CANENA Members Rule!

Only a member in good standing has the right to be a member of a THC and/or THSC and to vote on CANENA policy, strategy and questions of principle. Having said that, what does membership in CANENA really mean? For the answer, we need to look at the “big picture.”

As we are all aware, today's business challenges come not only from competing businesses, but also from changes in market characteristics. Such changes can be driven by technical innovation, political directives, trade agreements and environmental issues. Typical examples are the global relevance initiative by IEC, the demand for an objective based installation code for the energy industry, and the European WEEE Directive on waste.

Sooner or later, the question all organizations need to address is: “Given the size and nature of the global market, how must we change to ensure we stay viable?” One obvious answer is to become a member of an organization that is recognized as a



vehicle for change –an organization such as CENELEC, COPANT or CANENA.

While the structure of CENELEC is regarded as a model for regional governance and international influence,

CANENA, despite operating in a much less structured environment, aren't just drafters of regional standards for SDOs to adopt. In a world hurtling towards harmonized standards, the expanding role of CANENA members is to:

- Identify essential issues for IEC standards
- Encourage participation in international standardization
- Liaise with standardization organizations in other regions
- Promote cost-effective conformity assessment solutions
- Develop and provide members training sessions
- Provide a forum to debate trends, threats and opportunities.

The benefits of membership are many and yet the cost of membership is minimal. Can anyone afford not to be a member?

Communications – As the World Turns

In the first 10 years of our existence, CANENA was a loosely structured collection of committees, each with a defined objective to harmonize their respective product standards. Council funding was minimal (and still is) and the administration of this new adventure was very basic—almost all communication occurred at the Annual General Meeting.

As the pace of standards harmonization increased and global issues became regional and national issues, CANENA was seen to be ill-equipped to react in an informed manner. In reaction, CANENA found itself developing a patchwork of “fixes” to address member concerns. In 2003, the CANENA Executive Committee set in motion a communication strategy that would inform members of developments in the standards world on a more frequent basis. The success of this communication strat-

egy depended upon the creation of a dynamic membership registrar and a great deal of effort was spent identifying the member and associate-member participants in CANENA activities.

“In 2003, the CANENA Executive Committee set in motion a communication strategy that would inform members of developments in the standards world on a more frequent basis.”

One dramatic benefit of this effort has been a 65% increase in the 2003 membership. For 2004, we expect to build on our success and develop regional and international communication channels that better serve the expanding needs of our members.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ CANENA Council 12th Annual Meeting – March 23-25, 2004, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- ◆ COPANT General Assembly Meeting – May 10-14, 2004, São Paulo, Brazil
- ◆ CSA Annual Conference – June 13-15, 2004, Charlevoix, Quebec, Canada
- ◆ NFPA World safety Conference and Exposition – May 23-26, 2004, Salt Lake City, UT
- ◆ IEC 68th Annual General Meeting – October 17-22, 2004, Seoul, Korea

CANENA Technical Programs

The 22 Technical Harmonization Committees that comprise CANENA made steady progress in their programs during 2003. Three newly harmonized standards were published: *Trinational Standards for Thermoplastic Insulated Wires and Cables* (CSA C22.2 No. 75, NMXJ-010-ANCE, UL83); *Wire Connectors* (CSA C22.2 No. 65, NMXJ-543-ANCE, UL486A/486B); and a binational *Standard for Surface Nonmetallic Raceway* (SNR) (CSA C22.2 No.62.1, UL5A). And, the future is bright with seven harmonized standards scheduled for publication in the first quarter of 2004 alone.

Despite soft economic conditions, CANENA members continued to invest in standards harmonization. Seven new projects commenced in 2003.

Encouraging economic forecasts for 2004 predict increasing returns on investments in standardization and will hopefully stimulate new standards harmonization projects. In cooperation with the participating national standards development organizations, several THC's have scheduled maintenance cycles for their already published standards.

The formula for the success of CANENA continues to rest in the autonomy of its Technical Harmonization Committees to organize and perform their work programs with a minimum

of governance. Supported by the Council's basic infrastructure of the Executive Committee, bylaws, cooperation agreements and operating procedures, THC's establish their own priorities and pace to meet the consensus needs of its participating members.

The Chair and Secretary of each THC are key links in bringing the full value of CANENA to their respective THC. Among their roles is to ensure consistent representation and participation from each participating country throughout the process thus enhancing the smooth implementation of the harmonized standards. This commitment for each CANENA harmonization project is essential in gaining and maintaining the support of each participating national standards development organization.

Technical Activities Summary

CANENA THC's:	22
Recorded Projects:	58
Active Projects (2003):	49
Final Drafts at SDOs:	7
Published Standards (2003):	3
New Projects (2003):	7

Task Force Presents Priority on Conformity Assessment

The theme of the 2003 CANENA Council Meeting, "Harmonized Conformity Assessment," raised this question to participating Certification Organizations: "Given the competitive nature of the conformity assessment business today, how does your organization intend to support the market demand for tested once, accepted everywhere?"

Following thought-provoking presentations by high ranking officials from ANCE, CSA and UL, the Council approved formation of a member Task Force to meet with the leading Certification Organizations to identify a constructive process. This forum also served as a catalyst for renewed discussions between CSA International and Underwriters Laboratories, leading eventually to an expanded Memorandum of Understanding and an historic agreement on mutual acceptance of component recognition.

In preparing to meet with the COs, the Task Force clearly singled out one priority process they felt should be separately considered. It is proposed that each of the Certification Organization participants in CANENA consider the advantages of using the process model of the IECCE-CB Scheme to administer a cooperative program for the reciprocal acceptance of certified products that are within the scope of

bi-national and tri-national standards developed under the auspices of CANENA.

Among many compelling advantages put forth with the proposal, the CB Scheme model is already employed by the participating COs and it contains necessary controls.

"The Task Force proposal may very well reduce the complexities of administering MOU's between Certification Organizations."

Scheduling of the planned meeting with the COs was purposely delayed as CSA and UL became very productively engaged in expansion of their longstanding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Component Acceptance Agreement. According to Tim McNeive, Task Force Chair, "The task force proposal may very well reduce the complexities of administering MOUs between Certification Organizations."

The Task Force will now proceed to explore the viability of their proposal with each participating Certification Organization.

CANENA Welcomes Regional Cooperation

Building on the success of the growing list of published harmonized standards developed through CANENA and other standardization bodies in the region, CANENA members are eager to explore areas of cooperation that would serve users and suppliers throughout the hemisphere.

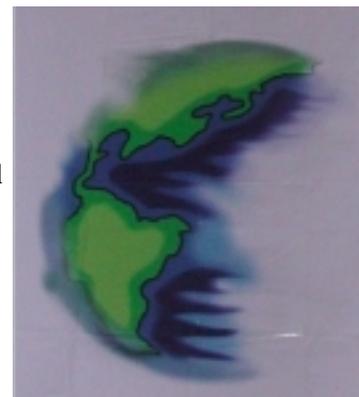
While acknowledging the existence of influences, both internal and external to the region, many of which are not at all technical in nature, CANENA believes many areas of mutual interest and benefit exist. While the principles of broad cooperation are worked out through government to government negotiations in the FTAA and other trade forums, it is CANENA's belief that, on a product sector-by-sector basis, mutually interested industries should be encouraged to explore the practicality and the means for broader harmonization of their electro-technical standards.

CANENA harmonization projects are product sector specific and market driven. Those individual participants who fund these projects and invest their time and technical expertise do so with expectations of payback

on their investment. There is no reason to expect that broader cooperation throughout the region in harmonizing electro-technical standards could progress without the expectation of both individual and mutual benefit. Where common objectives and attainable benefits can be realized through the harmonization of sector specific product standards, the yet to be determined principles for broader cooperation throughout the region should not inhibit mutually interested industries.

CANENA membership and facilities for harmonizing electro-technical standards anywhere in the Americas are available to all.

CANENA will continue to promote broader cooperation between standardization bodies in the Americas that will help facilitate market driven harmonization.



CANENA takes center stage on "Global Relevance"

In conjunction with its 2004 Annual Meeting, CANENA will host a multi-national forum on implementation of the "Global Relevance" provision in IEC standards.

The forum will be lead by officials from IEC national committees in Canada, Mexico and the US. CANENA members and members of the IEC national committees throughout the Americas are invited.

Since its adoption by the IEC Council Board over a year ago, and the implementation plan developed and approved by the Standards Management Board, informal meetings on the subject of Global Relevance have taken place in each country. The CANENA Global Relevance Forum is the first multi-national opportunity for National Committees to share views with their trading partners and members-at-large.

The timing of this forum coincides with the release by IEC of a "Guidance Package." This guidance document was called for in the Global Relevance Implementation

Plan and is the result of several meetings convened by IEC over the past year. The agenda of the CANENA forum will feature a presentation of this guidance package.

According to CANENA President Tony Flood, "This important forum will establish a common understanding of the principle of Global Relevance and its intended implementation. It will also provide the opportunity for an exchange of ideas between those that will employ the principle in their technical work programs."

The forum will take place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on Wednesday, March 24, 2004.

