

Annual Report 2004

January, 2005

Issue 4

Free Trade in Electrotechnical Products— are benefits being safely delivered?

The architects of free trade and open markets, our politicians, promise us significant benefits. Among these are increased safety and security, increased value, and more choices to meet growing needs. Their visions certainly don't include making risky compromises in the existing levels of consumer satisfaction or safety. In some countries however, the lack of an effective technical infrastructure for helping deliver the benefits of free trade in electrotechnical products is risking safety to persons and property.

Electrical safety standards are an essential vehicle for safely delivering the full benefits of free trade in electrotechnical products.

Electricity is a valuable yet intrinsically dangerous commodity. Consumers often take electricity for granted.

From the President



CANENA's efforts to explore mutual recognition with other regional standardization bodies continues to progress despite being hindered by some basic misconceptions regarding CANENA's structure and its role in the harmonization process. Since clear communication is a vital component in the forming of successful relationships, it is extremely important that we, at all times, try to put an end to misunderstanding and misinformation about CANENA's role. Let me take this opportunity to summarize how the Council functions.

CANENA is not a standards development organization (SDO). CANENA does not publish, sell or distribute standards. A CANENA Technical Har-

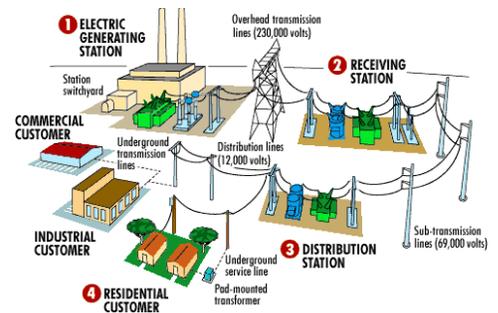
monization Committee (THC) is formed by official request of parties from two or more countries and only after being sanctioned by the relevant national SDOs in each country, and by the CANENA Executive Committee. Each THC has a defined scope.

The participating SDOs are active members of each THC and ensure periodic technical reviews are conducted by experts in their own committees. A THC work program results in a draft standard that is taken by each SDO for separate consideration within their national process. The ownership of the resulting standard remains with the SDOs through their own mutual agreements.

Voting that may be conducted in a CANENA THC is solely for the purpose of determining the THC consensus and has no validity within a national standards system.

The CANENA Council provides a basic infrastructure for cooperation in standardization, not only where the

trical safety. Voluntary standardization initiatives can be hindered by an imbalance of government-imposed rules that



can have the effect of limiting competition, which consequently reduces value and choice which are benefits consumers demand. When regulations are not supplemented by effective technical infrastructure, increased risk to safety is also introduced.

Continued on page 4

Inside this issue

- The CANENA Model – What members want it to be
- Communications– CANENA's Unparalleled Transparency
- Dates to Remember
- CANENA Technical Programs
- Task Force recommends guidance on Global Relevance EDR
- COPANT to Change Focus
- CANENA explores interfaces with IEC National Committees

basis is IEC standards, but where essential regional products exist that are not covered by IEC standards.

CANENA provides for the pooling of increasingly scarce voluntary technical resources from different countries. This facilitates a transparent sharing of different viewpoints. The result has been a reduction of technical differences between national standards, an increase in regional trade, and a trend toward increased cooperation over a broad scope of standards.

Continued on page 4

The CANENA Model – What members want it to be

The success of CANENA has and will always depend on its membership, a diverse multi-national group of competing manufacturers, standards development organizations (SDO) and certification organizations (CO). Whether strategically created or formed by a “big bang” resulting from NAFTA, CANENA is a necessary model for standardization in a global economy.

CANENA members have always maintained as their highest priority and sole objective the voluntary harmonization of standards among willing participants. Clearly however, the interface of CANENA’s activities with similar standardization bodies in the region of the Americas, in other world regions, and IEC cannot be ignored.

The CANENA model has developed into an environment that is conducive to accomplishment of its member’s objectives. The result of the work programs of CANENA Technical Harmonization Committees is fewer standards, fewer different requirements and tests, and a clearer understanding of remaining differences. Participating SDOs have benefited from the expanded pool of voluntary technical experts to fuel standards development and these experts are more efficiently used in both development and maintenance processes. When a harmonized standard is adopted through normal channels in each participating country, the result is lower cost access to the markets in each



country for the product manufacturers, more consistent application of the standards by the accredited COs and more choices for the consumers in each country.

Its continuing role as facilitator is truly the only objective of CANENA. The only strategic direction the Council’s Executive Committee has is to satisfy its members in this role by providing a minimal infrastructure of organization and procedures under which manufacturers, SDOs and COs can continue to cooperate to reach common goals. The CANENA model has been very successful in this regard.

Increasingly, the CANENA model and the Council’s diverse membership is being seen as an inviting forum for exploring broader cooperation within the scope of electro-technical standardization. While CANENA has embraced this somewhat broader facilitator’s role, other standardization bodies in the region have expressed concerns that in doing so CANENA is carrying out a strategic, covert agenda. In order to begin to dispel this myth, the Executive Committee has set as a priority to develop a strategy for more effective liaison with the other key standardization partners.

The CANENA model, while effectively serving its members must not be seen as a threat, but rather a complement in our evolving regional standardization environment.

Communications – CANENA’s Unparalleled Transparency

Maybe the best kept secret in CANENA is the fact that there are no secrets. In a technical environment where voluntary national resources, both technical experts and financial backing, are stretched, there is no justification for additional layers of technocracy or organizations that fail to demonstrate value. One might then wonder, why voluntary standardization bodies that seek global recognition would limit access to fundamental information on their processes and proceedings.

Openness and transparency of its policies, procedures, technical programs, objectives and initiatives are a cornerstone of CANENA. This can be a two-edged sword at times, as some will always interpret objectives and initiatives as aggressive strategies. In the long run, the Council believes these attributes contribute to member satisfaction, more efficient operations, and common understanding that help demonstrate value and

form and maintain valuable relationships.

Because transparency is a part of everyday operations at CANENA, we find it easy to support our part of present coop-

Openness and transparency of its policies, procedures, technical programs, objectives and initiatives are a cornerstone of CANENA.

eration agreements with IEC and CENELEC. These agreements, which are based largely on the exchange of information on technical programs, offer mutual benefit. We continue to encourage mutual transparency at the sector specific technical levels.

Dates to Remember

- ◆ CANENA Council 13th Annual Meeting – March 8-9, 2005 San Antonio, TX USA
- ◆ COPANT General Assembly Meeting – May 9-13, 2005 San José, Costa Rica
- ◆ CSA Annual Conference – June 19-24, 2005 Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada
- ◆ NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition – June 6-10, 2005 Las Vegas, NV USA
- ◆ IEC 69th Annual General Meeting – October 17-21, 2005 Cape Town, South Africa

CANENA Technical Programs

2004 marked one of the most successful years for CANENA Technical Harmonization Committees (THC). Nine (9) new harmonized standards were published: Binational-Canada and U.S.: *Lampholders* (CSA C22.2 No.43/UL496), *Electrical Rigid Conduit-Steel* (CSA C22.2 No.45.1, UL6), *Liquid-tight Flexible Nonmetallic Conduit* (CSA C22.2 No.227.2.1/UL1660), *Hardware for Support of Conduit, Tubing and Cable* (CSA C22.2 No.18.4/UL2239), *Electrical Metallic Tubing-Steel* (CSA C22.2 No.83.1, UL797). Trinational-Canada, Mexico and U.S.: *Enclosed and Dead-Front Switches* (CSA C22.2 No.4, NMXJ-162-ANCE, UL98), *Splicing Wire Connectors* (CSA C22.2 No.188, NMXJ-548-ANCE, UL486C), *Metallic Outlet Boxes* (CSA C22.2 No.18.1, NMXJ-023/1-ANCE, UL514A), *Conduit, Tubing and Cable Fittings* (CSA C22.2 No.18.3, NMXJ-017-ANCE, UL514B).

A total of 41 harmonized standards have now resulted through the efforts of CANENA. Many THC's are entering into maintenance programs on previously harmonized standards and are becoming familiar with the THC's role in the maintenance process. Section 6 of the *Procedures for Harmonizing ANCE and/or CSA and/or UL Standards*, contains the options for THC involvement as well as the procedures agreed to by the SDOs to help ensure continued harmonization of the standards.

Some THC's have initiated very aggressive projects with some of the most complex IEC standards as their basis.

THCs representing Industrial Control Equipment have reorganized as THC 17A/17B/17D and redefined the scope of standards they address. This new organization more effectively positions the THC to manage the scope of work in the complex IEC60947 standard. Their priorities are the General requirements in IEC 60947-1, and particular requirements in IEC60947-4-1 and IEC60947-5-1.

A new THC 61 has been organized for the purpose of international adoption of the Part 1 requirements associated with the series of standards under IEC 60335, Household and similar electrical appliances. With 102 separate Part 2 standards, a priority has been put on accelerating the Part 1 effort to facilitate easier harmonization of the Part 2 standards. The new THC 61 has a balanced membership representative of the broad scope of products covered by the IEC 60335 series. Existing efforts on THC 61C, Household Refrigerator-Freezers and Ice-Makers and THC 61D, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Equipment will continue. Work on THC 61C is nearing completion, but THC 61D may be put on hold until the Part 1 effort is advanced.

| Technical Activities Summary | |
|------------------------------|----|
| CANENA THCs: | 23 |
| Active Projects (2004): | 47 |
| Published Standards (2004): | 9 |
| New Projects (2004): | 2 |

Task Force recommends guidance on Global Relevance EDR

The Global Relevance Forum held in conjunction with CANENA's 2004 conference provided a valuable exchange of national views on the subject within the context of newly released IEC guidance. As a result, a special task force was formed to explore with the respective IEC national committees, uniform and coordinated implementation in development of Essential Differences in Requirements (EDR).

"Presentation of EDR developed through regional consensus and based on clear and coordinated understanding and implementation of IEC guidance, is the path of least resistance."

While a consensus on the role of CANENA as a facilitator for broader multi-national cooperation between IEC national committees is unsettled, the CANENA executive committee, acting on the recommendation of the task force, has issued the following guidance to its Technical Harmonization Committees regarding the rationale for essential differences in their standards proposals:

In development of harmonized standards that are based on IEC standards or intended for submission to IEC, where the Essential Differences in Requirements (EDR) provision is needed as rationale, the EDR shall rigidly conform with the IEC guidance¹ for appropriate use of EDR and shall comply with additional guidance provided by

the IEC National Committee(s) through which the standards or proposals are to be submitted to IEC.

In development of regionally harmonized standards, where essential country differences (national deviations) are found necessary, the THC shall first consider the IEC guidance¹ for appropriate use of EDR and additional guidance provided by the IEC National Committee(s) in participating countries. National deviations not meeting the requirements for an EDR shall be permitted with rationale meeting the requirements of the relevant harmonization procedures of CANENA and the participating Standards Developing Organizations.

¹ AC/70/2003 (2003-11-28) Guidance package for implementation of Essential Differences in Requirements in IEC Standards (EDR)

In issuing this guidance to the THCs, the executive committee challenged the national committees to take the lead in developing uniform implementation. It went on to encourage the task force and CANENA members affiliated with their respective national IEC Committees to continue multi-national dialogue. According to CANENA President Tony Flood, who led the North American advocacy in IEC for the Global Relevance provision, "Presentation of EDR developed through regional consensus and based on clear and coordinated understanding and implementation of IEC guidance, is the path of least resistance."

COPANT to Change Focus

The COPANT Board of Directors, at its December, 2004 meeting in Santiago, Chile, established a new course for COPANT. The Board is in the final stages of approving a new Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan that would establish COPANT as the leading platform in the Americas for the support of globally and market relevant international standards development and conformity assessment activities.

This change in the strategic focus comes, in part, as a response to a proposal from CANENA and others made during meetings over the past year with the COPANT leadership. The change will provide much more value to manufacturers of electrical products, and directly enhances the value of harmonization efforts of other regional organizations such as CANENA and AMN



(Asociación Mercosur de Normalización), the Mercosur Association for Harmonization. The ultimate effect will be improved and more efficient market access to suppliers throughout the Americas.

Efforts are already underway in CANENA to consider this development. The Task Force on Regional Cooperation was formed by the CANENA Executive Committee with

the goal of developing a strategy for both the short term and further out. The Task Force will examine the complementary relationships between CANENA and COPANT, the IEC national committees in the region, and other national and regional standards development organizations, and coordination and continued cooperation with regional entities outside the Americas.

CANENA Explores Interfaces with IEC National Committees

It should come as no surprise that many CANENA members are also active members in the IEC National Committees in their respective countries. While, with the exception of our mutual agreement on information exchange, CANENA has no direct interface with IEC of a technical nature, there is a growing awareness however, of the benefits of developing regional consensus that can be presented and supported through conventional national committee channels.

For a number of years, representatives at the top levels of the IEC National Committees in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. have met annually to discuss issues of mutual interest in advance of the IEC Annual General Meeting. More recently, this group has been joined by

officials from the committees of other countries in our region. While this cooperation has been beneficial at the policy development level, there is no such forum that facilitates cooperation between the technical representatives at the working level of the National Committees.

Through CANENA, National Committees have been challenged to reach a consensus approach to Global Relevance implementation, although no uniform guidance has yet resulted. Technical initiatives, such as references to AWG wire sizes in IEC standards and alternatives to type tests for material used in electrical products are examples of subjects where regional consensus support would be beneficial. CANENA provides an inviting infrastructure for such cooperation and will continue to explore that role.

Free Trade... *from page 1*

Nearly every country is suffering from a lack of sufficient numbers of voluntary electrotechnical experts and financial resources to develop and maintain a voluntary national standards system. Industry trade associations throughout the region should place high value on active participation in regional forums for voluntary standardization. Regulations that limit competition and choice can be effectively replaced through such an expanded technical infrastructure without sacrificing national self-determination or risking electrical safety.

From the President... *from page 1*

The successes of CANENA have stimulated a more positive view toward international standardization. This is evidenced by the Council's interest in a role as facilitator for national committees of IEC to develop regional consensus proposals that can be introduced through normal channels.

CANENA has established cooperation agreements with both IEC and CENELEC. Intra-regional cooperation is long overdue.