

tion and materials-handling equipment and various types of special industry machinery, such as pulp and paper and plastics industry machinery, and service industry equipment. The statutory rate of duty under that Tariff Item is 2½% British preferential and 15% most-favoured-nation.

The program provides that the duty otherwise payable on machines, accessories, attachments, control equipment, tools and components, imported under Tariff Item 42700-1, may be remitted if such remission is in the public interest and the goods imported are not available from production in Canada. A Machinery and Equipment Advisory Board advises the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce regarding the eligibility of machinery for remission of duty in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff Item. The Board, in turn, is assisted by the branches of the Department concerned with individual industries, including machinery manufacturing. Final authority for granting remission lies with the Governor in Council.

Under the program, machinery producers may also apply for remission of duty on production parts and components included in Tariff Item 42700-1 which they cannot procure in Canada. This provision is for the purpose of stimulating Canadian machinery manufacturers to specialize their production and enable them to compete more effectively.

Since June 18, 1971, the Machinery Program has been extended to imports under Tariff Item 41100-1 covering machinery for use in sawmills and logging. In the same year, the Machinery and Equipment Advisory Board took over from the Adjustment Assistance Board the responsibility for examining all tariff remission applications in respect of machinery and equipment or production tooling for the manufacture of original equipment, automotive parts and accessories.

**Building Equipment, Accessories and Materials Program (BEAM)** was established to help achieve greater efficiency and productivity in the manufacture and use of building equipment accessories and materials. The objectives of the program include: establishment of a comprehensive National Construction Information System; encouragement of modular dimensional standardization and co-ordination; acceleration of the industrialization of the building process; development and expansion of export markets; promotion of uniform building regulations and standards; and encouragement of building design excellence through awards programs.

The program is being implemented and is subject to further development through the Construction Industry Development Council and in co-operation with industry through the major associations. The Council, which is responsible to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, is national in scope, comprising 35 representatives of the manufacturing, design and contracting sectors of the industry as well as labour unions, universities and government. Co-operating directly in the BEAM program are the Canadian Construction Association, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada, the Specification Writers Association, the National Home Builders Association, and the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada.

Having established the needs and priorities for construction information in Canada, ways in which a comprehensive and flexible information system can be developed were identified. A thesaurus of Canadian construction industry terms has been compiled in both English and French to assist in providing a means of indexing the system and to resolve the ambiguity in construction terminology. A glossary equating French and English construction industry terms has also been established.

The design and performance specifications for a National Construction Information System have been completed and work has commenced on the acquisition of data suitable to the system. To provide a commercial operations channel, a non-profit corporation known as the Canadian Construction Information Corporation has been established and is in the process of implementing the system.

The Department has continued the program to encourage the increased use of dimensional standardization and co-ordination of building components and buildings. Initially, conferences were held throughout Canada to acquaint policy-makers within the industry with the technological and economic advantages of modular standardization. These conferences continue to be followed up by a program of clinics of modular practice. In addition, a directory of modular building components is published annually.