

components, not expressly provided for elsewhere by law, to advance the national economy, benefit the health, safety and welfare of the public, assist and protect consumers, facilitate domestic and international trade and further international co-operation in the field of standards. The Council is responsible for co-ordinating the planning and execution of a program for the development of standards in the metric (SI) system. This activity is in support of the over-all program which is being prepared by the Preparatory Commission for Conversion to the Metric System.

The Council consists of not more than 57 members, headed by a president and a vice-president. The seats of the Council, other than the 16 assigned to government representatives (six federal and ten provincial), will be occupied by representatives of national organizations. Membership will be broadly representative of all levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal), primary and secondary industries, distributive and service industries, trade associations, labour unions, consumer associations and the academic community. Members employed in the Public Service of Canada hold office during pleasure. Other members are appointed for a term not exceeding three years. The day-to-day work is carried out by a permanent staff in Ottawa, headed by an executive director who is appointed by the Governor in Council.

17.6.2.2 Trade standards and regulations

In its consumer program, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is responsible for the administration of broad legislation which affects the business community. Policies and programming are determined by the Standards Branch, and the necessary field supervision by the Operations Branch.

Hazardous products. General regulations issued under the Hazardous Products Act provide for the banning or the regulated sale of a variety of dangerous products which are toxic, flammable, explosive, or corrosive. These relate largely to household products. Toy regulations are directed to eliminating dangerous toys.

General commodity field. The National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act provides a framework for the development of National Standards and true labelling in order to prevent deception in labelling and advertising. The Garment Sizing Regulations were developed as a National Standard for the sizing of children's garments. The labelling provision has been used for regulation for fur garments, watch jewels, textiles, etc. Textiles are subject to special new requirements established under a Textile Labelling Act passed in 1970.

Control of marking of previous metal articles is maintained under the Precious Metals Marking Act. This Act will shortly be replaced by a revised statute passed by Parliament.

In the packaging and labelling field, a Packaging and Labelling Act has been passed by Parliament which, when proclaimed, will give uniformity to packaging practices in Canada, reduce packaging and advertising deception, and control proliferation.

Food. In areas of health, grading, standards and composition, the Food and Drug Act, the Canadian Agricultural Products Standards Act and the Fish Inspection Act are generally applicable. The Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department is charged with administration of the economic fraud aspects in distribution. This responsibility relates mainly to labelling and advertising in any segment of the news media.

Advertising. Most legislation has particular requirements to ensure against misleading advertising, but Sections 36 and 37 of the Combines Investigation Act are especially noteworthy as they include general provisions against misleading advertising practices.

Measurement. The Weights and Measures Act prescribes the legal standards of weight and measure for use in Canada; it also requires control of the type of all weighing and measuring devices used for commercial purposes and their periodic verification and surveillance directed toward the elimination of device-tampering and short-weight sales. A replacing Act has been passed by Parliament and will be proclaimed with the issue of new regulations. The fundamental objectives of existing legislation are unchanged. The new Act is an updating, and complements the proposed packaging and labelling legislation.

The Electricity Inspection Act and the Gas Inspection Act control the approval before sale and use of devices used for metering or otherwise billing for sales of electricity and gas; they also provide a framework for continual in-use inspection.