economy through the National Standards System. The system includes organizations involved in standards-writing and in testing and certification. It encourages the development of a broader and more energetic Canadian standards program to meet both national and international responsibilities.

The objects of the council are to foster and promote voluntary standardization in fields relating to the construction, manufacture, production, quality performance and safety of buildings, structures, manufactured articles and products and other goods, including 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 cooperation in the field of standards.

At the end of 1974 the National Standards System had accredited five standards-writing organizations which are authorized to write National Standards of Canada — the Canadian Gas Association, the Canadian Government Specifications Board, the Canadian Standards Association, the Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada and Bureau de normalisation du Québec. Certification organizations and testing laboratories will also be accredited to the system. An Advisory Committee on Standards for Consumers identifies consumers needs in the standards field and makes the necessary recommendations to the council.

The council, advised by a Committee on Conversion to Metric (SI) Standards, supports Metric Commission Canada by providing the technical basis for Canadian conversion and guidance and assistance in planning for, and carrying out, a program to provide standards expressed in the International System of Units (SI) to all organizations participating in metric conversion. Representatives of the National Standards System actively participate in the conversion activities of each of the 10 steering committees and each of the approximately 115 sector committees formed under the auspices of the Metric Commission. The council is also in close touch with the interdepartmental committees for conversion of the federal, provincial and territorial governments and with the American National Metric Council in the United States.

In the international field, the council appoints the members and directs the activities of the Canadian National Committee of the International Electro-Technical Commission and is the member body for Canada in the International Organization for Standardization. The council coordinates and integrates the national and international standards and oversees the accreditation of some 350 delegates to represent Canada at over 360 international technical committee meetings each year. The council's International Standardization Branch is located at Mississauga, Ont.

In January 1977 the council, in cooperation with the accredited standards writing organizations, established a Standards Information Service, with a central information and referral service at its offices in Ottawa.

17.4.2.2   Trade standards and regulations

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

Hazardous products. The Product Safety Branch administers the Hazardous Products Act which deals with consumer goods. The act makes specific mention of products designed for household, garden, or personal use, for use in sports or recreational activities or for use by children. It also mentions without reference to end use, poisonous, toxic, flammable, explosive and corrosive products.

Under the act, the minister is empowered to establish mandatory standards for application in Canada. Compliance orders now being enforced include the use of shatterproof glass in patio and shower doors, flammability standards for children's sleepwear and protective standards for hockey helmets. Regulations