

governing toys, cribs and portable car seats are designed to protect children. Other products required to meet rigid specifications include matches, charcoal, ceramics and electrical appliances.

**General commodity field.** The Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and Regulations administered by the Consumer Fraud Protection Branch is designed to give uniformity to packaging and labelling practices in Canada, reduce the possibilities of fraud and deception in packaging and control the proliferation of packaged sizes. The legislation applies to most pre-packaged consumer products and came into effect on September 1, 1975 for non-food items and on March 1, 1976 for foods.

Regulations under the Textile Labelling Act, in effect since December 1, 1972, require labels on all consumer textile articles. The label must include fibre names and percentages and the identification of the dealer. The regulations also deal with misrepresentation in both labelling and advertising. The Textile Care Labelling System of coloured symbols recommending proper care for textile products is a voluntary program at this time. The Canadian Standard Size (CSS) system for children's garments, developed by the Canadian Government Specifications Board in conjunction with Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, is administered under the National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act. This system is also voluntary, although dealers must register for a licence before claiming that the garment does, in fact, conform to the CSS and before affixing such a label to the product.

Control of marking of precious metal articles is maintained under the Precious Metals Marking Act. The new regulations came into force in July 1973.

**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. Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada 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 the Deceptive Marketing Provisions 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 ensures control of the types of all weighing and measuring devices used for commercial purposes, and provides for in-use surveillance directed toward the elimination of device-tampering and short-weight sales. A replacing act was passed by Parliament and new regulations were proclaimed in August 1974. The fundamental objectives of existing legislation remain unchanged. The new act is complementary to the new consumer packaging and labelling legislation.

The Electricity Inspection Act and the Gas Inspection Act control the approval before sale and use of instruments used for billing of electricity and gas whether by meter or other type of device; they also provide for continual in-use inspection.

**Corporations.** The Bureau of Corporate Affairs is concerned with much of the general legal framework that governs the orderly conduct of business under federal jurisdiction. The bureau is subdivided into the following branches: Bankruptcy, Corporations, and Corporate Research.

The Corporations Branch is responsible for administration of the Canada Business Corporations Act, the Canada Corporations Act, the Canada Cooperatives Association Act and the Board of Trade Act. In addition, the branch has a statutory duty to issue formal documents in connection with corporations created under other federal acts such as the Loan Companies Act, Trust Companies Act, the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, and the Railway Act.