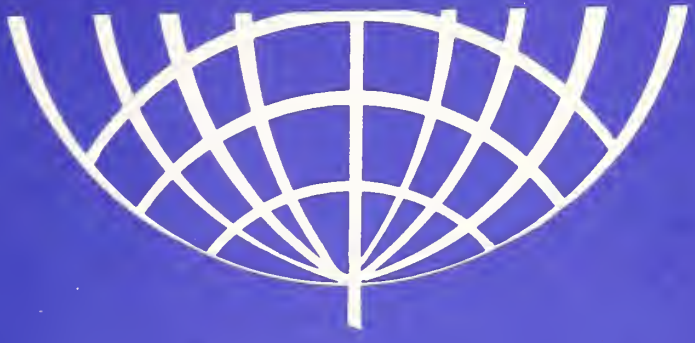
Symposium on International Standards Information and ISONET



NBS Special Publication 579

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The National Bureau of Standards[1] was established by an act of Congress on March 3, 1901. The Bureau's overall goal is to strengthen and advance the Nation's science and technology and facilitate their effective application for public benefit. To this end, the Bureau conducts research and provides: (1) a basis for the Nation's physical measurement system, (2) scientific and technological services for industry and government, (3) a technical basis for equity in trade, and (4) technical services to promote public safety. The Bureau's technical work is performed by the National Measurement Laboratory, the National Engineering Laboratory, and the Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology.

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[1]Headquarters and Laboratories at Gaithersburg, MD, unless otherwise noted; mailing address Washington, DC 20234.
[2]Some divisions within the center are located at Boulder, CO 80303.

Symposium on International Standards Information and ISONET

Proceedings of a Symposium
Held at the National Bureau of Standards,
Gaithersburg, Maryland, October 11-12, 1979

Edited by

Charles B. Phucas

Office of Engineering Standards
National Engineering Laboratory
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

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Preface

Over the past several years, the American National Standards Institute and the National Bureau of Standards have been working cooperatively with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to provide United States input to the development of an International Standards Information Network called ISONET. The ISONET concept involves cooperative information exchange agreements between national standards information centers (ISONET members) covering national and international standards as well as technical regulations and related "standardizing" documents. The primary purpose of ISONET is to promote international trade by providing rapid access to reliable information concerning standards and other technical requirements applicable to exported and imported products.

Recent events in the United States, including the enactment of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979, have brought increased national attention to the need for improved mechanisms for exchange of information on standards, technical regulations, and certification systems on a worldwide basis. Title IV, Technical Barriers to Trade (Standards), of the Trade Agreements Act directs the National Bureau of Standards to maintain a national standards information center to "serve as the central national collection facility for information relating to standards activities, whether such standards, systems, or activities are public, private, domestic, or foreign, or international, regional, national, or local."

Participants in this Symposium had an opportunity to learn more about existing international standards information systems as well as the plans for the further development of ISONET. Through question and answer discussions, participants were able to learn about new developments in U.S. trade policy, especially those policies pertaining to standards and certification systems. A special session on Friday, October 12, was devoted to presentations and discussion by representatives from ISO, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Federal Republic of Germany.

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Executive Summary

The jointly sponsored ANSI/NBS symposium on International Standards Information and ISONET was held on October 11 and 12, 1979 at NBS.

Dr. John W. Lyons, Director of the National Engineering Laboratory, NBS, gave the welcoming remarks and Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher, Director, Office of Engineering Standards, gave an overview of the Symposium Program. Mr. Donald Abelson, Office of the Special Trade Representative, discussed the U.S. implementation of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) trade policies and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (GATT Standards Code). Mr. Donald Mitchell, Deputy Director, DMSSO, Department of Defense, gave his presentation on the NATO objectives for Standards harmonization.

The next portion of the Symposium was devoted to, "Information Services for Exporters." The speakers included were from two U.S. private companies: Global Engineering Services and Information Handling Services. Also, a speaker from the Department of Commerce's Industry and Trade Administration participated in this session along with a representative from the British Standards Institute's Technical Help to Exporters (THE) program.

During the second day of the Symposium panel discussions were held on the subject of ISONET, which is the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) information network that is presently under development. The ISONET idea involves cooperative information exchange agreements between national standards information centers (ISONET members) covering national and international standards as well as technical regulations and related "standardizing" documents. Panel members represented: the International Standards Organization, Mr. French, the Information Committee of ISO-INFCO, Mr. Kierski, the Deutsches Institut fur Normung (DIN), Mr. Mohr, the British Standards Institute (BSI), Mr. Roden, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC), Mr. Tunis, the Norges Standardiseringsforbund (NSF), Mr. Jenssen, the Association Francaise de Normalisation (AFNOR), Mr. Geronimi.

The comments presented by the domestic and international guests are published herein for your information.

U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF GATT TRADE POLICIES AND THE GATT STANDARDS CODE

Mr. Donald S. Abelson, Office of the U.S. Special Trade Representative

I am here as a trade specialist -- a person who, in fact, has an orientation in trade policy, to address people who have a very specialized expertise in technical matters - standards. In a way, I think that the kind of forum and subject that I am addressing are almost opposite one another. The concepts I deal with involve liberalizing trade, and providing an opportunity and environment within the world community for trade. Many of the concepts you deal with are very technical, dealing with specific regulations, specifications and tests for products or with determining of the safety of products. Yet, of course, the two issues are directly linked. Reference was made to the Federal Trade Commission and, of course, reference was made to the work of my Office. Both of these activities involve investigations of standards, regulations, certification systems, etc. -- what I call standards-related activities -- and their impact on trade.

Previously, in the international sphere it had been recognized that tariffs, duties assessed on codes as they cross national borders, created trade barriers. The higher the duty, the more difficult it is for a purchaser in the importing country to pay for the product -- very simple. The last five rounds of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), which took place in Geneva under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), have been on tariffs. After the Kennedy Round, which ended in the mid 1960's, there was a realization that there were other issues that affected trade, such as non-tariff barriers (NTB); thus, the GATT developed an inventory over a period of over five years of issues that created non-tariff barriers. One of the most important areas, I think it included about one-third of all the notifications to this inventory, involved standards -- technical regulations. I also include in that definition (again I'll say standards-related activities) both mandatory and voluntary certification systems; quality assurance programs, marking, labeling, and packaging requirements; terminology; and symbols. Thus, I'm being very broad when I use the word "standards."

You can see how standards can be a barrier to trade; if, for instance the French have a standard for forklift trucks, developed unilaterally, that is very different from the European regional standard and very different from our standard, of course we can't ship our trucks to France unless we market and produce them specifically to the French standard. And if we have spent time working with the community on developing such a standard and the French take this unilateral action, we can't even market the products that were specifically manufactured for European market. In such a case, the French have created a trade barrier. The efforts of the U.S. Government in this area were, in fact, to try to create an environment, and to actually draft a document that would prevent such a French action. That is indeed what the task standards trade negotiators were. The negotiations were a series of discussions on a draft document of principles that should be used in the development of standards. The document in no way references any specific standards. It talks about how to develop standards as opposed to what each standard should be. These are, however, very important principles, which came out of a direct problem that the United States has with the Europeans in terms of a regional certification system for electronic components. As I understand it, the system started out as a tripartite certification arrangement between the British, the French, and the Germans. The certifications done in each of the three countries would be accepted in each of the other countries. Fine, no problem with that. But there was a hitch: only products produced in one of the three countries could be certified by the system; so it was closed. A basic principle of the GATT specifies that Most Favored Nation (MFN) treatment shall be accorded to all participating countries. That means a country

cannot discriminate between products coming from two different countries if they both share or are given Most Favored Nation treatment. The tripartite arrangement broke that principle. Also, there's a principle of trade, called a National Treatment Clause, a country shall afford equal treatment to products produced in a foreign country as to products produced within its borders. Of course, the tripartite agreement breaks that principle. The Europeans came back to us and said, "That might be so; however, in order to establish a certification arrangement we have had to undergo a series of negotiations regarding the acceptance of each other's certification marks, thereby liberalizing trade within our countries. When we are ready and when you can meet our standards, we will let you in." That's perfectly reasonable in a way. In order to enter into a certification agreement you must determine what qualifications are necessary. However, we had no part in the development of the rules - we would be allowed into their systems under their rules - which caused us a great deal of problems. European standards for electronic and electrical components are very different from ours, and what they were saying was that you comply with us - our rules - and we will let you in. Therefore, when this issue was raised in the late 1960's, the American National Standards Institute, the U.S. National Committee to the International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC), the Electronic Industries Association, the Office of Product Standards, and my Office (the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative) became interested in changing the course of events and seeing what we could do. It was at that point that two things happened: (1) we began discussions on the standards code, which was drafted between 1971 and 1973; and (2) discussions began on the development of an international quality assurance system for eletronic components, the IECQ. (I'll leave aside the IECQ, since it's not my responsibility. It's a private sector initiative.)

The original standards code negotiations took place over two years; we approached the Europeans and said "Open up your certification systems." Openness: the key tenet of the U.S. position--openness. They responded with: "Well, we're not quite sure about that. As we told you, we have to negotiate; there are problems involved. But we'll talk to you about the U.S. using international standards." The U.S. does not generally use international standards. In the past, all we did was go to international standards meetings and, even though a standard might not be exactly what we'd use here (in fact, was inconsistent with our standard), for the purpose of promoting international standardization, we might vote for its approval. Thus, we might approve an international standard knowing full well we would never use it. The European's pointed a finger at us and said, "Use them." We came back to them and said, "Fine. We'll talk to you about that, but what about the use of open procedures? You know, what about publication of a notification that you're going to develop a standard and receiving comments on the proposal." And they said, "Well we don't know about that. We don't really do that. Around here what we do is call up a friend who develops a standard and then it's issued; but we'll think about it. Why don't you participate more often in international standardization activities?" We said, "Well, you know, it's pretty far to go over to Geneva. For you it's just a flight from Brussels, or from Paris,or from London, but for us it's from Washington. We'll think about it, but we want you to provide more information on your standards-copies of them. Publish the final copy. Let's have an information network developed, perhaps under the auspices of the GATT." They said, "Fine, we'll think about it." The last thing they said to us was, "This is all well and good; but what about your States and what about the private sector? When you negotiate with us (this is the French speaking) you're negotiating with a central government

whose responsibility covers standards activities across the board--everybody. When we negotiate with you, Washington, are you talking for Cleveland, Ohio, and Spokane, Washington, and Santa Barbara, California, or when it comes to something that has to do with Arizona, are you going to say, 'Well, States rights'? And what is this thing called the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Testing and Materials and, Underwriters Laboratories? How do they fold into this whole process?" We said we will comply with the GATT principle requiring us to do everything within our power to ensure the compliance of states. They said, "We know what that is--everything in your power--you write a letter from the Secretary of State and that's it." That is a basic review of the history of the standards code. The negotiations took eight years from the time they began to the time it was signed.

The U.S. entered into the negotiations in Geneva under the authorization provided in the Trade Act of 1974. The Trade Act said, "Go ahead, Mr. President, you may enter into these negotiations to reduce trade barriers, but when you're finished, we the Congress, will have some very specific instructions for you on how to implement these agreements." I'll get back to that later.

The final document that evolved from the discussions in Geneva, is officially entitled the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. It has basically what I consider to be eight or nine substantive provisions, information and assistance provisions, and finally a section on enforcement. The substantive provisions can be divided into three parts--those dealing with standards, those dealing with conformity to standards (i.e., testing) and, finally, those with certification. Each of the three parts are broken down into three parts themselves--regarding the activities of Central Governments, State governments, and private bodies. The Federal Government, in developing standards, shall not discriminate against imported products. Standards developed by the Federal Government shall not be created to, nor have the effect of creating trade barriers.

The Federal Government shall participate in relevant international standards bodies; it shall develop, when appropriate, standards based on performance rather than design criteria; it shall use appropriate international standards; and when it does not use international standards, it shall use open procedures. With regard to those other two levels--the states and the private sector--the code requires that the Federal Government shall use "best efforts" to ensure the compliance of the states and the private sector.

With regard to testing, the code says that Central Governments shall, when they test products within their borders, not discriminate against imported products. However, it is also recognized that the best way to alleviate or to get rid of trade barriers between countries when it comes to testing is to enter into arrangements on the acceptance of foreign test data, foreign certificates, or marks of conformity. In order to enter into such arrangements, you must enter into negotiations. The code goes on to say that with regard to the testing activities of States and the private sector, the Central Government shall use its best efforts to ensure their compliance. Then, finally, with regard to certification systems, the code says that they shall be open, just as we discussed with regard to standards-not creating trade barriers or having the purpose of creating trade barriers--and that certification systems, whether of a national or regional nature, shall grant "access", in other words be open to suppliers from all adherents to the standards code. That's what the U.S. entered into negotiations to get. It goes back to the tripartite agreement. There can be no tripartite agreement under the standards code because you cannot maintain a system that is not, at least, open to everybody who signs the standards code.

There are other provisions to the standards code which involve the treatment of information, technical assistance, and developing countries. An important element of the information provisions, from the U.S. point of view, involves the National Bureau of Standards. The standards code provides for an information network (a flow of information to and from adherents to the code).

The United States must be able to provide standards of the private sector, the State government, and the Federal Government, and must provide rules of certification systems, and post notices of standards and certification activities. And, of course, in order to get the benefit of the standards code, we should have at our fingertips information on foreign national, regional, and international activities. We must be able to have access to all that kind of information--it's two-sided.

Finally, the standards code has a dispute settlement mechanism. That's enforcement. What good is an agreement--we're talking about a document about 50 pages long--what good is a piece of paper like this unless there is some way to put it into effect and to use sanctions when a violation occurs? But how do you do that? How do you enforce a document that deals with technical issues? If it's merely a question of a violation of one of the code provisions: did a country publish a notification or not? That seems to be relatively clear-cut. Same would go for whether a country provided openness in its regional or national certification systems or not? However, standards issues can also be very technical. We had a problem with the Japanese which involved the spraying of our oranges with a chemical to prevent rotting, TBZ. The Japanese said, "I'm sorry, the level of TBZ in the skin of your oranges (which you peel off, of course) is too high for our Japanese standards. We won't permit it." We said, "That's a trade problem. We know Japanese demand for our oranges is high. A glass of fresh orange juice costs $4. You're just using the chemical issue as a way of preventing access to the market." They said, "Absolutely not. This is a health and safety issue." What do you do? That is not a clear-cut case. Is it a health and safety issue or is it not? Where do you go? The standards code dispute settlement mechanism recognizes that there are clear-cut policy issues which violate a clear-cut code obligation, but that there are also technical issues. Thus, the code contains two kinds of dispute settlement mechanisms. Basically, dispute settlement goes like this: You have to complain. If somebody in the United States has a complaint about a French standard (the forklift standard, let's say), they would come to the U.S. Government, which would go to the French Government, and request consultations: let's talk about it, let's sit around a table, let's discuss it on a bilateral basis. That's where resolutions should take place, hopefully. That's the best forum. For arguments sake, though, let's say it doesn't work. We would then say to the French Government that we are going to complain officially under the standards code. We want the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (a body established under the code, with one representative from each signatory) to discuss this issue. The Committee meets; they would establish a panel or technical group depending on the nature of the case. The French might claim for safety reasons they must require air bags in all cars. Although they may claim "safety" - we could still allege their practice to be a trade barrier. Thus, a technical group might meet. The members of the group would not be from any of the countries that are a party to the dispute, and they would be scientists experts in the field who would not be reviewing the case as it pertains to trade, but with regard to any technical factors. The group would make a decision as to whether there was a basis for the claim that safety concerns were involved. Then, they would come up with recommendations. If we, the United States, were not satisfied, we could request a panel--with a policy orientation. We would allege the French practice to be a violation of the code, and might cite the report of the technical group. Ultimately, after a 14-month period (there are very specific deadlines in this process), the Committee could make a final recommendation, including the recommendation that because the French have nullified or impaired U.S. rights under the code, they must either change their procedures or suffer sanctions that the United States would be authorized to take to restore the reciprocal balance of trade that existed before the French took their action. For instance, they didn't let us get into their certification system; we might not let them get into ours--something that would equalize the situation.

I have just described an international legal instrument, representing an executive agreement between the President of the United States and other countries. As authorized under the Constitution, the President may enter into executive agreements. An executive agreement does not become a law of the land of the United States. It, like the Panama Canal Treaty, must either be ratified by the Senate or--and now I get back to the Trade Act of 1974--What the Trade Act said was, "Go ahead, Mr. President, negotiate, for when you come back, we, the Senate and the Congress, will want to pass legislation that will put what you negotiate into effect in the United States." Theoretically, the legislation and the international agreement should be the same. Then there would be consistency between domestic and international obligations. That is indeed the process that went on last spring. We brought back the standards code that was initialed (i.e., put in concrete but not finalized) in April 1979 and then we began to negotiate with the Hill on what the legislation would look like. The legislation is called "The Trade Agreements Act of 1979" (Public Law 96-39). It is not the same as the standards code; these are two different things. The basic difference is that the legislation (1) approves the standards code (an amorphous legal term that no one has defined--"approves the standards code"--it does not make the standards code U.S. law), and (2) with regard to the standards code, the legislation lists the obligations that the United States will fulfill. In essence, the U.S. will fulfill all the obligations. The legislation does not give private persons any rights (at least in the standards code part, Title IV of the Trade Agreement Act of 1979); it gives foreign adherents to the standards code rights. Let me run through that. It says that the United States shall do the following things: With regard to Federal agencies, we shall use appropriate international standards; we shall participate in international standards bodies; we shall base our standards on performance rather than design; and we shall treat imported products fairly. You are a domestic citizen, and you, a citizen of Cleveland, Ohio, want to complain about the government of Cleveland, Ohio: you don't have a right under the standards code. It makes sense. We negotiated standards code with the foreigners; we give foreigners rights under the standards code. If you were a French citizen and you were having problems with a city in Ohio, then you would go to your government and your government would come to the U.S. Government for consultations. Then the procedure that I just talked about--the dispute settlement--takes place.

Title IV of the Trade Agreements Act provides certain unique and badly needed guidelines for Federal Government agencies and for others (State governments and private persons) regarding standardization. It not only includes the basis tenets of the standards code as I've described them and makes them law in the United States, but also creates new offices and new responsibilities. The Office, of the U.S. Trade Representative is responsible for coordinating trade policy regarding the trade aspects of standardization. That was never clear before, but now is. There are two technical offices established under the Trade Agreements Act, one in the Department of Commerce and one in the Department of Agriculture, to help information flow, to provide information on standards and to help exporters get their products accepted in other countries. There is, of importance to the National Bureau of Standards, an information center created to provide information on all those ranges of things that I talked about. And, important to those gathered here, the United States is to use appropriate international standards and to participate in appropriate international standardization bodies. Recognized in the bill, for the first time that I know of in a piece of legislation, is the difference between participation by the United States Government in a treaty organization (the OIML, Alimentarius, NATO, etc.) and participation of the United States in private international standards bodies. Participation in private international standards organizations (for instance the International Electro-Technical Commission (IEC) and the other bodies that develop international standards by the United States is carved out by private persons--member bodies--such as ANSI. This is the first piece of legislation I think that recognizes that (1) the U.S. is represented by private domestic bodies, and (2) there should be a mechanism established for those instances where private bodies are not adequately representing the United States; a procedure for questioning U.S. representation, and requesting the member body to either increase representation or, allow the Department of Commerce to take on the responsibility of representation using the auspices of the private sector member,

because, for example ANSI is the only recognized U.S. member to the ISO and the IEC (as recognized by the ISO and the IEC).

The bill also provides funding for instance in which we must help out and increase U.S. representation; for domestic technical assistance; and, for consultations with the private sector in developing U.S. policy.

Finally, the last step in the implementation of the standards code. The President has issued a reorganization plan, Reorganization Plan Number 3 of 1979, dealing with trade. While all these talks were going on--the MTN talks, and throughout the spring of 1979 when we were implementing the trade agreements--the Congress kept saying we want a Department of Trade. That would have had a very big impact on the Department of Commerce, certainly, the Department of Treasury, State, and Agriculture, and on my Office; People like Senator Ribicoff were saying they wanted a Department of Trade so that the U.S. was actively promoting U.S. trade interests. The compromise reached gives my office as well as the Department of Commerce increased responsibilities. With regard to the standards code, my office is responsible for policy guidance (that's a vague word) that arises as a result of implementation of the standards code. This was a hard fought compromise; USTR can issue policy guidance with regard to matters that affect trade and commodities. Also, USTR is responsible for U.S. participation in the OEDB, UNCTAD, and the GATT--my office has full resposibility for that, recognizing that the Department of Commerce must provide us with technical assistance (the backup work--the main work that goes on). In this reorganization plan you have trade concentrated in the USTR Office and the Department of Commerce. That, as I understand it, went into effect yesterday. We are no longer called the "Special Trade Representative's Office"; but, rather the "Office of the U.S. Trade Representative." We're not special, anymore, and we're not only involved in negotiations.

All of this is to go into effect January 1, 1980. By that point (in about 5 weeks), the United States is to have technical offices, and an information center; we're going to be functioning; we'll be able to handle complaints and disputes.

There could be a significant change from how the U.S. participated in international standards activites in the past and how we will participate in the future, and in our use of international standards as well as in the whole process of standards development, because more and more and more we will be looking towards what is happening elsewhere to see whether standards are relevant for use in the U.S. If they are relevant and appropriate, we should be using them.

NATO OBJECTIVES FOR STANDARDS HARMONIZATION

Mr. Donald Mitchell, Department of Defense

NATO ORGANIZATION

NATO is broadly divided into operational (military) and engineering (civilian) organizations. Standardization within the military side comes under the Military Agency for Standardization (MAS). The MAS is composed of three boards, an Army, Navy, and Air Board. The Chairman of MAS has little direct authority over the boards, but performs administrative functions for all of NATO regarding assignment of NATO STANAG (Standardization Agreement) numbers, and generally keeps track of what goes on.

On the "civilian" side, standardization comes principally under a "Council of National Armament Directors" (CNAD). The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (currently Dr. Perry) is the National Armaments Director for the U.S. Under the CNAD, standardization is carried out by Army/Navy/Air Force armaments groups and "cadre" groups on various generic subjects such as quality, and cataloging. These cadre groups include one on which I serve as U.S. representative -- a group, designated AC/301, on standardization of Assemblies, Components, Spare Parts and Materials (ACSM).

STANDARDIZATION HURDLES

Definitions - Within an organization as large as NATO and having a diverse membership, problems of definition are exacerbated. Nuances of meaning in terms such as harmonization, rationalization, normalization, standardization, simplification, interchangeable, interoperability, identity, compatibility, make communication difficult in the standardization arena.

Orientation - Historically the word standardization is used within NATO in a much broader sense than usual. It relates to standardization of operational procedures such as military tactics and doctrine as well as to complete weapon systems. As a result, the organizational superstructure has developed and is oriented in a manner quite different from that which we think of as standardization within the U.S. This superstructure, in the opinion of many, can act to inhibit good performance in standardization of products and engineering practices.

Organization - The diversity of "standardization" activity within NATO makes coordination and visibility between groups very difficult. This is compounded by the fact that NATO is a "supernational" organization in which participation is voluntary and use of standards is not binding except as a participating nation desires to make it mandatory on himself. This can make effective standardization relatively difficult.

THE AC/301 (ACSM) GROUP

Based on a U.S. recommendation developed in coordination with the U.K., the AC/301 Group was formed in 1977. The concept underlying the group is "bottom-up" rather than "top-down" standardization which has been traditional. In other words, standardizing parts used among many kinds of weapons has real advantage compared with the difficult job of standardization of specific end items, although end item standardization carries with it automatic standardization of components used on those end items. So far, AC/301 has:

1. Authorized new series of NATO standards called AStanPs, for ACSM items and engineering practices.
2. Agreed to adopt International (e.g., ISO and IEC), National, or Military standards in that order of preference, when possible in favor of developing new standards.
3. Initiated major planning studies for:
   - Mechanical items (U.S. task)
   - Electrical/Electronic (U.K. task)
   - Materials (French task)
   - Chemicals (German task)
4. Formed or is forming subgroups in each of these areas to develop standards.
5. Published standards adopting ISO 1000 (AStanP 1) and giving visibility to various drawing practices (AStanP 2), and is nearing completion of a Configuration Management Standard.

FUTURE ACTIVITY

It is hoped that AC/301 activity will lead to major standardization of ACSM items within NATO by publishing perhaps several thousand standards as compared with the present population of approximately 300 in the material area. Activity is presently under way which will consider establishing a permanent office in NATO to help with this task.

CAPABILITIES PRESENTATION - INFORMATION SERVICES FOR EXPORTERS (A slide presentation)

Mr. Rudy Rutelionis, International Marketing Information Handling Services

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Rudy Rutelionis and I represent a company by the name of Information Handling Services, located in Denver, Colorado, USA. I would like to start this meeting by thanking all of you for attending, and for taking the time to be present at this Symposium and demonstration. In order to give you an understanding as to why Information Handling Services was created in 1959 and why it is the world's leader in micropublishing and information systems, we must look at the technical data explosion that is surrounding all of us. If one takes all of the technical information that was created in the history of the world up to 1950... it doubled by 1965. A mere 15 years! By 1975 it had doubled again, and will be doubling again every seven years!!

Information Handling Services was created to organize this wealth of information, and we've been doing this for approximately 20 years. At the present time we have some of the most extensive and sophisticated information libraries in the world. We started by providing specialized data systems for the aerospace-aeroframe industries. Our success allowed us to branch off into the marine engineering field, into the architectural construction field, and into the plant engineering petrochemical field. Our services are now purchased by over 5,000 companies, many international in scope.

One service available is VSMF or Visual Search Microfilm Files sometimes known as vendor specs microfilm files. Another is the U.S. Companies Exporters and Suppliers Services - a comprehensive collection of over 17,000 current manufacturer and distributor catalogs. This represents over 10 million products made or sold in the U.S. covering almost every type of item made.

In addition to the products information, Information Handling Services also has available over 90 per cent of the world's commercial and industrial standards and codes. For example, we are the prime distributor of the standards codes in microfilm for IEC, ISO, BSI, JIS and DIN (Deutsches Institute fur Normung E.V.). Currently, we are looking at distributing several others.

All of the VSMF services dealing with commercial industrial standards, regardless of whether they are domestic or international, are updated on a 60-day basis, and are indexed so that an individual can reference the document by number and also find the document title and its latest revision date. We have a unique index, which we refer to as the VSMF Commercial Industrial Standards Locator Index, which is an optional index that allows an individual to search all standards by subject category. For example, if I wanted to know if there are any commercial or industrial standards that deal with, say, a water tight connector, all I need do is go into one cartridge and very quickly it will tell what standards, if any, have been written about the item. This type of search capability is very, very cost effective and can save a great deal of time for that organization or that individual who needs to know what standards and specifications are pertinent to a particular subject area.

This next slide depicts the broad capabilities of the VSMF services. Through the different modular capabilities or sectionalization of the various VSMF services, and the fact that they cover many different disciplines, it is quite possible that virtually all the technical data requirements of the different departments or organizations within a large organization or company can be met.

In summary, the Visual Search Microfilm Files - VSMF - is a series of technical information retrieval systems containing more than 6 million pages of product specifications, industry standards and codes, test procedures, federal and military specifications and regulations. The data is organized into 106 sub-files which can be configured to meet the needs of a small team of specialists or departments or an entire company's requirements. Each VSMF system comes with a computer generated index and each is updated and reindexed regularly, some as frequently as every 15 days.

Now I'd like to show you a typical data search. As you can see, this is an individual who needs information. He may need military specifications; he may need vendor catalog data; he may even need the latest commercial industrial standards. In any case, he needs to reference data. Often, he first checks a vendor catalog library that looks like this. But more than likely like this. In any case, he has to start finding the information because he has a requirement to do so. These might be all the catalogs that he has found that pertain to that particular product, or they also might represent the updates that have yet to be placed into the catalogs that are on his shelf. But as invariably happens, frustration sets in.

What you're looking at on this screen is the IHS alternative to this time-consuming and often frustrating hard copy data search. It represents one of the most advanced technical information retrieval systems available. In the event that this same engineer had the VSMF information systems available to him all he would have to do is go to the data station as pictured up on the screen, reference the information, select a cartridge, and insert it into a viewer. At this point he can either view the information or extract it directly off the film. Receiving a high resolution dry copy in a matter of seconds. The entire search for the latest information takes from 5 to 6 minutes as opposed to a hard-copy catalog product search of 45 to 50 minutes. Our first step in creating the systems we've seen is to go out and acquire the technical information. Once the information is received, coding engineers (approximate 30) review it to make sure it fits the programs and systems that we have. Then the information is indexed for storage in a computer and for use in the information systems. Ultimately, the final user will have ready access to the data and be able to retrieve it in a timely manner.

As you can see from this slide, Information Handling Services utilizes some of the most sophisticated computer equipment available to create the systems, and to merge the two technologies, microfilm and computer, for the indexing and sorting of information. Once the information has been coded, indexed and entered in the computer, it is then filmed. We utilize different types of systems and programs. Once the film has been created, it is duplicated, and loaded into cartridges. This represents one of the finished products.

And these are several of the microfilms that we create. For example, in the upper left hand corner is the cartridge, in the upper right hand corner there is a satellite cassette type cartridge for film, and in the lower position is microfiche. In addition to these formats, we also publish in paper, in ultrafiche and any other type of media that we feel is the cost effective way to disseminate the data. As mentioned earlier, what we've done is merged two technologies, computer and microfilm, into what is called micropublishing. The computer does the indexing, and the sorting for us; the microfilm represents the dissemination of the data and the storage of the data. Although Information Handling Services processes over 45000 kilometers a year, we do not consider ourselves microfilm people. What we do consider ourselves to be is an information company. If there were to be developed tomorrow a better method, a more economical method, a quicker turnaround type method of disseminating the data that we are working with, we would use it immediately. We are not locked into microfilm in any way, although I'm sure it will always be an ongoing method of data dissemination. But we look at ourselves as being on the threshold of new, more fascinating and interesting ways of disseminating technical information to our users. Thank you.

PROVIDING INFORMATION SERVICES TO EXPORTERS

Mr. Brian Roden, British Standards Institute

Selling a product overseas demands the successful coordination and solution of many problems if it is to be profitable - analysis of the market and of the competition, decision on the advertising budget linked with the desired penetration of the market choice of an agent, and by no means least, investigation of the technical requirements demanded by the target country and the customer.

Technical requirements are often overlooked, since many orders are placed by foreign customers who assume that the manufacturer will conform to the technical requirements of his country, even when there is no specific statement in the contract. Another cause of problem is the lack of liaison (or is it education?) between sales and production teams. When the export salesman has no knowledge of local standards and regulations, he may be signing up an order that his production manager may not be able to meet.

THE GENERAL PROBLEMS - There are thus general problems around the world caused by technical requirements which all exporters will meet:

1. The laws of the land	- safety and health of workers is the current fashion and one which is likely to last longer than most; consumer protection is also high on many countries' lists; environmental protection makes the headlines less often now in many parts of the world, although in the USA and Japan it is still fairly high up the list.
2. National standards and codes of practice	- there are about ¼ million in the world and most are different engineering histories and philosophies, climate conditions, customs and idealogies, and sometimes deliberate differences to keep out the competition.
3. Certification and approval	- usually demanding testing and inspection in each country.
4. Customer requirements	- surprisingly often overlooked.

THE SOLUTION - Having recognized the problems, a company has two main choices in finding solutions:

1. Self-help	- allocation of a man or men to the task of digging out the information and applying it to company's products.
2. T-H-E	- the use of a specialist, consultant organization, to do at least the preliminary work.

T-H-E can be thought of as operating at 3 levels:

Identification. Of regulations, national standards, other (e.g. trade association) standards, etc.

Supply. A list of documents is a beginning but the next stage is to have the documents - and to have them in a language the company can work in. The latter had led on to the development of an extensive translation service.

Interpretation. Having got the documents, what do they mean? The transfer of information from paper to metal via the brain. Here THE engineers have both a number of years experience as well as answering a large number of similar questions. Also, they travel to discuss with the foreign, approval and inspection organizations, and to organize conferences where speakers from these organizations come to elaborate on these documents.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO COMPANIES IN THE USA

These are outlined in the leaflet "Technical Help to Exporters" and operated in the USA through the National Technical Information Service.

Further information is always available from David Grooms at NTIS or myself at T-H-E. For the price of a letter, telex or phone call, why not find out whether you have a problem and how much it will cost you for us to solve it?

TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE BY PROVIDING RAPID ACCESS TO RELIABLE INFORMATION

Mr. Jerry Lieblich, Global Engineering Documentation Services, Inc.

It is indeed an honor to be standing here with such an illustrious group of people concerned with the preparation and dissemination of specifications and standards. To be chosen by NBS to serve on a panel of this stature is like being chosen by the greatest one of all and told to report to heaven.

Quoting from the announcement that each of you received which tempted you to leave your offices and attend this symposium, are the words "to promote international trade by providing rapid access to reliable information." Except for the word international, those words gave birth to Global Engineering Documentation Services, Inc. However, the word "international" has crept into our business more and more each year.

Let's review for a moment who is Global and why I am here. Going back to the year 1962, I was with Aerojet-General in Azusa, California which was well entrenched in government contracts with almost every branch of the armed services, the space program and assorted amounts of commercial products (all of which relied heavily on specifications and standards, both government and industry). It therefore, is understandable that Aerojet had the largest and best Specifications and Standards Library on the West Coast. In fact, better than that, it was all in one place and not scattered among the many sources that the documents came from. I was fortunate enough to serve as the Chief Specifications and Standards Engineer for the corporation and responsible for seeing to it that the library had what was needed when it was needed as well as promoting the use of published specifications and standards within the corporation.

The pursuing years found the aerospace business in decline and the library found itself with a need for a huge budget to keep it current and personnel to run it. And as all companies must do, when overhead gets too heavy, cuts had to be made. A study was conducted by myself which led to the discovery that only 10 per cent of the library was used at any one time and the other 90 per cent lay there waiting for a new bid or contract to use it. Thus the cost of keeping the 90 per cent current was too much to support during a declining market.

My recommendation was that Aerojet dispose of the maintenance of the library by setting up a separate company to maintain the library, and then charge to overhead the 10 per cent information Aerojet needed, and make available publicly for sale the same services to support the remaining 90 per cent of the cost of running the library. Another alternative to the problem would be to sell the total library to a commercial company and buy back the material on an "as needed basis" without the cost of keeping it current.

My recommendation went over like a lead balloon and along with many other engineers at the time, I left Aerojet for other endeavors. About three years later Aerojet contacted me after reviewing my proposal again and wanted advice on how to go about it.

It was then I felt that I would like to take on the project; I proceeded to find a backer in Newport Beach, California to purchase the Specifications and Standards Library from Aerojet and to follow the formula of selling back the information to Aerojet, and to anyone else we could interest in the service. I became President and General Manager of operations.

The next few years were spent trying to prove it was cheaper and more efficient to pay for copies of specifications and standards delivered the next day than to get them free from the government two to six weeks later.

The library was 95 per cent Aerospace oriented at the beginning, and over the years sales now stand at 30 per cent Aerospace and 70 per cent industry specifications and standards. All of which proves it takes just as long to get industry specifications as it does to get government ones.

The general concept has several proven advantages which I shall briefly list.

1. The cost of a specification or standard is small compared to the time lost in the preparation of "request for quote", or the compliance with a published specification or standard. A $5 specification delivered the next day is compared to a free specification delivered 2 to 4 weeks later after the bid has passed. The hourly rate of pay plus overhead for an engineer over a period of 80 to 160 hours without the information needed could exceed over $2,000 of wasted time.

2. Documents from over 2,000 sources are located under one roof thus the need for ten documents coming from ten different sources requires ten purchase orders, ten checks, and ten delivery dates. One order, one check, and normally one delivery (24 hours later) accomplishes the whole thing. Also, the larger the company, the cost of cutting a purchase order and a check often exceeds $35 each and often two to three times the cost of the specification or standard being purchased.

3. The availability of a research department to seek out those ambiguous initials that are difficult to identify and locate their source.

4. The opportunity to avail yourself of a computerized update service to stay current.

5. Specification Tree Service provides all applicable documents to any tier with only one request. To illustrate, use DOD-D-1000 which is the Grandaddy on what is required to prepare an engineering drawing for a government military contract. This tier one specification lists applicable documents which are needed in support of DOD-D-1000 and are recognized as tier two. In turn these tier two documents list their applicable documents and are recognized as tier three and so on. Would you believe that DOD-D-1000 to the seventh tier will call for 84,000 applicable support documents of which 25,000 are in duplication of callouts. If you were to go the normal route, through normal channels of ordering from the source, it would take 2 to 6 weeks to get tier one DOD-D-1000, 2 to 6 weeks to get the documents from tier two, and so on. In short, it could take you 6 months to a year to assemble the information needed to bid on a contract for which you have 3 to 4 weeks to respond.

So far I've told you who we are and what we do, which establishes the base for how we, as a commercial company, promote the use of specifications and standards both national and international. To begin with, Global was established by engineers and not librarians. As engineers with more than 20 years experience in the design proposal area of a company, we were well aware of the problems and delay in getting the information required during the "request of bid" cycle and later the building delivery cycles that followed.

The general feeling by most people in engineering when they were approached by myself to finance the Global concept was "Who would pay for specifications and standards from the government that were free for the asking and pay as much as double the price for industry documents that were generally copyrighted with no reproduction privileges." No one did come forward so it was a commercial building company that was looking to diversify that finally took the gamble to start Global.

On July 5, 1968, the Aerojet library thus became the beginning of Global and the years that followed were spent convincing industry to buy what was free and pay a premium for other material. When the library started it was 95 per cent government and the balance industry.

In 1974 I became President and my wife Vice President; we acquired Global and changed directions. Today it is 30 per cent government and 70 per cent industry.

Over half of the inquiries to Global (either by phone or mail) are requesting help in assisting them on what they need to perform in the design, manufacture, or shipment of their products.

They are asking if such a specification or standard already exists to perform a situation before they take off on their own to create their own internal design or company specification or standard.

Recently we received a request from NBS for all the specifications we could find on the rotating (bubble gum) light used on emergency vehicles. After researching our files we came up with about 12 inches thick of documents from both government and industry sources ranging from police vehicles to off-road farm tractors, which used such equipment. I asked the requestor why he came to Global when almost all these documents were located within his own files across town at GPO or within the industry association located on the East Coast. His answer was "From you I can get them overnight, from the source it will take 6 weeks."

As more and more equipment is being exported or imported and must comply to the specifications and standards of the using country, the problem of getting copies of foreign specifications and standards and the U.S. specifications and standards overseas has more than doubled the time of getting the documents when needed. We have established agents in the key countries in which the need for one another's documents exist. We use telex communication between each of our facilities to expedite price and availability. Due to the time differential we are shipping 8 to 12 hours prior to the order being received and of course the reverse is true or a loss of a single day is encountered when material is shipped to us. Again our telex is filled with research-type questions to determine what is needed prior to the actual order.

Four months ago we installed our second computer replacing an earlier, smaller one used for accounting purposes. The new one will take over a year to load the over one-half million titles, numbers, revision status, customer update services, and price information which will give us rapid access to the information needed for inquiries. In addition we will be able to generate a master index similar to the Department of Defense Index of Specifications and Standards (DODISS) with the added material from Army, Navy, Air Force, NASA, GPO, FAA, etc., and the major copyrighted industry documents together with the price and availability from Global. I envision this index will be three to four volumes, 3 inches thick, for each the numerical and alphabetical versions. It will represent the most common or most popular documents from each source and be maintained by Global as a stock item.

Our computer capability will parallel the already popular on-line data bank systems such as Lockheed's dialogue and SFC's Orbit. The prime difference is when the information you are seeking becomes known, the buck doesn't stop there, or the search for the document source and its delivery begins. With our system, when the information is known, it is shipped the same day.

While it is true we can't be everything to everyone requesting our help and delivery of the documents requested, we still are able to achieve better than 90 per cent response and the material is deliverable the same day the search for it began.

Interesting enough our research department has had some exciting projects, one of which was rather unique in the way it came about. Rockwell International Space Division in Downey, California was in the design stages of the Space Shuttle program. They were in the process of reviewing and evaluating the specifications and standards required by NASA. I was called in to determine the availability and cost of obtaining the documents expediently for their response. I noticed that construction was needed for a men's room partition on the base and cited a NASA specification which would apply to a space vehicle. I made the comment that the Florida State Building Code could accomplish that at considerably less cost. I was awarded a contract to review all other specifications and to select the specification to fit the application. A prime example is that there are approximately 65 clean room specifications from a broom swept floor to an ultra clean vacuum atmosphere and all necessary to match the proper allocation. This action did much to reduce the often made accusation of NASA for gold plating

everything. It helped to achieve the distinction of selecting the proper specification to fit the application.

It took Aerojet-General 26 years to assemble the basic government library and Global another 10 years to assemble the technical and trade societies under one roof. The government is making it exceedingly more difficult to keep our files current with the addition of more rules and regulations for obtaining new and revised specifications and standards. The Freedom of Information Act helped for awhile but little by little, bureaucracy has taken hold to slow down the already bogged down methods of getting an acknowledgement when a simple inquiry is made for the availability of a document needed for a request for bid.

It is no wonder that more and more qualified manufacturers each year drop out of the ranks of government bidders.

If the government sources either won't or can't fill the needs of qualified manufacturer's need for published government specifications and standards, then they should relinquish their hold on this valuable information to qualified commercial firms to do the job. The U.S. Post Office has permitted commercial firms such as United Parcel Service (UPS) to move package mail and is now considering permitting letter mail to be delivered by commercial firms other than the post office. Then why not allow qualified firms to be permitted to buy available unclassified specifications and standards from government agencies. These same specifications and standards should be made available to those vendors of information such as Global when requested and at a price reasonable to recover expenses. These same information vendors can then competitively provide these documents to the information hungry manufacturers both here and abroad to provide better and more realistic quotes to the same organizations that make it so difficult to respond to their own "request for quote."

And that Ladies and Gentlemen is how I would, "promote international trade by providing rapid access to reliable information."

STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS - THE INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION

Mr. E. J. French, International Organization for Standardization, Secretary for INFCO*

1. A Few Words About ISO - ISO (the International Organisation for Standardization) is the specialized international agency for standardization. The membership of ISO comprises the national standards bodies of 86 countries with one member per country. The ISO member body for the United States of America is ANSI, co-sponsor with the NBS of the present symposium.

ISO publishes International Standards designed to facilitate the international exchange of goods and services and to aid other forms of human activity. An example is the standardization of test methods so that results obtained in different laboratories, or in different countries, are comparable. Other types of International Standards deal with safety, environmental protection, information transfer and many other subjects on international interest. There is a growing demand for international product standards from members of ISO and a stronger effort in this direction is likely in the future. Each ISO standard is the result of cooperation between groups and experts drawn from many countries. It represents an international agreement between the ISO member bodies. On an average two such agreements are reached each working day.

The organizational structure of ISO, including lists of the ISO member bodies and the 157 technical committees are described elsewhere.[1] The full list of ISO is published in the ISO Catalogue[2] which is updated by quarterly catalogue supplements. All ISO publications are available in the USA from ANSI.

Although the main stream of ISO activity is directed towards the formulation and publication of International Standards there are also a number of other very important activities designed to ensure that the standards are known and used. ISO and its member bodies realize that a standard is useless unless it is implemented and for it to be implemented people must know about it. Hence we have a need for international information systems. Also, to be useful a standard must be respected. The public must come to realize that goods or services which conform to a standard are reliable and that is why many countries have introduced certification systems under which a product may be certified as conforming to a particular standard or set of standards by the award of a standards mark by the national standards body. Permission to use a standards mark is normally subject to periodic inspection of the product concerned, and may be withdrawn if the product fails to reach the standard. The USA does not have a national certification system although there are of course many governmental, engineering society, trade association, independent testing laboratory, independent foundation and company certification programmes. (The National Bureau of Standards has information on many such schemes.) It is important nevertheless for the American exporter or importer to know about national certification in other countries and ISO has collected together information about the standards marks used in 45 countries, the associated testing and inspection conditions, and the penalties which apply in case of abuse. The publication[3] includes information also on four transnational marks.

Other activities of ISO are directed towards the protection of consumers, assistance to developing countries, questions concerning reference materials and of course the study of the principles of standardization. Any national member body of ISO is entitled to take part in any or all of these activities and ANSI in fact takes part in all of them. Any ISO member body may take part in the work of any or all of the many International Standards and ANSI participates actively in nearly all of this work. Any organization can encourage and influence national and international standardization by supporting its national standards body

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*The ISO Standing Committee for the study of scientific and technical information on standardization.

and taking part in its activities. It is important for your voice to be heard in ISO since national standards in many countries are more and more coming to be based upon International Standards. Hence your interests as a nation, as organizations or individuals within a country or perhaps as multi-national organizations or companies are very much involved.

But for all this the key is information, and the main purpose of this paper is to show you what ISO is trying to do to ensure that everyone has the information he needs about standards and similar documents. But first a few more words on who needs information and why.

2. Who needs information about standards and why? - First of all, anyone concerned with the writing of standards or regulations needs information. He needs to know whether the subject or a similar subject has already been studied elsewhere. This will help him to avoid contradictions and repetitions and will also save time and money at the drafting stage. This consideration applies to all the 400 or so standards-writing bodies active in the USA.

A standards body also needs to provide information to others if it wishes to sell its standards or to ensure they are applied. An efficient information service is of great benefit to the reputation of a standards body and can be a significant factor in securing increasing support for its activities.

Then government departments, as important purchasers, sponsors of projects of various types and in the course of their specialized duties, have a need for information on standards very similar to that of any large organization. However, governments have national and international responsibilities which create a special need to know about standards and related documents. First there is the principle of reference to standards which can simplify and accelerate legislative work. So that advantage may be taken in this way of existing and future standards, it is important for governments to be made and kept aware of relevant standards and work in progress. The principle of reference to standards is also available to intergovernmental organizations and as far as ISO and IEC standards are concerned it is described in a joint document[4] issued by these two organizations. Governmental recognition of this "need to know" is apparent from moves within a number of international organizations, notably the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), to establish in each country a focal point for information about standards technical regulations. A national standards organization would appear to be the natural place to locate such a focal point in most cases.

Industry, especially exporting industry, needs to know about standards and technical regulations affecting the acceptability of products and services in various markets and their delivery to the markets. If a national standards information centre is to respond to these important requirements it must extend its range to include International Standards, codes and agreements, technical regulations and similar documents operating in foreign countries. For this purpose special information services have been set up by some ISO member bodies, such as the NORFX system in France, the Technical Help to Exporters (THE) service in Britian and a number of privately operated services in the USA. Other speakers are concerned with the details of such services, but consider the possible effects if every country tried to set up a national service of this type on its own. The proliferation of such services, each gathering its own information from every source, would result in an increasing reluctance on the part of the sources to provide the information, because of the duplication of work involved for them (and of course for all concerned). The alternative is the concept of ISONET which will be presented later in more detail.

Information services themselves need regular and up-to-date information about standards. It is important for a standards-writing body to ensure that its standards are included with the other literature in the many general and specialized, national and international information systems. They provide an invaluable communication link with the potential user.

3. What is ISO doing about it? - The importance of ensuring the universal availability of information about standards has long been realized by ISO. In 1969 ISO Council decided to form a "Standards Committee for the study of scientific and technical information on standardization", to be known as INFCO and reporting directly to Council. The present Chairman of INFCO, Mr. Edward Kierski, is one of your speakers here today. The terms of reference of INFCO are at present defined in the following way:

"To assist the development of the information centres on standardization of the ISO Central Secretariat and the ISO Member Bodies and of the links between them and so to establish an ISO information network:

- by recommending common systems for classifying and indexing standards and related information and for processing the information,

- by encouraging the use of International Standards in the working of individual information centres and of the network as a whole,

- by stimulating the exchange of knowledge and experience between the centres and encouraging the training of information personnel.

· To appraise the programme of the ISO Information Centre

· To foster profitable relationships with other international information networks

· To advise council on these and other matters related to the compilation, storage, retrieval, application and dissemination of scientific and technical information on standardization."

The eleventh meeting of INFCO was held in Geneva on 11th and 12th September 1979 and the standards bodies of 30 countries were represented. ANSI was most competently represented by Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher and Mr. Charles B. Phucas, both speakers in the present symposium. At that meeting INFCO agreed upon a Constitution for ISONET and upon the conditions for the three types of membership, about which more will be said later.

The conditions were all approved or endorsed by ISO Council which met the next day. Since the Constitution provides for INFCO to become the General Assembly of ISONET some revision of these terms or reference may now be necessary and this is being studied.

4. What is ISONET? - In almost every country there is a national standards organization, as represented by the ISO member body. Every one of these organizations is called upon to provide information about the standards of its own country and more frequently about foreign and international standards. Hence the organization is forced to support some sort of information activity to meet this demand and to cooperate in the exchange of information with similar organizations in other countries. At present information is exchanged between centres mainly by the physical exchange of documents. ISO member bodies send each other copies of the standards they publish, of standards catalogues and other useful reference materials; the ISO Information Centre is included in this exchange scheme and so, of course is ANSI.

Hence ISONET already has much to offer, with a chain of national standards information centres already existing across the World to serve national needs and the ISO Information Centre in Geneva to serve the needs of the international organizations. In principle, each of these centres has a collection of national, international and foreign standards available for consultation or purchase. In the USA you are particularly fortunate in the close cooperation which exists between your many standards-writing bodies and ANSI and of course between ANSI and the NBS as evidenced by the present symposium. This cooperation ensures that information is readily available to you about both American and foreign standards and should go a

long way towards guaranteeing the future of ISONET as far as American participation is concerned. It must be admitted, however, that national standards information centres vary enormously in efficiency, capabilities and resources. Cooperative efforts within INFCO are designed to help to raise the general level. There are other disadvantages; the exchange of actual documents on a routine basis is expensive, especially with rising postal charges, and it can be wasteful. Also the collections in most centres are confined to standards published by national standards organizations, although several bodies have extended their collections to include other types of technical regulations. Although there is much to offer even now, there is considerable room for improvement. ISONET is designed to develop the existing network so as to provide improved services, eliminating waste and duplication of effort wherever possible.

The basic idea behind ISONET is that each national member shall accept the responsibility for providing information about standardizing activities in its own country. Each should aim to become the focal point for information about all kinds of technical requirements operative in the country concerned. You have heard from another speaker about the GATT Standards Code and U.S. plans for its implementation; clearly ISONET and GATT are moving in the same direction. In some countries the GATT focal point will be the ISONET national member, in others it may be located elsewhere, but it is to everyone's advantage if they can work very closely together in harmony and certainly not as rivals. Any idea of establishing a monopoly in information about standardizing documents would be contrary to the spirit of ISONET.

5. Who are the members of ISONET? - There are three classes of ISONET member. There is first of all the national member of ISONET which is either the ISO member in the country concerned or a body appointed by the ISO member. A national member if it so wishes may be aided by associate members which act under the sponsorship of the national member. The national member in any country is responsible for determining the privileges and responsibilities of any associate members which it may wish to appoint.

The third type of member is the international affiliate, defined as any international organization which has joined ISONET by invitation of the Secretary General of ISO.

At present there are no associate or international affiliates, but national members of ISONET for 35 countries have already been appointed. To take account of the wide differences between the standards bodies in different countries, INFCO has defined three types of national member and each country is free to decide for itself whether it wishes to operate as a type 1, 2 or type 3 member. The conditions for participation in ISONET as a national member are given in the appendix.

6. Exchanges between members of ISONET - From these conditions it will be seen that the ISONET concept goes even beyond the requirements of the GATT standards code. When ISONET is functioning fully each country will have an enquiry point capable of providing information about standards and technical regulations operating anywhere in the world. The members of ISONET agree to help each other by exchanging the information necessary to achieve this end.

At first the information is likely to be exchanged in the form of documents, as at present, and by letter of telex in response to specific enquiries, but technical working groups within INFCO have prepared an ISONET Indexing Manual and an ISONET Thesaurus designed to aid the exchange of information in machine readable form between centres. Already some centres are operating experimental exchanges of this type on a bilateral basis.

Hence, in the future, it will be possible for any centre to establish a selective data bank as a basis for the information services it wishes to offer. The Thesaurus and Manual are designed as tools for information exchange between centres, regardless of language. but might also become the basis for on-line services to be offered nationally.

7. Conclusion - In conclusion I should like to quote the objectives of ISONET, as stated in its Constitution:

"The objectives of ISONET shall be:

- to promote closer cooperation among its members on questions of information

- to aid the transfer of technology for development

- to reduce technical barriers of technology for development

- to reduce technical barriers to trade

- to encourage coordination on standardization and implementation of standards

by promoting the flow of information on standards, technical specifications and related matters"

Hence anything which encourages the flow of information on standards is acceptable to ISONET but any measures which tend to restrict information are contrary to the spirit of ISONET - and we believe contrary to the best interests of all of us.

We hope that all present here today will return home resolved to give ANSI and the NBS the maximum possible support and encouragement so that the USA may play a leading role in this ambitious and important project.

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1 ISO Memento 1979, ISO Geneva
2 ISO Catalogue 1979, ISO Geneva
3 Standards Marks, ISO Geneva, 1976
4 ISO/IEC Code of Principles on Reference to Standards, ISO Geneva

STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL REGULATIONS - THE INFORMATION PROBLEM

Mr. Edward Kierski, General Secretary of Polski Komitet Normalizacji i Miar, Chair of INFCO*

Over 4,000 ISO standards, 1,000 IEC recommendations, 6,000 COMECON standards and recommendations and about 5,000 other standards and regulations, established by 70 different international organizations, over 200,000 national standards and just as many various national and governmental technical regulations together constitute an up-to-date picture of the quantitative achievement of world standardization. Of course one should add to this many plant standards beyond any formal registration and control.

Eli Whitney, the father of standardization, and Henry Ford, its greatest precursor, would never have expected such an explosion of their ideas. However, what they really hoped and promised to the world and what was in fact realized, were the benefits which standardization offers to the national and international economy, to each producer and consumer as well.

The world wide transfer of technology, the improvement of the quality of goods, effective protection of the environment and of course, the more rational use of materials and energy - these are some undeniable advantages of contemporary standardization.

Thus it is evident that the development of international trade and technical cooperation demands a corresponding increase in the quantity and quality of information services, especially those concerning national, foreign and international standards and technical specifications. Domestic producers and trade enterprises need more than their own national standards and technical regulations when promoting the export of goods or technologies. They usually demand prompt, complete and often sophisticated information. Besides this, standards technical committees are indispensable for their everyday work of establishing new standards. These problems are getting more important everyday, because of the continual increase in international relations in all fields of human activity.

Let us recall the three fundamental problems today affecting world economy:

the first is the need for rational use of materials and energy when we stand face to face with the difficulties caused by diminishing resources on the one side and the growth of human needs on the other;

the second is the development of quality of goods to correspond better to the increasing requirements of consumers;

and the third is the protection of the human and natural environment against the menace of industrialization and technical progress.

Those problems have a simultaneous impact and national and international standardization should be used as much as possible for their solution.

- It is obvious that standards should be based upon the highest level of scientific and practical achievement. Such standards, besides their practical value for the national economy, may play the role of an engine pushing forward world economy, as a whole, and especially the economy of developing countries. They should also accelerate international trade and cooperation in various fields.

Here are some figures to emphasize their importance for the export and import of goods. According to statistics world exports which in 1938 reached a level of 21 million dollars, grew rapidly after the second World War to 128 million dollars in 1960 and then to 1,122 million dollars in 1977.

*the ISO Standing committee for the study of scientific and technical information on standardization

In the USA export grew from a value of about $20 million in 1960 to $119 million in 1977. Besides this some essential changes of the pattern of export and import have occurred in the USA during the last 10 years; the export of machinery has increased from 34 per cent to 43 per cent of the total, and in the same period the export of raw materials has decreased from 15 per cent to 10 per cent. The import of raw materials decreased 21 per cent to 6 per cent and the import of food stuffs from 22 per cent to 9.8 per cent of the total imports of the USA.

The USA share of total world exports is 10 per cent and of imports 13 per cent.

The significant increase of international trade relations and the changes in the structure of export and import are to be noticed everywhere. This movement is simultaneously accompanied by various non-trade international relations and agreements, among others also in the field of standardization.

Today it is unquestioned that effective technical cooperation or the exchange of goods can be achieved only when the national or governmental rules are fully respected by the partners. Any deviation from existing technical regulations may automatically cause economic or technical failures. This is of especially great importance in the export or import of goods which are under the protection and control of the state, like foodstuffs, electrotechnical equipment, etc.

This is the reason why in the last few years manufacturers and trading companies have been demanding, on such a large scale, technical information, especially on standards and other standardizing agreements.

Surveys by several standards information centres conclude that the demands for information concern - besides their own national standards and technical regulations - International Standards and the standards and technical specifications of the most developed countries. Enterprises are at the same time in favour of selective and more sophisticated bibliographic or factographic information, concerning all existing technical regulations, which contain parameters as to the quality of products, methods of testing, etc., which are indispensable for their decisions. Without such prompt and complete information, attempts to promote the export of goods or know-how might be unsuccessful.

For example, in Japan over a ten-year period the exporters of steel and ferrous metals asked the national standards information centre about the following types of standards. The number of enquiries concerning each type are shown as percentages of the total number of enquiries. ASTM standards: 18 per cent, British standards: 10 per cent, DIN standards: 9 per cent and ANSI standards: 7 per cent. In the same period the exporters of machinery asked for ISO standards: 12.5 per cent, ASME standards: 11 per cent, ANSI standards: 10 per cent and DIN standards: 8 per cent.

The Polish Information Centre has noticed recently the interest of industry and trade in the following standards:

for machinery - 33 per cent DIN standards, 15 per cent GOST standards, 5 per cent ANSI standards and
for chemistry - 30 per cent DIN standards, 14 per cent GOST standards, 5 per cent ANSI standards and 2.5 per cent British standards.

Of course the structure of inquiries on foreign standards depends in each country on the economic and technical orientation and can always change according to the economic situation or business outlook. This means that information must be easily accessible and open to all, anytime and anywhere. That is why the existing methods of international exchange of information on standards and similar documents, based mostly on copies of standards or catalogues of standards, should be supplemented or even replaced as soon as possible by more convenient and more effective methods of preparation and retrieval of information concerning national and international standards and similar technical regulations. This leads in the same direction as the requirements of the so-called GATT Standards Code* and is the reason why ISO has established the information exchange, known as ISONET.

*Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade GATT, 12 April 1979, Geneva.

STATEMENT - PRESENTED BEFORE THE SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS INFORMATION AND ISONET

Mr. Curt Mohr, DIN- Deutsches Institute für Normung

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to attend the Symposium and to present a short contribution as an ISONET member coming from a Western Europe country.

Recently, at Vienna a big United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development took place. At that Conference it was stated that in only six countries - the USA, the USSR, Japan, France, Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany - 70 per cent of all scientists work who are available in the world for research and development, and that these six countries give out 85 per cent of the money which is spent in the world for research and development.

You all know that a great deal of know-how and state-of-the-art is represented by the technical standards of a country. It is, therefore, a must especially for the high-industrialized countries to facilitate the access to their standards and the knowledge contained therein, in order

- to remove barriers to trade and
- to assist technology transfer.

DIN - The German Standards Institute

I am working with DIN, the German Standards Institute. It is a private organization recognized by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany as the standards-writing organization in the country.

DIN is now 62 years old, as ANSI is. The headquarters is in Berlin since its creation in 1917. DIN procedures are very similar to those of ANSI:

We publish all standards projects in our monthly bulletin; we invite all interested parties - domestic and from abroad - to take part in the work; we publish the drafts and invite those who comment, to join the further consideration; and, we have an appeal procedure.

About 700 people work full time for the organization, and we count that 40,000 experts sit in the 2,000 committees of DIN. At present, about 23,000 DIN standards and drafts are valid. Many of them, especially the most modern ones, transfer results of the international standardization done by ISO and IEC, into the national field.

German Information Centre on Technical Rules (DITR)

23,000 standards - that is too much to give the user only a catalogue to find out what he needs. DIN, therefore, stored the information of its standards into a data bank. To this aim, DIN owns a computer with 1 megabyte capacity of its main storage. The data bank on DIN standards allows not only to prepare automatically the yearbook and an accumulated supplement each month but also answers to individual questions which are mainly application-oriented. Research in this data bank is also possible from remote data terminals.

In running such an information service we have learned that it is not sufficient to tell the user which DIN standards are available for his aim. The user wants to know whether there is any rule which he has to or should observe. Of special interest to him is, of course, whether technical regulations of the government exist in his case e.g. for personal safety or energy conservation.

We made an investigation on how many technical rules exist in the Federal Republic - technical rules - that means recommendations of different associations, DIN standards. . . up to technical regulations of different authorities. Now, the number is greater than 40,000 which DIN standards are the half of. Recently, we made the next step from the existing DIN standards data base to one which will include all technical rules which are valid in our country.

Starting this month, with the financial support of the Federal Government, DIN is building up a German Information Centre on Technical Rules (DITR) in Berlin. We hope to be able in the next five years to input all national technical rules into a new data base. We know that for a qualified information service the computer is only a help. We also need assistance and expertise from standards engineers. The whole technical staff of DIN is, therefore, considered as part of the system. Our Information Centre is prepared to fulfill the obligations of the GATT Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade concerning information on technical rules.

DITR and ISONET

Our information system, again, is considered as part of ISONET, the worldwide information network on standards. Why? The main reason is an economic one. It costs a lot to elaborate qualified information about our national technical rules. We concentrate ourselves on this activity and we hope that many other countries will do a similar job so that we may exchange information.

Two years ago we have found that the ISO members together have approximately 200,000 standards. In the Federal Republic of Germany the some 20,000 DIN standards are supplemented by more than 20,000 additional documents, e.g. technical regulations. If the same ratio is applicable to all countries, ISONET has to deal with 400,000 documents. Presumably, the actual figure is considerably higher.

This is not much compared with millions of patents. The frequent amendments and revisions of technical rules are the particularity.

At least within five years an ISO standard as well as an ANSI standard as well as a DIN standard should be reviewed - maybe not 20 per cent but 15 per cent of all standards will be reissued every year in the future - that means 60,000 out of 400,000 documents. And each of the revised or amended documents is connected with others. If the average number of affected documents is three or four, the data records of half of all the stored documents would have to be altered every year!

Therefore, we believe in ISONET because we hope that by parallel activities the work will be shared, at least in the most important countries which are from our view: the USA, France and Great Britain.

The conditions and rules for an information exchange have been or are established by the ISO Committee INFCO for ISONET. Without mutually agreed rules an information exchange is not possible. Among the rules the coming ISONET Thesaurus is an important tool for an international information interchange.

We in DIN started our data bank work in assigning free keywords to each standard. Now, we have about 100,000 keywords in the computer but you would never find the relevant standard if you look for "subway" and the standard has been stored with the keyword "underground".

So it is better to have a structured and controlled vocabulary called a thesaurus. In international information exchange a thesaurus has the bid advantage, too, that the same keyword can be given in several languages. Today, you are forced to direct questions to the DIN data bank in German. With the ISONET Thesaurus you can formulate your questions in English, the computer will translate them into German - and otherwise round. The titles of our standards are stored already in English as well as in German but not the keywords.

There is no other possibility for an worldwide information interchange on standards. We cannot believe that all countries will store in English their own standards information which is primarily needed for national use. Here, I see a big difference against scientific data bases.

On the other hand we must be aware the use of an ISONET Thesaurus is a long-range program. Before DIN begins the reindexing of all its standards it must be sure that the Thesaurus is workable. We are, however, prepared to prove the Thesaurus and if it is a good one, to introduce it in our work, step by step.

Important is that we - and I am convinced this will include the USA - work close together now to this end because a delay will in no way shorten the implementation period. ISONET is in the interest of all trading countries but needs big efforts on all sides.

PRESENTATION ON THE STANDARDS COUNCIL OF CANADA AND THEIR ROLE IN INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Mr. Albert A. Tunis, Standards Council of Canada

The Standards Council of Canada is a cooperation established by Act of Parliament in 1960 to foster and promote voluntary standardization in Canada. Although financed by Parliament appropriations, it is independent with respect to its policies and programs activities. The Council itself is composed of 57 members, 41 representing a cross-section of private interests (national industrial, professional, labor, consumer interests and standards organizations), 6 from the public service (federal) and 10 members appointed by the provincial governments. It is this body that sponsors and approves the development and implementation of policies respecting voluntary standardization, testing and certification of conformity with voluntary standards, and is responsible for coordinating these activities in Canada.

The structure within which the Council carries out its responsibilities under the Act is known as the National Standards System. Today, the System consists of a federation embracing five accredited standards-writing organizations and the two National Committees responsible for Canadian participation in international standardization work, supported by their associated advisory and coordinating committees. The Council itself is the coordinating body of the System. The accreditation to the System of certification organizations and testing laboratories is presently under active deliberation.

The term "federation" is used advisedly to describe the National Standards System. The Standards Council Act stipulates that, in carrying out its objects and exercising its powers, the Council shall, to the greatest extent possible, "make use of the services and facilities of existing organizations in Canada engaged in standards formulation, testing and certification. . ." The purpose of the SCC, as indicated at the outset is to foster, coordinate and promote voluntary standardization in Canada as a means of advancing the national economy, and to ensure effective Canadian participation in the work of international standardization. The Council does not write, publish or sell standards, nor does it intend to engage in certification, testing or quality assurance activities. It organizes, supervises and acts as official spokesman of the "federation" which is made up of individual standards organizations either public or private.

The accredited standards-writing organizations of the National Standards System, as of this date, are: the Canadian Gas Association (CGA); the Canadian Government Specifications Board (CGSB); the Canadian Standards Association (CSA); the Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) and the Bureau de normalisation du Quebec (BNQ). Within its overall standards-writing programme, each organization operates in an agreed group of designated subject areas from which it may submit its standards to the Standards Council for approval as National Standards of Canada. Together, these five standards-writing organizations have about 5,000 standards in current issue, of which about 240 have been accepted to date by the Standards Council as National Standards of Canada. In total more than 8,000 individuals serve on the technical committees that have been established by these organizations to write standards.

A number of other Canadian organizations prepare or adopt and publish voluntary standards. Apart from the Associate Committees on the National Building Code and the National Fire Code, both sponsored by the National Research Council (NRC), none of them would appear to issue many standards which have significant implications for international trade, although this requires confirmation.

Canadian participation in international standards work is an integral part of the National Standards System. The Standards Council of Canada represents Canada as the Canadian member body of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and sponsors the Canadian Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

It also maintains liaison with and participates in the work of other international organizations engaged in the formulation of voluntary standards.

The Standards Council of Canada is empowered under its Act to, inter alia,

> "promote, in cooperation with Canadian organizations engaged in voluntary standards formulation, testing and certification -- arrangements with organizations similarly engaged in other countries for the exchange of information and for cooperation in such activities"; and "collect, translate and distribute information on standards and standardization activities -- in and outside Canada."

The Council has established a Standards Information Service (SIS) which provides free of charge to any inquirer information on National Standards of Canada and standards published by Canadian standards-writing organizations accredited by the Council. SIS also provides information on standards published by the national standards bodies of 12 other countries, more than 60 trade, industry and professional associations, as well as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Information is derived for the most part from catalogues and publications lists of these organizations, and directories and indexes of standards. It is usually limited to advice on whether or not a standard for a certain product exists, and if so, the name and address of the organization that prepared it.

The Standards Information Service is located in the offices of the Standards Council in Ottawa. The service provides practical assistance to meet the national and international needs of the users. It is designed to serve all users of standards, such as:

On National Level

- Federal, Provincial and local government agencies;
- Public and private bodies and individuals;
- Standards-writing organizations and committees concerned with any aspect of standardization;

On International Level

- Other members of ISONET - the international standards information network of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);
- Canadian-held Secretariats of technical committees, sub-committees or working groups of ISO and of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC);
- Canadian Committees involved in the work of ISO and IEC and their delegates to international meetings.

In summary, the service assists callers in verifying the existence of standards, whether national, international or foreign, identifying the documents in question and directing the inquirer to the appropriate sources to procure documents. Technical and procedural questions relating to specific standards are referenced to the organizations which prepare and publish the documents, and in the case of international and foreign standards, this involves referral to the Council's International Standardization Branch in Mississauga, Ontario.

The service in Ottawa has an INWATS telephone number which permits the user to call the service from any point in Canada, on a toll-free basis.

To support the SIS in its work, the Council approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on a Standards Information Service (ACSIS). Its general terms of reference are "to develop procedures and responsibilities for the operation of the service and to advise Council on matters affecting the continuing operation and development of the service, on the basis of an ongoing analysis and assessment of information requirements", on both national and international levels. In an important respect this Committee is a reflection of the National Standards System, in that representatives from each of the accredited standards-writing organizations make up the core of the membership. This reflects the Council's "coordination" thrust, as it is considered important to maintain close communication links between the national standards information service maintained by Council and the information services

which each standards organization provide for its respective constituents - clearly an indispensable "specialized" complement to the general information activities pursued by the SIS.

In order to meet its obligations and respond to inquiries in the best possible way, the SIS has created and is continuing to build a documentation collection of standards and standards related documentation. The SIS maintains complete collections of standards published by the five accredited standards-writing organizations, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). In addition, since March 1978, the SIS has received and added to its documentation collection a copy of each ISO and IEC standard as they are published. This documentation collection is available for reference and review purposes in Ottawa and to the general public.

In 1977, the SIS produced its first Directory and Index of Standards, a publication which presented in key-word format a compilation of all standards published by the five accredited standards-writing organizations. The first supplement to this publication was published in 1978, the second supplement in 1979. Together these three volumes provide a complete reference of Canadian voluntary standards effective December 31, 1978.

A new cumulative edition of the Directory is planned for 1980. In addition to all the material included in the first three volumes, it will include all additions, revisions, and cancellations of standards published by the five accredited standards-writing organizations, during 1979.

ISONET

Created by ISO, ISONET is a world-wide network of standards information centres. ISONET is a completely decentralized operation. Each member is responsible for collecting and indexing its own information and for making it available to others in the approved exchange format. The main purpose of ISONET, is to provide the framework and procedures to facilitate the international exchange of information about standards and technical requirements.

Clearly, the Council's Standards Information Services (SIS) meets all the conditions for Type 1 membership in ISONET and indeed the SCC has already indicated its readiness to assume membership. Not only has an information activity been well established but the majority of Canadian voluntary standards have been indexed and published in such a way as to comprehend most of the mandatory elements defined in part 1.1 of the ISONET Manual. A more comprehensive reindexing of Canadian documents is foreseen as a major task for the future but as one which the SIS can assume at the appropriate time.

The SIS, as previously stated is continuing to build up its data base and documentation service. Two recently completed projects will be published shortly: an index of standards and specifications issued by Federal government departments and agencies, representing some 2,700 documents; an index of standards referenced in Federal government acts and technical regulations. The SIS is preparing to consider two similar projects on the provincial government level and is aware of the need to identify all standards developed by Canadian non-accredited standards-writing organizations. A great deal has been accomplished in a relatively short time but much remains to be done.

As will be clear from the foregoing, the Council has, in effect, created a central standards information capability required for satisfying national needs for standards information and along with the lines necessary for participation in the work of ISONET. In so doing, it has created a facility which is ready to play a role in the implementation of the proposed GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade. While it is somewhat early to predict how Canada would proceed to implement the Operative Provisions, Part D - Information and Assistance, discussions have been held between the

Standards Council and the appropriate federal government department, (the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce - ITC) at the latter's initiative. Indeed, formal proposals for implementation have been prepared and published by ITC but have yet to be considered and approved by the federal government. The recent federal election in Canada has undoubtedly retarded consideration of the implementation document. It would be appropriate, here, to outline the form of the current proposals, always remembering that these are only proposals which have not yet received official sanction in Canada.

Section 16 of the Code would obligate the federal government to ensure, inter alia, that an enquiry point exists which is able to answer all reasonable enquiries from interested parties in other adherents regarding technical regulations and standards adopted or proposed by federal, provincial, territorial or municipal governments, or regulatory bodies, or by regional bodies of which they are members or participants, and any certification systems operated or proposed by one or other of them. It would also obligate the federal government to use all reasonable means within its power to ensure that one or more enquiry points exist which would be able to answer all reasonable enquiries from interested parties in other adherents regarding standards adopted or proposed by voluntary standardizing bodies or by regional bodies of which they are members or participants, and also regarding any certification systems operated by nongovernmental certification bodies or of which such bodies are members or participants.

Given its mandate and its current activities in the field of standards information, the Standards Council would seem to be the appropriate organization to establish and operate the Canadian Enquiry Point for the purpose of the Code. For the same reasons, the Council would also seem to be the appropriate organization to collect and provide information to interested governmental and nongovernmental organizations in Canada on existing and proposed international standards and certification systems, Canadian technical regulations, standards and certification systems, and on selected regional and foreign technical regulations, standards and certification systems which might have important implications for Canada's trade. Given both of these functions, the Council would be the logical organization to send to and receive from the GATT Secretariat notification of proposed technical regulations and certification systems in accordance with the provisions of the Code, acting as the agent of the federal government for this purpose.

It is clear, however, that in order to function effectively as the Canadian Enquiry Point, the cooperation of various levels of government (federal, provincial and territorial), regulatory bodies, voluntary bodies, voluntary nongovernmental standardizing bodies and certification bodies would be essential: they would be required to provide to the Standards Council such information on their existing or proposed technical regulations, standards and certification systems as would be necessary for the appropriate functions of an Enquiry Point. The federal government and the Standards Council cannot force this issue with their respective constituents, and so will have to use all reasonable means within its power to ensure agreement of all concerned to comply with the provisions of the Code that apply to their respective activities.

The information and Communication System foreseen for Canada is depicted in the accompanying two flowcharts (see Appendix 1 and 2). In brief, the Central Enquiry Point, which would be established and operated by the Standards Council of Canada (under contract to the appropriate branch of ITC responsible for complementation and administration of the Code in Canada) would perform the following services:

i) answer enquiries from interested parties in other adherents regarding technical regulations and standards adopted or proposed by governmental or nongovernmental bodies in Canada, or by regional bodies of which they are members or participants,

and regarding certification systems or proposed certification systems operated by governmental or nongovernmental bodies in Canada or of which such bodies are members or participants, and regarding the location of notices published pursuant to the Code;

ii) provide information on international, regional, foreign and Canadian technical regulations, standards and certification systems to standards-writing organizations and other interested bodies in Canada, obtaining where necessary to perform this service, information from international and regional bodies, and bodies in the territories or other adherents; and

iii) send to and receive from GATT Secretariat notifications concerning technical regulations and certification systems through normal government channels;

iv) arrange for the Canadian Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) or some other appropriate organization to acquire reference collections of technical regulations, standards, and rules of certifications systems adopted by international bodies in Canada, and reference collections of selected technical regulations, standards, and rules of certification systems adopted by governmental and nongovernmental bodies in countries with which Canada trades;

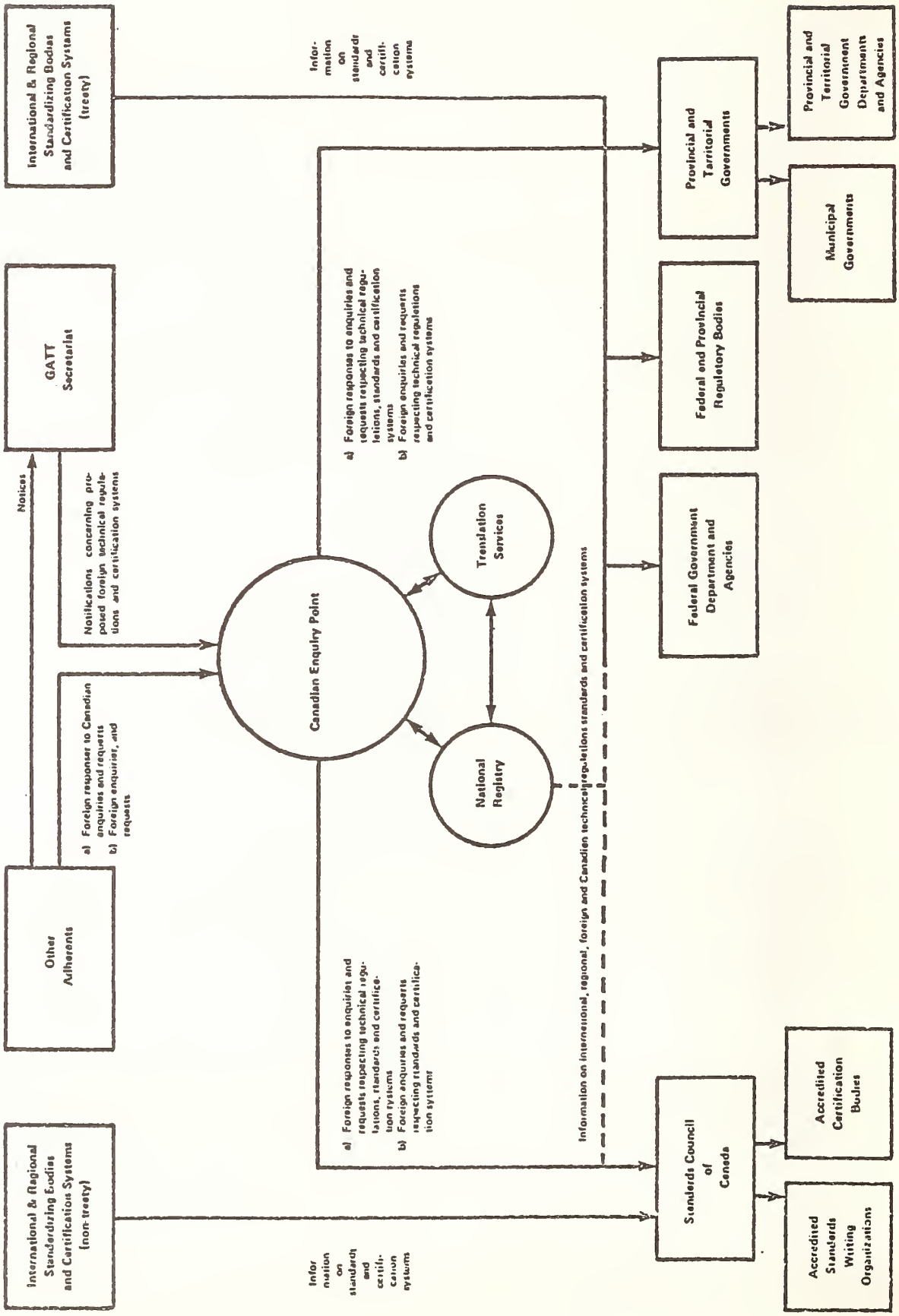
v) arrange for the Translation Bureau of the Department of the Secretary of State to provide translation services required to operate the Canadian Enquiry Point; and

vi) sell or otherwise provide to interested parties in Canada copies of international standards published by treaty or nontreaty international standardizing bodies.

In addition to establishing a mechanism for handling requests from other adherents, a mechanism would be required to ensure that Canada takes advantage of the opportunity which would be provided by these provisions to comment on technical regulations, standards certification systems proposed by other adherents that might create obstacles to Canada's trade. Since the Standards Council of Canada, in operating the Canadian Enquiry Point, would be required to have information on technical regulations, standards and certification systems proposed by federal provincial, territorial and municipal government departments and agencies, regulatory bodies, voluntary standardizing bodies and nongovernmental bodies, and to be in frequent communication with these bodies for this purpose, it would be the logical organization to provide this consultative mechanism, acting as the agent of the federal government where proposed technical regulations or rules of certification systems are concerned.

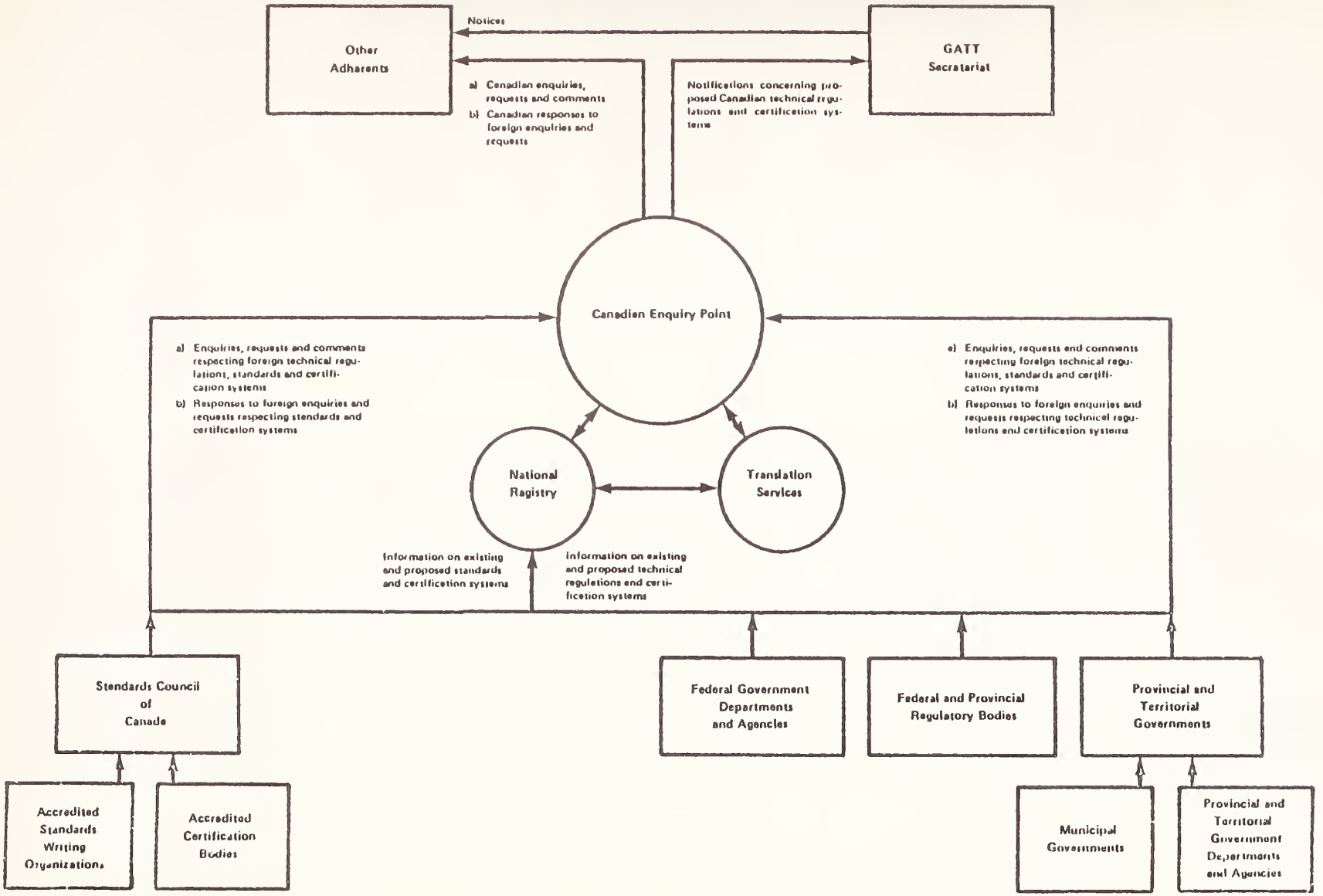
FLOWCHART FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

To Canada from Other Adherents and International and Regional Bodies



FLOWCHART FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

From Canada to Other Adherents and the GATT Secretariat



A SMALL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD OF STANDARDS

Mr. Gudbrand Jenssen, Norges Standardisringsforbund

Background

Norway is the least populated country in Europe with 4 million inhabitants on an area half the size of Texas. The Norwegian language can only be used in the Scandinavian countries, and to communicate with the rest of the about 200 million Europeans, we have to learn foreign languages.

Our home market is small and our industry is dependent on export. Of all the things I wear today, nothing bears the mark "made in Norway." This might illustrate why we use 4,748 dollars per head in our international trade (that means import and export) while the U.S. figures are as low as 1,134 dollars per head, mainly due to your size and your selfcontained market.

In your country you debate if Chrysler shall go bankrupt or be saved by the government. In my country the bankruptcy of a small company with 25 employees in one of the smaller municipalities will, more often than not, be brought to the government or even direct to the prime minister for a solution.

The Norwegian Standards Association, that I represent, is a private enterprise. The members are industrial and commercial organizations and enterprises, the labour union and the employers' confederation, municipalities and governmental departments. The members pay an annual fee ranging from U.S. dollars 100 to 2000. Sixty per cent of the income is sales of standards, 25 per cent is a government grant. The Norwegian Standards - about 2000 - are voluntary, but approximately 10 per cent have been made compulsory by the government.

Information and Sales

We have two basic concepts for our general information activities. One is to provide information on standards and sell them, the other one is the missionary type, spreading the gospel of standardization.

We have most requests for information on foreign standards. One third of our total sales are foreign or international standards. The sales are concentrated around a limited number of countries: German standards 29 per cent, U.S. standards 26 per cent, British and International standards each about 15 per cent and Swedish standards 11 per cent.

The U.S. percentage shows an interesting development from about 11 per cent before 1976 to 26 per cent in 1977 and 1978. The main reason is that Norway has "gone oilic" in the North Sea, and the American Petroleum Institute's standards are used everywhere where oil drilling and production are in question. I may mention that thanks to the API standards, Red Adair was able to stop the blow-out we had in the North Sea some time ago, because he was familiar with the construction of the valves and had his own special spare parts. Very often a request for information is accompanied with an order for the standards. In urgent cases we pride ourselves that the customer will have the standards on his table within two days wherever in Norway he is situated. That is if he requires standards issued by ASTM, BSI, or DIN, because we have an agreement with them that allows us to copy the standards and reimburse the organization with 40 per cent of the sales price.

I regret to say that some American standards organizations are working along lines that must be detrimental to their progress by requiring the money before dispatch of the standards, resulting in delivery times of 3-6 weeks. This is universal for all deliveries to Europe and not only to my small country. In Europe we deliver the standards with payment within 30 days and we have a loss of less than 0.3 per cent, mainly due to contractors going bankrupt.

To facilitate sales, we have a standing order system where a customer gets all new standards within the groups he wishes. By using EDP we effectuate orders and invoices at very low costs and we use a mailing service for the actual dispatch. That means that our own sales staff is geared only on the daily input of orders by mail, telex or telephone.

The standards organizations in the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden - cooperate in the production of a bimonthly bulletin where 20 to 30 pages are giving information on new standards only. Here we have all new standards or proposals from ASTM, ANSI, BSI, DIN, ISO, IEC, CEN and CENELEC, and the Nordic countries.

Annually, we issue a Norwegian Standards Catalogue with titles in Norwegian and English. Already in 1970, EDP was used to provide manuscripts for photosetting of our Catalogue.

All this information, however, is what I'll call passive information. It only gives us contact with those who are already aware of the existence of the standards and familiar with their use.

I would therefore like to touch upon the second concept; our activities for getting the message about standardization out to the general public.

Active Information

When we believe a national or foreign standard to be important to larger groups or users. or that the standard is so special that this in itself makes it interesting, we issue press releases.

Each year we have produced an annual review on our activities, and every year it got bigger, nicer and more expensive. Made in 6,000 copies, we realized that the impact on the society was next to nothing. In connection with our General Assembly this year, we decided to make the annual review simple and cheap, and use the money saved in advertising. We have also an information service linked to the active sales of standards. Here we send offers for standing orders on standards within selected fields to different branches of industry, cuts from catalogues on selected topics like plastics, textiles and more. The least successful is participation in fairs and exhibitions.

Relationship with the Government

Even though we are not a governmental agency, official matters regarding standards or standardization are forwarded to our organization. Again because we are small, I alone am the person in our organization that deals with the matters on behalf of the government in EFTA (the European Free Trade Area), the ECE (the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) and for the GATT. Thus for example at the annual meeting of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe, the Ambassador of Norway reads the text I have proposed under the agenda point standardization. On behalf of the Ministry on Commerce, I have made the extract of the GATT-agreement which is to be presented to the Parliament for ratification. I am also responsible for the Norwegian translation of the GATT-agreement.

In our collaboration with the authorities we have tried to provide service without first asking for the money for doing the services. That has resulted in an attitude in some of the ministries that what concerns standardization is left to the Norwegian Standards Association.

I do not tell this to brag about my or our capabilities or deficiencies, but to give you an impression of how closely we are knit together and depend on each other in a small country.

The European Free Trade Area

In the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) there was already in 1966 established a notification procedure where all new regulations having an impact on the international trade are to be notified to all EFTA countries through the EFTA secretariat in Geneva. The EFTA countries are as you may know Portugal, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Iceland and Norway. UK and Denmark were also EFTA-members before they joined the European Community.

The task of handling this notification has been left to us. That means that we on behalf of the Ministry on Commerce request comments from interested parties on notifications from the other EFTA-members. The Norwegian notifications and comments are often rewritten in English by us. In addition there is on an informal level a possibility of commenting upon proposed Directives from the European Community through the EFTA-secretariat. In this we rely upon the Federation of Norwegian Industries and the Norwegian Export to provide us with comments.

UN's Economic Commission for Europe, ECE

When the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe, ECE, took up standardization in 1970, we were already in the EFTA business, and the secretariat for the Norwegian ECE activities is in our organization, with me as the secretary, again a left-hand task. In accordance with the recommendations by the ECE Governmental Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies, the Norwegian Standards Association has been appointed the inquiry point for request for information on technical regulations and standards. That is the reason why we make and yearly revise the "Catalogue on Norwegian Technical Regulations".

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT

I probably don't have to state that our organization will be the inquiry point in accordance with the GATT requirements.

We have for a long time advocated that the borderline between standards and technical regulations is diffuse, because what is standard in one country may be a technical regulation in another country. We will therefore incorporate in our data-base for standards the Norwegian technical regulations. This will be done free of charge because the number of new Norwegian technical regulations in a year is negligible compared to the 200 to 300 new Norwegian standards that will be incorporated every year.

ISONET

For us the cooperation in ISONET has made it possible to establish the system for indexing and information retrieval that might have been very costly for us alone. The ISONET system has the advantage of being adopted by all the Nordic countries, so we will have the advantage of making a joint system. We issue already, as I mentioned before, a bimonthly list of new standards from 12 selected organizations.

By pooling our national data-bases, the joint Nordic data-base will be rather important for our exchange with other members of the ISONET. You know that three of the Nordic countries have created the Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) in order to get sufficient strength for negotiating landing rights in the different countries. In the ISONET cooperation we will form a Nordic net with the four countries Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden together. Only by doing this do we have sufficient strength to negotiate exchange with the larger members of ISONET.

Our standards catalogue has been printed by computer assistance since 1970. This year we adjusted the information in accordance with the ISONET Manual. The data-base is produced for us by the Norwegian Centre for Informatics in cooperation with the printer of the catalogue and as a byproduct of the catalogue production, the data-base is now available on-line for information retrieval in the Norwegian Centre for Informatics. We can search in the data-base by keywords in the standards' titles as well as other registered keywords - both in Norwegian and English. The data-base is now a part of the Scandinavian information network SCANNET.

I would like to stress that probably the most important part in our system is our cooperation with the Norwegian Centre for Informatics. Apart from the very small sum we pay for using its expertise to establish the data-base, we have achieved that the information is stored in the information centre itself and part of its information service.

Until now standards have not been considered as literature and are not incorporated in the professional information centres. That means that people requesting information from these centres are informed about technical articles published in a magazine or book by a young student or an eminent scientist, but no information is given on standards in the field. To prove it we asked the Norwegian Centre for Informatics to contact data-banks in some U.S. information centres to see if some of the following standards were included:

ANSI/ASME BPV	ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code
ANSI/ASTM A20-78	Standard Requirements for Steel Plates for Pressure Vessels
ANSI/ASTM E4-72	Standard Methods of Verification of Testing Machines

ISO 361-1975 Basic Ionizing Radiation Symbol

ISO 435-1975 Documentary Reproduction - ISO Conventional Typographical Character for Legibility Tests (ISO Character)

ISO 1000-1973 SI Units and Recommendations for the Use of Their Multiples and of Certain Other Units

ISO 1502-1978 ISO General Purpose Metric Screw Threads - Gauging

ISO 1503-1977 Geometrical Orientation and Directions of Movements

ISO/R 1831- 1971 Printing Specifications for Optical Character Recognition

ISO 2240-1972 Photography - Determination of ISO Speed of Colour Reversal Films for Still Photography - Sensitometric Exposure and Evaluation Method

ISO 2573-1977 Tensile Testing Systems - Determination of K-Values

ISO 2604/1-1975 Steel Products for Pressure Purposes - Quality Requirements - Part I: Forgings

ISO 3290-1975 Rolling Bearings - Bearing Parts - Balls for Rolling Bearings

ISO 4759/1-1978 Tolerances for Fasteners - Part I - Bolts, Screws and Nuts With Thread Diameters Between 1,6 (inclusive) and 150 mm (inclusive) and Product Grades A, B and C

After having contacted two information centres, the Norwegian Centre for Informatics said we were wasting our money and concluded that this was not the method to obtain information on standards.

The two information centres were: The National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia and the COMPENDEX produced by Engineering Index, Inc., in New York. The NTIS data-base consists of information on government sponsored research, development and engineering reports and may probably be excused for not incorporating standards.

The COMPENDEX, however, according to its own description, "provides the engineering and information communities with abstracted information from the world's significant engineering and technological literature. The EI data-base provides worldwide coverage of the journal literature, publications of engineering societies and organizations, papers from the proceedings of conferences and selected government reports and books."

The result of our inquiry shows that at least the 14 standards we asked for were not considered to be among "the world's significant engineering and technological literature".

Through ISONET we have got a tool for cooperation with the professional information centres, which may contribute to establish standards as "significant engineering and technological literature". Until we have achieved this, we have not done our job properly.

AFNOR AND INFORMATION ABOUT STANDARDS AND RELATED MATTER

Mr. Daniel Geronimi, Association Francaise de Normalisation

The Evolution of AFNOR's Conception of Documentation

The need for information on standards came at the beginning from our national customers, and AFNOR center of documentation was created to answer this particular need.

Then AFNOR was associated by the French government to the GATT discussions in the field of coordination of technical regulations.

AFNOR had, from that time, the opportunity to foresee the importance of information and to follow the evolution of GATT.

The first idea was to separate legal national regulations from nonlegal ones: were considered as belonging to the first category, the pure technical regulations or standards, aimed to the protection of citizens or environment, and to the second category the regulations including a notion of technical barrier to international trade.

But very soon it appeared that this separation was very difficult to establish and that there wasn't a clearly defined border between both. Rather than trying to eliminate nonlegal regulations it seemed easier to organize international information on all the types of documents which might set up a technical barrier: because barriers are created at least as much through a lack of information about standards as through their existence. The idea of an international information network was born.

AFNOR, at that time decided, to invest in that field by automatising its center of documentation to be able to follow the evolution and to process other documents than standards.

At the same time, ISONET was created among members of ISO to anticipate the international evolution of GATT discussions and to prepare each country to get ready to answer the requests of its government.

AFNOR participated in the settlement of ISONET and assumed several functions:

- member of the network
- language agency for the French
- international center for the thesaurus processing

I'll mention also the name of Raymond FRONTARD, the previous General Director of AFNOR and first chairman of ISONET MANAGEMENT BOARD.

The AFNOR center of documentation had to apply the guidelines established by ISONET.

The Center of Documentation of AFNOR, and Processing of Information

The center of documentation performs mainly four kinds of services:

1. Library opened to visitors and which presents a collection of 300,000 documents:

- French standards, technical specifications and regulations
- French standard type documents and related matter
- international standards
- foreign standards and some other important documents

2. Processing of Enquiries for internal and customers' needs. Enquiries can arrive by letter, telex, phone and soon also by terminal. They are processed by a team through manual files, catalogs, indexes or an automatic information retrieval system called NORIA. Next year the access to our automatic system NORIA will be possible on-line through a host computer connected on a national teletransmission network.

NORIA

NORIA has an automatic file including about 20,000 documents:

- 10,000 French standards
- 2,000 French draft standards
- 4,000 French technical regulations in the field of agriculture
- 4,000 ISO standards

The structure of this file is in conformity with ISONET guidelines. All the documents are indexed with ISONET THESAURUS. Exchanges with other countries through magnetic tapes are possible.

3. Selective Diffusion of Information consists in the circulation of specific information about standards and related matter to customers interested in a particular field of standardization.

4. Translation of Foreign Standards

Among other departments that deal with information, I'll mention the Sales Department which manages orders for any kind of national and international standard and standard type documents, the Public Relations Department responsible for the issuing of the yearbook, it's monthly updating, and last but not least, a new department called NOREX.

The aim of NOREX is to help exporters to solve their problems in relation with standards and technical regulations. It has been created by reference to its big brother the TECHNICAL HELP TO EXPORTERS that remains our guide.

After the very good speech we had yesterday on Technical Help to Exporters, I'll just insist on the differences between "THE" and NOREX.

If "THE" is an integrated system including a documentation center, a technical staff, and a laboratory, NOREX on the contrary is a decentralized organization working with the documentation center of AFNOR, a small staff of advisers and laboratories independent from AFNOR, and of the French Trade Center. NOREX as "THE" processes enquiries on foreign standards and regulations, analysis of differences between foreign and French standards but its first know-how is in the field of assistance in certification of products according to foreign procedures, with the help of laboratories having particular agreements of mutual recognition.

AFNOR and ISONET

AFNOR has invested a lot in the field of information by developing its automatic system NORIA and by assuring its compatibility with ISONET guidelines (about 3 million dollars). Some experimental exchanges have been successful, in particular with the Polish Institute, proving that ISONET may work on a larger scale. Recent decisions of GATT dealing with international information on technical documents confirm the interest of the subject and that ISONET policy was a good choice.

It seems urgent that ISONET should become an operating system to answer needs of governments in relation with GATT decisions, and should be able to keep the control of information about their own standards.

AFNOR and GATT

Presently a large project is under discussion with the French administration to appoint AFNOR as the national enquiry point according to the GATT recommendation, because of AFNOR's knowledge in the field of standardization and information, and the existence of its automatic system NORIA which now includes about 20,000 technical references.

The project is made up of three propositions:

1. The official appointment, recognized by all the ministries, of AFNOR as the center of a national network between all the departments producing technical regulations. This network would be necessary for the updating of information. A bilateral agreement exists in that field between The Ministry of Agriculture and AFNOR since 1978 and could be used as an example for agreements with other ministries.

2. The cataloging of the ministerial agencies or departments producing technical regulations in France, and the compilation of all the documents in use.

AFNOR has compiled till now about 5,000 documents, but the file is far from being exhaustive as the number generally admitted is about 25,000 technical regulations.

3. The Financial Point of View The cost of the whole program is about 5 million dollars on a period of 3 years. This cost is supposed to cover a staff of 40 people, the collection of documents, their indexing and processing.

It seems that this cost can't be totally charged to the clients, but on the contrary could be covered by a governmental subsidy.

We think that after a few years the center could be financed partly by a subsidy and partly by direct resources such as subscriptions, sale of information and documentation, and royalties paid by users of terminals.

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Mr. Donald S. Abelson, Office of the
U.S. Special Trade Representative
1800 G Street, NW., Room 728
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher, Director
Office of Engineering Standards
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Mr. E. J. French
Director, Information and Public Relations
International Organization for
Standardization (ISO)
Case Postale 56
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Mr. Daniel Geronimi, Association Francaise
de Normalisation (AFNOR)
Tour Europe CEDEX 7
82080 Paris la Defense
France

Mr. Gudbrand Jenssen
Norges Standardisringsforbund, (NSF)
Haakon VII's gate 3
N-OSLO 1
Norway

Mr. Edward Kierski, Chairman of INFCO/WG 4
General Secretary of PKNIM
Polski Komitet Normalizacji i Miar
UL. Elektoralnaz
Warszawa 00-139
Poland

Mr. Jerry Lieblich, President
Global Engineering Documentation
Services, Inc.
3301 West MacArthur Blvd.
Santa Ana, California

Mr. Donald Mitchell
Department of Defense
2 Skyline Place
5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1403
Falls Church, Virginia 22401

Mr. Curt Mohr, DIN-Deutsches
Institut für Normung e.V.
Burggrafenstrasse 4-7
Postfach 1107
D-1000 Berlin 30
Germany

Mr. Charles B. Phucas, Group Leader
Standards Information and Development
Services Group
Office of Engineering Standards
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Mr. Brian Roden, British Standards Institute, Technical Help to Exporters (THE)
Maylands Avenue
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP 2 4SQ
England

Mr. Rudy Rutelionis, Vice President
International Marketing
Information Handling Services
Inverness Business Park
15 Inverness Way East
P.O. Box 1154
Englewood, Colorado 80150

Mr. Albert A. Tunis, Director
Education and Information
Standards Council of Canada (SCC)
350 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8
Canada

APPENDIX A

TRADE AGREEMENTS ACT OF 1979

STATEMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

A draft of proposed legislation to approve and implement the Trade Agreements negotiated under the Trade Act of 1974, and for other purposes, together with statements of administrative action summarizing changes in United States Trade Law necessary or appropriate to implement the agreements submitted as an accompanying part of the message from the President of the United States transmitting the agreements, pursuant to Section 102 of the Trade Act of 1974.

TITLE IV - TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (STANDARDS)

Subtitle A - Obligations of the United States

SEC.401.CERTAIN STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Nothing in this title may be construed as prohibiting any private person, Federal agency, or State agency from engaging in standards-related activities that do not create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. No standards-related activity of any private person, Federal agency, or State agency shall be deemed to constitute an unnecessary obstacle to foreign commerce of the United States if the demonstrable purpose of the standards-related activity is to achieve a legitimate domestic objective including, but not limited to, the protection of legitimate health or safety, essential security, environmental or consumer interests if such activity does not operate to exclude imported products and which fully meet the objectives of such activity

SEC.402.FEDERAL STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

No Federal agency may engage in any standards-related activity that creates unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States, including, but not limited to, standards-related activities that violate any of the following requirements:

(1) NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT - Each Federal agency shall ensure, in applying standards-related activities with respect to any imported product, that such product is treated no less favorably than are like domestic or imported products, including, but not limited to, when applying tests or test methods, no less favorable treatment with respect to -

(A) the acceptance of the product for testing in comparable situations;

(B) the administration of the tests in comparable situations;

(C) the fees charged for tests;

(D) the release of test results to the exporter, importer, or agents;

(E) the siting of testing facilities and the selection of samples for testing; and

(F) the treatment of confidential information pertaining to the product.

(2) USE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS -

(A) IN GENERAL - Except as provided in subparagraph (B)(ii), each Federal agency, in developing standards, shall take into consideration international standards and shall, if appropriate, base the standards on international standards.

(B) APPLICATION OF REQUIREMENT - For purposes of this paragraph, the following apply:

(i) INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS NOT APPROPRIATE - The reasons for which the basing of a standard on an international standard may not be appropriate include, but are not limited to, the following:

(I) National security requirements.

(II) The prevention of deceptive practices.

(III) The protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health, or the environment.

(IV) Fundamental climatic or other geographical factors.

(V) Fundamental technological problems.

(ii) REGIONAL STANDARDS - In developing standards, a Federal agency may, but is not required to, take into consideration any international standards promulgated by an international standards organization the membership of which is described in section 451(6)(A)(ii).

(3) PERFORMANCE CRITERIA - Each Federal agency shall, if appropriate, develop standards based on performance criteria, such as those relating to the intended use of a product and the level of performance that the product must achieve under the defined conditions, rather than on design criteria, such as those relating to the

physical form of the product or the types of material of which the product is made.

(4) CERTIFICATION ACCESS FOR FOREIGN SUPPLIERS - Each Federal agency shall, with respect to any certification system used by it, permit access for obtaining certification under that system to foreign suppliers of a product on the same basis as access is permitted to suppliers of like products, whether of domestic or other foreign origin.

SEC.403.STATE AND PRIVATE STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

(a) IN GENERAL - It is the sense of the Congress that no State agency and no private person should engage in any standards-related activitiy that creates unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States.

(b) PRESIDENTIAL ACTION - The President shall take such reasonable measures as may be available to promote the observance by State agencies and private persons, in carrying out standards-related activities, of requirements equivalent to those imposed on Federal agencies under section 402, and of procedures that provide for notification, participation, and publication with respect to such activities.

Subtitle B -FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

SEC.411.FUNCTIONS OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

(a) IN GENERAL - The Special Representative shall coordinate the consideration of international trade policy issues that arise as a result of, and shall develop international trade policy as it relates to, the implementation of this title.

(b) NEGOTIATING FUNCTIONS - The Special Representative has responsibility for coordinating United States discussions and negotiations with foreign countries for the purpose of establishing mutual arrangements with respect to standards-related activities. In carrying out this responsibility, the Special Representative shall inform and consult with any Federal agency having expertise in the matters under discussion and negotiation.

(c) CROSS REFERENCE - For provisions of law regarding general authority of the Special Representatives with respect to trade agreements, see Section 141 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171).

SEC.412.ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF TECHNICAL OFFICES

(a) ESTABLISHMENT -

(1) FOR NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS - The Secretary of Commerce shall establish and maintain within the Department of Commerce a technical office that shall carry out the functions prescribed under subsection (b) with respect to nonagricultural products.

(2) FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS - The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish and maintain within the Department of Agriculture a technical office that shall carry out the functions prescribed under subsection (b) with respect to agricultural products.

(b) FUNCTIONS OF OFFICES - The President shall prescribe for each technical office established under subsection (a) such functions as the President deems necessary or appropriate to implement this title.

SEC.413.REPRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS BEFORE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS

(a) OVERSIGHT AND CONSULTATION - The Secretary concerned shall -

(1) inform, and consult and coordinate with, the Special Representative with respect to international standards-related activities identified under paragraph (2);

(2) keep adequately informed regarding international standards-related activities and identify those that may substantially affect the commerce of the United States; and

(3) carry out such functions as are required under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) REPRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS BY PRIVATE PERSONS -

(1) DEFINITIONS - For purposes of this subsection -

(A) ORGANIZATION MEMBER - The term "organization member" means the private person who holds membership in a private international standards organization.

(B) PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION - The term "private international standards organization" means any international standards organization before which the interests of the United States are represented by a private person who is officially recognized by that organization for such purpose.

(2) IN GENERAL - Except as otherwise provided for in this subsection, the representation of United States interests before any private international standards organization shall be carried out by the organization member.

(3) INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION - If the Secretary concerned, after inquiry instituted on his own motion or at the request of any private person, Federal agency, or State agency having an interest therein, has reason to believe that the participation by the organization member in the proceedings of a private international standards organization will not result in the adequate representation of United States interests that are, or may be, affected by the activities of such organization (particularly with regard to the potential impact of any such activity on the international trade of the United States), the Secretary concerned shall immediately notify the organization member concerned. During any such inquiry, the Secretary concerned may solicit and consider the advice of the appropriate representatives referred to in section 417.

(4) ACTION BY ORGANIZATION MEMBER - If within the 90-day period the date on which notification is received under paragraph (3) (or such shorter period as the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary in extraordinary circumstances), the organization member demonstrates to the Secretary concerned its willingness and ability to represent adequately United States interests before the private international standards organization, the Secretary concerned shall take no further action under this subsection.

(5) ACTION BY SECRETARY CONCERNED - If -

(A) within the appropriate period referred to in paragraph (4), the organization member does not respond to the Secretary concerned with respect to the notification, or does respond but does not demonstrate to the Secretary concerned the requisite willingness and ability to represent adequately United States interests; or

(B) there is no organization member of the private international standards organization;

the Secretary concerned shall make appropriate arrangements to provide for the adequate representation of United States interests. In cases where subparagraph (A) applies, such provisions shall be made by the Secretary concerned through the appropriate organization member if the private international standards organization involved requires representation by that member.

(c) REPRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES INTERESTS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES - With respect to any international standards organization before which the interests of the United States are represented by one or more Federal agencies that are officially recognized by that organization for such purpose, the Secretary concerned shall -

(1) encourage cooperation among interested Federal agencies with a view toward facilitating the development of a uniform position with respect to the technical activities with which the organization is concerned;

(2) encourage such Federal agencies to seek information from, and to cooperate with, the affected domestic interests when undertaking such representation; and

(3) not preempt the responsibilities of any Federal agency that has jurisdiction with respect to the activities undertaken by such organization, unless requested to do so by such agency.

SEC.414.STANDARDS INFORMATION CENTER

(a) ESTABLISHMENT - The Secretary of Commerce shall maintain within the Department of Commerce a standards information center.

(b) FUNCTIONS - The standards information center shall -

(1) serve as the central national collection facility for information relating to standards, certification systems, and standards-related activities, whether such standards, systems, or activities are public or private, domestic or foreign, or international, regional, national, or local;

(2) make available to the public at such reasonable fee as the Secretary shall prescribe, copies of information required to be collected under paragraph (1) other than information to which paragraph (3) applies;

(3) use its best efforts to make available to the public, at such reasonable fees as the Secretary shall prescribe, copies of information required to be collected under paragraph (1) that is of private origin, on a cooperative basis with the private individual or entity, foreign or domestic, who holds the copyright on the information;

(4) in case of such information that is of foreign origin, provide, at such reasonable fee as the Secretary shall prescribe, such translation services as may be necessary;

(5) serve as the inquiry point for requests for information regarding standards-related activities, whether adopted or proposed, within the United States, except that in carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary of Commerce shall refer all inquiries regarding agricultural products to the technical office established under section 412 (a)(2) within the Department of Agriculture; and

(6) provide such other services as may be appropriate, including but not limited to, such services to the technical offices established under section 412 as may be requested by those in carrying out their functions.

SEC.415.CONTRACTS AND GRANTS

(a) IN GENERAL - For purposes of carrying out this title, and otherwise encouraging compliance with the Agreement, the Special Representative and the Secretary concerned may each, with respect to functions for which responsible under this title, make grants to, or enter into contracts with, any other Federal agency, any State agency, or any private person, to assist such agency or person to implement appropriate programs and activities, including, but not limited to, programs and activities -

(1) to increase awareness of proposed and adopted standards-related activities;

(2) to facilitate international trade through the appropriate international and domestic standards-related activities;

(3) to provide, if appropriate, and pursuant to section 413, adequate United States representation in international standards-related activities; and

(4) to encourage United States exports through increased awareness of foreign standards-related activities that may affect United States exports. No contract entered into under this section shall be effective except to such extent, and in such amount, as is provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS - Any contract entered into, or any grant made, under subsection (a) shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Special Representative of Secretary concerned shall by regulation prescribe as being necessary or appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) LIMITATIONS - Financial assistance extended under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs (as established by the Special Representative or Secretary concerned, as the case may be) of the program or activity for which assistance is made available. The non-Federal share of such costs shall be made in cash or kind, consistent with the maintenance of the program or activity concerned.

(d) AUDIT - Each recepient of a grant or contract under this section shall make available to the Special Representative or the Secretary concerned, as the case may be, and to the Comptroller General of the United States, for purposes of audit and examination, any book, document, paper and record that is pertinent to the funds received under such grant or contract.

SEC.416.TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Special Representative and the Secretary concerned may each, with respect to functions for which responsible under this title, make available, on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, to any other Federal agency, State agency, or private person such assistance, including, but not limited to, employees, services, and facilities, as may be appropriate to assist such agency or person in carrying out standards-related activities in a manner consistent with this title.

SEC.417.CONSULTATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF DOMESTIC INTERESTS

In carrying out the functions for which responsible under this title, the Special Representative and the Secretary concerned shall solicit technical and policy advice from the committees, established under section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155), that represent the interests concerned, and may solicit advice from appropriate State agencies and private persons.

Subtitle C - ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS REGARDING STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

CHAPTER 1 - REPRESENTATIONS ALLEGING UNITED STATES VIOLATIONS OF OBLIGATIONS

SEC.421.RIGHT OF ACTION UNDER THIS CHAPTER

Except as provided under this chapter, the provisions of this subtitle do not create any right of action under the laws of the United States with respect to allegations that any standards-related activity engaged in within the United States violates the obligations of the United States under the Agreement.

SEC.422.REPRESENTATIONS

Any -

(1) Party to the Agreement; or

(2) foreign country that is not a Party to the Agreement but is found by the Special Representative to extend rights and privileges to the United States that are substantially the same as those that would be so extended if that foreign country were a Party to the Agreement;

may make a representation to the Special Representative alleging that a standards-related activity engaged in within the United States violates the obligations of the United States under the Agreement. Any such representation must be made in accordance with procedures that the Special Representative shall by regulation

prescribe and must provide a reasonable indication that the standards-related activity concerned is having a significant trade effect. No person other than a Party to the Agreement or a foreign country described in paragraph (2) may make such a representation.

SEC.423.ACTION AFTER RECEIPT OF REPRESENTATIONS

(a) REVIEW - Upon receipt of any representation made under section 422, the Special Representative shall review the issues concerned in consultation with -

(1) the agency or person alleged to be engaging in violations under the Agreement;

(2) the member agencies of the interagency trade organization established under section 242(a) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1872(a));

(3) other appropriate Federal agencies; and

(4) appropriate representatives referred to in section 417.

(b) RESOLUTION - The Special Representative shall undertake to resolve, on a mutually satisfactory basis, the issues set forth in the representation through consultation with the parties concerned.

SEC.424.PROCEDURE AFTER FINDING BY INTERNATIONAL FORUM

(a) IN GENERAL - If an appropriate international forum finds that a standards-related activity being engaged in within the United States conflicts with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement, the interagency trade organization established under section 242(a) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1872(a)) shall review the finding and the matters related thereto with a view to recommending appropriate action.

(b) CROSS REFERENCE - For provisions of law regarding remedies available to domestic persons alleging that standards activities engaged in by Parties to the Agreement (other than the United States) violate the obligations of the Agreement, see section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411).

CHAPTER 2 - OTHER PROCEEDINGS REGARDING CERTAIN STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

SEC.441.FINDINGS OF RECIPROCITY REQUIRED IN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

(a) IN GENERAL - Except as provided under chapter 1, no Federal agency may consider a complaint or petition against any standards-related activity regarding an imported product, if that activity is engaged in within the United States and is covered by the Agreement, unless the Special Representative finds, and informs the agency concerned in writing that -

(1) the country of origin of the imported product is a Party to the Agreement or a foreign country described in section 422(2); and

(2) the dispute settlement procedures provided under the Agreement are not appropriate.

(b) EXEMPTIONS - This section does not apply with respect to causes of action arising under -

(1) the antitrust laws as defined in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12(a)); or

(2) statutes administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

This section does not apply with respect to petitions and proceedings that are provided for under the practices of any Federal agency for the purpose of ensuring in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, that interested

persons are given an opportunity to participate in agency rulemaking or to seek the issuance, amendment, or repeal of a rule.

SEC.442.NOT CAUSE FOR STAY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

No standards-related activity being engaged in within the United States may be stayed in any judicial or administrative proceeding on the basis that such activity is currently being considered, pursuant to the Agreement, by an international forum.

Subtitle D - DEFINITIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC.451.DEFINITIONS

As used in this title -

(1) AGREEMENT - The term "Agreement" means the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade approved under section 2(a) of this Act.

(2) CERTIFICATION SYSTEM - The term "certification system" means a system -

(A) for determining whether a product forms with product standards applicable to that product; and

(B) if a product so conforms, for attesting, by means of a document, mark, or other appropriate evidence of conformity, to that conformity.

Such terms also includes any modification of, or charge to, any such system.

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY - The term "Federal agency" means any of the following within the meaning of chapter 2 of part I of title 5, United States Code:

(A) Any executive department.
(B) Any military department.
(C) Any Government corporation.
(D) Any Government-controlled corporation.
(E) Any independent establishment.

(4) INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION SYSTEM - The term "international certification system" means a certification system that is adopted by an international standards organization.

(5) INTERNATIONAL STANDARD - The term "international standard" means any standard that is promulgated by an international standards organization.

(6) INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATION - The term "international standards organization" means any organization -

(A) the membership of which is open to representatives, whether public or private, of the United States and -

(i) all Parties to the Agreement, or

(ii) some but not all Parties of the Agreement; and

(B) that is engaged in international standards-related activities.

(7) INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITY - The term "international standards-related activity" means the negotiation, development, or promulgation of, or any amendment or change to, an international standard, or an international certification system, or both.

(8) PARTY TO THE AGREEMENT - The term "Party to the Agreement" means any foreign country or instrumentality determined by the President to have assumed, and to be applying, the obligations of the Agreement with respect to the United States.

(9) PRIVATE PERSON - The term "private person" means -

(A) any individual who is a citizen or national of the United States; and

(B) any corporation, partnership, association, or other legal entity organized or existing under the law of any State, whether for profit or not for profit.

(10) PRODUCT - The term "product" means any natural or manufactured item.

(11) SECRETARY CONCERNED - The term "Secretary concerned" means the Secretary of Commerce with respect to functions under this title relating to nonagricultural products, and the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to functions under this title relating to agricultural products.

(12) SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE - The term "Special Representative" means the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations.

(13) STANDARD - The term "standard" means any of the following, and any amendment or change to any of the following:

(A) The specification of the characteristics of a product, including, but not limited to, levels of quality, performance, safety, or dimensions.

(B) Specifications relating to the terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, or marking or labeling requirements applicable to a product.

(C) Administrative procedures related to the application of any specification referred to in paragraph (A) or (B).

(14) STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITY - The term "standards-related activity" means the development, adoption, or application of any standard or any certification system.

(15) STATE - The term "State" means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and other Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(16) STATE AGENCY - The term "State agency" means any department, agency, or other instrumentality of the government of any State or of any political subdivision of any State.

(17) UNITED STATES - The term "United States", when used in geographical context, means all States.

SEC.452.EXEMPTIONS UNDER TITLE

This title does not apply to -

(1) any standards activity engaged in by any Federal agency or State agency for the use (including, but not limited to, use with respect to research and development, production, or consumption) of that agency or the use of another such agency; or

(2) any standards activity engaged in by any private person solely for use in the production or consumption of products by that person.

SEC.453.REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON OPERATION OF AGREEMENT

As soon as practicable after the close of the 3-year period beginning on the date on which this title takes effect, and as soon as practicable after the close of each succeeding 3-year period, the Special Representative shall prepare and submit to Congress a report containing an evaluation of the operation of the Agreement, both domestically and internationally, during the period.

SEC.454.EFFECTIVE DATE

This title shall take effect on January 1, 1980, if the Agreement enters into force with respect to the United States by that date.

APPENDIX B

ISONET Constitution
Second Edition

ISO is the specialized international agency for standardization, comprising the national standards bodies of nearly 90 countries. The object of ISO is to promote the development of standards in the world with a view to facilitating international exchange of goods and services, and to developing mutual cooperation in the sphere of intellectual, scientific, technological and economical activity.

ISO brings together the interests of producers, users (including consumers), governments and the scientific community, in the preparation of International Standards.

The decision to create an ISO Information Network, ISONET, was taken in order to coordinate and systematize the exchange of information on standards and standard-type documents, both internationally and nationally, by linking the information centres of the ISO members and the Information Centre of the Central Secretariat into a coherent information system.

The present ISONET Constitution was approved by the ISO Council in September 1979. Together with the conditions of participation, it gives the basic guidelines for the organization and functioning of ISONET.

1 Title

The name of the network shall be the ISO Information Network hereinafter referred to by the abbreviated title ISONET.

2 Objectives

The objectives of ISONET shall be

- to promote closer cooperation among its members on questions of information
- to aid the transfer of technology for development
- to encourage coordination on standardization and implementation of standards

by promoting the flow of information on standards, technical regulations and related matters.

3 Membership

3.1 Members of ISONET shall be bodies competent to contribute to the flow of information on standardization which have agreed to abide by the provisions of the present Constitution.

3.2 Each ISONET member shall belong to one of three categories: national members, associate members and international affiliates.

3.3 A national member of ISONET is, subject to 3.6, an ISO member body which has asked to be registered as a member of ISONET. The request for registration should be addressed to the Secretary General of ISO.

3.4 Any ISO member body not itself wishing to become a member of ISONET may either appoint one body, and one body alone, from its country as the national member of ISONET or ask to be linked with a neighbouring national member, the latter member thus acquiring regional competence.

3.5 An associate member of ISONET is, subject to 3.6, any national body in a given country nominated by the national member of ISONET. These associate members shall expressly state willingness to abide by the present Constitution. The national member shall provide the Secretary General with a brief statement concerning the subject and territorial coverage and the services offered in the framework of ISONET in respect of each such associate member. In a given territory they, together with the national member, constitute a sub-network with respect to ISONET.

3.6 Admission of bodies as national members or associate members in countries where there is no ISO member body shall require the decision of ISO Council. The ISO Secretary General shall immediately submit such applications to Council.

3.7 An International affiliate is an international organization which has joined ISONET by invitation of the Secretary General of ISO, following the decision of ISO Council.

3.8 The Central Secretariat shall immediately inform all members of the new admissions to ISONET.

3.9 In certain specific cases members may, in addition to their territorial competence, perform a specialized function within ISONET, such as:

3.9.1 Management of certain instruments used by ISONET (the language agencies for the Thesaurus, maintaining the indexing manual. . .) or coordination of exchange operations;
3.9.2 Data processing with a view to interconnection of manual systems with automated systems;
3.9.3 Processing of documents or enquiries coming from countries not represented in ISONET; collecting and processing of certain types of documents on behalf of other members of the Network;
3.9.4 Compilation, through exchanges, of exhaustive documentation on the international documents of the various countries for a given subject or group of subjects;
3.9.5 Providing of certain services or lending of special assistance;
3.9.6 Such specialized functions shall be clearly defined, authorized by INFCO and recognized by the overall ISONET membership. In no case may a specialized function become an obstruction to the flow of information, cause unnecessary duplication of work, interfere with the territorial competence of the other members, or create a monopoly at the utilization level. The services provided shall be readily available to all ISONET members. Activities which cannot meet these requirements shall be regarded as outside the scope of ISONET. The special guidelines applying to such functions shall be compatible with the guidelines applying to all members.

4 Structure

4.1 Subject to the overall authority of ISO Council, the general policy for ISONET shall be determined by the ISO Standing Committee for the study of scientific and technical information on standardization (hereinafter referred to by the abbreviated title of INFCO), the membership of which shall be regarded as constituting the general assembly of ISONET.

4.2 National members of ISONET shall constitute the participating membership of INFCO while associate members, international affiliates and ISO member bodies which are not members of ISONET may participate in the work of INFCO as observers.

4.3 The chief executive organ of ISONET shall be an ISONET Management Board.

4.4 The ISONET Management Board shall consist of not more than nine persons and a chairman appointed by INFCO subject to confirmation by ISO Council. The chairman of INFCO shall be entitled to attend all meetings. The board shall be responsible for administrative, procedural and accounting matters and for the implementation of policy decisions. It may set up commissions of inquiry to handle any disputes between members.

4.5 The INFCO working groups shall act as technical advisory bodies to ISONET through INFCO.

4.6 The ISO Central Secretariat shall provide secretariat services for ISONET and its organs.

5 Rights and Obligations

5.1 The national members of ISONET shall each act as reference point for other ISONET members for information on standards, technical regulations and related matters in their own territory. The Information Centre of the ISO Central Secretary shall act as a reference point for information on standards, technical regulations and related matters of an international nature.

5.2 Each member of ISONET may refer to any other member any enquiry within the territorial or functional competence of the latter member, ISONET members shall take all reasonable steps to answer such enquiries.

5.3 Each national member shall also act as a referral centre for enquiries within its territorial competence. For this purpose it shall establish appropriate contacts with other scientific and technical information centres operating in its territory.

5.4 Members shall respect any guidelines for their operations which may be adopted by ISONET.

5.5 ISONET members shall make the services offered by ISONET known throughout their territory and shall assure the success of the network by taking an active part in the various activities organized by ISONET, by INFCO or its working groups.

5.6 ISONET members shall undertake to provide one another with mutual assistance in matters related to the services rendered in accordance with this agreement, in particular in relation to technical advice on systems operation and training.

6 Finance

6.1 The secretariat services for ISONET operations shall be financed through ISO Central Secretariat budget.

6.2 Each ISONET member shall be free to determine the modalities and amounts of any payments it requires for services rendered within its own territory.

6.3 INFCO shall establish rules for the renumeration of services rendered to other ISONET members.

6.4 Nothing in this constitution shall preclude ISONET members from deciding not to charge for services rendered.

7 Withdrawal

7.1 Any ISONET member may withdraw from membership by giving three months' notice to the ISO Secretary General, who will thereupon inform all other ISONET members.

7.2 Consistent failure by an ISONET member to fulfill the obligations of this Constitution may be reported by INFCO to ISO Council, which may decide to exclude that body from membership in ISONET.

Conditions for Participation in ISONET as a National Member

1 Principles and Procedures

The principles governing membership of ISONET are stated in the ISONET Constitution. The present document establishes operational procedures which take account of the wide differences between standards information centres as regards roles, responsibilities, level of development, resources and information requirements. For this purpose, three types of participation are defined below as references to allow each national member of ISONET to determine the terms of its own membership.

Each national member of ISONET is required to indicate to the ISONET secretariat its type of membership which should correspond to its present information capability. This declaration is regarded as part of the registration procedure, and the information will be included in an ISONET Directory to be published annually. Members may elect to change their type of membership by notifying the ISONET secretariat.

It is recognized that ISONET members provide information services to their users and to other ISONET members in various forms and media. Those members wishing to participate in the creation and management of consolidated bibliographic data files should plan for eventual ISONET participation as type 2 or type 3 members.

Nothing in the present document should be taken as overruling existing agreements with ISO for the exchange of documents.

2 Basic Conditions for Participation in ISONET

All national members of ISONET are regarded as full participants, whichever type of participation they have chosen. There are, however, certain basic minimum requirements for participation in ISONET as a national member, as follows:

2.1 A national member of ISONET undertakes to abide by the ISONET Constitution.

2.2 A national member of ISONET undertakes to accept willingly enquiries from other national members of ISONET regarding standards and technical regulations in force in the country of that member, giving either a direct answer or diligent assistance. Such enquiries should be answered or at least acknowledged by telex or cable when so received.

2.3 A national member of ISONET will do its best to see that an answer is sent to any enquiry received by that member either from within the country or outside. It is not sufficient for that member merely to forward the enquiry to someone else. An ISONET member receiving an enquiry may refer it to another centre but remains responsible for the enquiry until appropriate follow-up action has been taken on it.

2.4 If a national member of ISONET uses or accepts the use of indexing systems other than that elaborated by INFCO for the documents effective in its territory, it shall, subject to reciprocity, provide information and assistance relating to the use and operation of such systems to other national members.

2.5 A member of ISONET is invited to charge amounts in payment for services rendered to another member of ISONET which do not substantially differ from those it has fixed under article 6.2 of the Constitution, unless that member decides to apply the provisions of article 6.4 spontaneously or by bi- or multilateral agreement.

3 Membership Type 1

A national member of ISONET may choose membership type 1 when the following conditions have been met:

3.1 An information activity has been established to enable enquiries on standards, technical regulations and similar documents to be answered as required under the basic conditions for participation in ISONET.

It is expected that a member of ISONET should be able to identify directly standards for a product or service and to help to identify technical regulations and similar documents for such a product or service.

3.2 A list has been prepared in English and/or French of the titles of standards published by the ISO member represented, taking account of guidelines recommended by ISO for lists of this nature.

3.3 Arrangements exist to update the list at least once a year.

3.4 If conditions 3.2 and 3.3 cannot be met immediately an undertaking to meet these conditions within two years of the date of registration as a member of ISONET would be acceptable.

3.5 The lists and services should be made available to any other ISONET member requesting them, subject to reciprocity.

4 Membership Type 2

To choose membership type 2, in addition to the requirements for type 1, a national member of ISONET should have prepared bibliographic descriptions, in accordance with the ISONET Manual, of all standards published by the ISO member body (or correspondent member) represented. Record of each document should include a bibliographic description comprising at

least the mandatory elements defined in part 1.1 of the ISONET Manual and a description of the technical content using the ISONET Thesaurus. The member should have a regular routine for keeping this information up-to-date.

The file should be available preferably in machine readable form, to any member of ISONET requesting it, subject to reciprocity.

5 Membership Type 3

To choose membership type 3, a national member of ISONET should have prepared bibliographic descriptions of standards, technical regulations and similar documents which are operative in the country concerned and which have an importance to the international exchange of goods, services or information, whether or not these documents are published by the ISO member body or correspondent member.

The record of each document should include a bibliographic description prepared in accordance with the ISONET Manual and a description of the technical content using the ISONET Thesaurus. The member should have a regular routine for keeping this information up-to-date.

The file should be available, preferably in machine readable form, to any other member of ISONET requesting it, subject to reciprocity.

6 Reciprocity

Any national member of ISONET providing services to another member may expect to receive in return a fair level of equivalent services, due consideration being given to the type of membership taken out by its correspondent. If a member feels that the exchanges requested by another member are unbalanced owing for instance to dispartities in the volume, the adequacy or the convenience of use of the information interchanged, a proper balance may be sought through bilateral agreement. Should there be persistent diagreement, one or another of the parties may request the good offices of the Management Board.

7 Delegation of Duties

A national member of ISONET may delegate a part of its tasks to one or, exceptionally, more associate members, subject to a statement by the national member explaining how the conditions of Article 2 will be met and it being understood that the national member remains responsible before ISONET for ensuring that these obligations are actually carried out.

Conditions for Participation in ISONET as an Associate Member

1 Principles

The principles governing membership of ISONET are stated in the ISONET Constitution. The present document establishes guidelines for the nomination by national members of ISONET of certain national bodies as associate members.

The purpose of ISONET is to promote the flow of information on standards, technical specifications and related matters. Hence nothing in the present document should be taken as overruling, or interfering with arrangements which may already exist for the exchange of documents or information, whether or not such exchanges take place within the framework of ISONET.

2 Conditions

An associate member of ISONET is a national body which has been so nominated by the national member of ISONET of the country concerned.

An associate member acts under the sponorship of the national member of ISONET and actions taken by an associate member within the framework of ISONET remain the responsibility of the national member.

3 Privileges

An associate member will enjoy such privileges as may be determined by the national member of ISONET for the country concerned. Any costs involved in according such privileges shall be met at national level.

Conditions for Participation in ISONET as an International Affiliate

1 Principles

The principles governing membership of ISONET are stated in the ISONET Constitution. The present document establishes guidelines for the admission of international and regional bodies to ISONET as international affiliates.

The purpose of ISONET is to promote the flow of information on standards, technical specifications and related matters. Hence nothing in the present document should be taken as overruling, or interfering with arrangements which may already exist for the exchange of documents or information, whether or not such exchanges take place within the framework of ISONET.

2 Definitions

The following definitions were taken from ISO Guide 2-1978:

international standards organization: An organization, governmental or non-governmental, whose membership is open to all countries of the world and whose principal function, by virtue of its statutes, is the preparation and/or publication of standards and/or harmonization of the standards of its members.

regional standards organization: An organization, governmental or non-governmental, whose membership is usually limited to certain countries from a given region of the world and whose principal function, by virtue of its statutes, is the preparation and/or publication of standards, and/or the harmonization of the standards of its members.

standardizing bodies: A body, governmental or non-governmental, one of whose recognized activities is in the field of standardization.

regional standardizing body: A standardizing body whose membership is usually limited to certain countries from a given region of the world.

3 Conditions

An international affiliate is an international organization which has joined ISONET by invitation of the Secretary-General of ISO following the decision of ISO Council, Eligibility for membership of ISONET as an international affiliate is determined by the requirements stated below.

3.1 The organization shall be a regional standards organization, an international standardizing body or a regional standardizing body, as defined above.

3.2 To qualify as an international affiliate, a regional standards organization shall have a regular working relationship with ISO, established in accordance with ISO Council resolution 5/1972.

3.3 If it is an international standardizing body, the organization shall be in category A liaison, as defined in ISO Directives, with at least one ISO technical committee or sub-committee.

3.4 The organization shall agree to abide by the terms of the ISONET Constitution.

3.5 The organization shall agree to assist the ISO Information Centre in ensuring the inclusion of all suitable documents which it publishes in a register of international normative documents and in keeping the register up-to-date.

3.6 The organization shall agree to the exploitation of the register referred to in 3.5, by the publication of bibliographies and indexes, the provision of services of selective dissemination of information or any other methods which may be decided upon to promote the flow of information about the documents.

4 Privileges

4.1 An international affiliate will receive copies of all INFCO documents and an invitation to attend all INFCO meetings.

4.2 An international affiliate which operates an indexing or abstracting service in a given field of science or technology as a service to its members or to the public, is entitled to receive for inclusion free copies in English and/or French of all ISO publications relating to that field, or alternatively the ISO Catalogue and special lists where these are sufficient for the purpose.

4.3 An international affiliate may call upon the ISONET Secretariat for assistance in identifying international and/or national standards or technical regulations relating to its specific field of interest.

4.4 An international affiliate may receive a copy of any published product of the register referred to in 3.5 and 3.6 above, either free or at cost, as may be determined by INFCO.

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The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and NBS have been working cooperatively with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to provide United States input to the development of an International Standards Information Network called ISONET. Symposium participants had an opportunity to learn more about existing international standards information systems as well as the plans for the further development of ISONET. Through question and answer discussions, participants were able to learn about new developments in U.S. trade policy, especially those policies pertaining to standards and certification systems.

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