REGIONAL STANDARDS-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Note by the secretariat

1. At its sixth meeting, on 4-5 February 1981, the Committee agreed that the secretariat should list regional standardizing and certifying bodies in a paper setting out the nature of their operating rules and the scope for their activities (TBT/M/6, paragraph 30). Annex 1 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade defines a regional body or system as "A body or system whose membership is open to the relevant bodies of only some of the Parties".

2. The list of regional bodies compiled by the secretariat, with the assistance of some delegations, is very extensive and it has seemed appropriate to concentrate initially on a limited number of these, others being listed in the Annex. Further information to which the secretariat's attention may be drawn could be included in addenda to this document.

3. This paper attempts to provide the following information for each body listed; its membership, the main periodical publications when such exist, a brief account of activities and a summary of the main elements of their operating rules. However, the document is based on such information as is presently available to the secretariat and may not be complete: descriptions given are subject to change in the light of further information that may become available. As in TBT/W/8, dealing with international bodies, regional standardizing or certifying bodies are classified under two headings: "A. Intergovernmental", "B. Non-Governmental".

A. Intergovernmental

1. Arab Organization for Standardization and Metrology (ASMO)

Membership: (Active members, defined as countries who signed the Agreement and have established organs for standardization) Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen AR, Yemen PDR. (Egypt's membership was suspended in June 1979).

Publication: ASMO Bulletin (six-monthly)
Activities: Over 350 standards have been adopted, two-thirds of which are entirely based on corresponding ISO, IEC, OIML and Codex Alimentarius standards. The Constitution of ASMO also provides for the issue, adoption and registration of marks, data and symbols indicating conformity with Arab recommendations and standard specifications, and for the drafting of regulations, rules and conditions for the use of conformity marks. In addition to harmonization of standards used in Arab countries and coordination with other standards bodies, the ASMO Constitution provides for the establishment of an information and documentation centre and for training activities.

Operating rules: The organization is open to Arab states and countries. Those states and countries which have no established organs for standardization may join as correspondent members or observers without voting rights. ASMO is composed of a General Committee, an Executive Council, Technical Committees and Sub-Committees and a General Secretariat. The General Committee is responsible for the adoption, and amendment as required, of recommendations and Arab specifications. Each member state has one vote in the General Committee. Resolutions are considered binding if adopted by two-thirds of the active members present and voting, but those resolutions concerning the adoption of Arab standard specifications require the unanimous vote of all the active members present. Sessions of the General Committee are considered legal if attended by the majority of the active members.

2. Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Standardization work is under consideration in the ASEAN framework at both intergovernmental and non-governmental levels. A proposal for establishing a Sub-Committee on Standardization was formulated as early as January 1976 in the ASEAN Permanent Committee on Science and Technology. In another development, the Working Group on Industrial Complementation of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry has included in its work programme a project to harmonize quality standards for pulp and paper of the five ASEAN countries and to develop regional standards for ASEAN.

More information on ASEAN standardization activities will be communicated to the Committee as it becomes available.

3. Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)

Membership: Governments of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR, Vietnam. Yugoslavia participates since 1964 in matters of mutual interest.
CMEA Information Index on Standardization (issued 2 to 6 times a year.)

Over 700 standards for application in accordance with the 1975 Statute of CMEA Standards and Convention on Application of CMEA Standards have been written, covering all branches of industry, agriculture and services. In addition, over 5000 Recommendations on standardization have been published.

The Standing Commission for Standardization deals with activities in this area. The CMEA Institute for Standardization, established in 1962, conducts research relating to the unification of Standards and the elaboration of new standards for CMEA countries. CMEA standards must correspond to the norms and requirements laid down in the standardization documents of international organizations if they do not run counter to the aims and tasks of socialist economic integration. Application of CMEA standards is compulsory for countries signatories of the 1975 Statute and Convention, unless they took no part in its approval. Countries which apply the standards may set higher technical requirements for national purposes, provided they are technically compatible with those of the standard.

4. Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

Governments of 34 countries, i.e. all member States of the United Nations in Europe, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States. (N.B. Japan participates under Article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference).

UN/ECE Standards and international Conventions, Agreements, Regulations and Recommendations for adoption by governments.

Groups of Experts and Working Parties deal with various aspects of standardization in the fields of agriculture; housing, building and planning; inland transport; timber; water; and trade facilitation. Two joint ECE/Codex Alimentarius Groups of Experts deal respectively with quick frozen foods and fruit juices.

In general, the UN/ECE promotes international standardization rather than laying down standards of its own, but it can be directly involved in the preparation of appropriate documents.
5. European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

Membership: 7 Member States of EFTA and FIN-EFTA (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland).


Activities: In 1964, the EFTA Councils agreed on a procedure whereby the participating governments were invited to notify each other through the EFTA Secretariat, in advance, of their intention to introduce new or amended statutory regulations enforcing technical requirements. There were 191 notifications during the first ten years of operation of the procedure. Between 1975 when the procedure was revised, and the end of 1979, there were 144 notifications of new or amended regulations.

There has never been any attempt to establish "EFTA Standards". The EFTA policy in this field has been to encourage the acceptance of international standards commanding the widest possible acceptance. In 1975, the EFTA Governments were recommended:

(a) To take advantage, as far as possible, of the liaison arrangements existing between EFTA, CEN, CENELEC and the Commission of the European Communities;

(b) To make as efficient as possible their national procedures for providing authorities and other interested parties with information on CEN/CENELEC work, as well as on work in other international organizations concerning the elimination of technical barriers to trade;

(c) To contribute to the work in CEN and CENELEC in order to make it as efficient as possible;

(d) To encourage government services to take part in the work on matters relating to ISO, IEC, CEN and CENELEC, on both the national and the international level. EFTA has drawn-up agreements between participating authorities or conventions between governments for the mutual recognition of tests and inspections. Seven Reciprocal Recognition Schemes and two Conventions have been adopted as follows:

(a) Reciprocal recognition of tests and inspections carried out on pressure vessels;

(b) Reciprocal recognition of tests and inspections carried out on ships' equipment;
Reciprocal recognition of tests and inspections carried out on gas appliances;
Reciprocal recognition of tests carried out on agricultural machines and tractors for operational safety and ergonomics and for road traffic safety;
Reciprocal recognition of tests and inspections carried out on lifting appliances;
Reciprocal recognition of tests and inspections carried out on heating equipment using liquid fuel;
Reciprocal recognition of evaluation reports on pharmaceutical products;
Convention on the Control and Marking of Articles of Precious Metals;
Convention for the mutual recognition of inspections in respect of the manufacture of pharmaceutical products.

In addition, an arrangement operates since 1969 among the Member countries and the United Kingdom for the reciprocal recognition of tests of electrical equipment.

Operating rules: Since 1975, the rule concerning notification of national standards is that governments should notify all new regulations in advance of their implementation, except those which are clearly of no importance to international trade. Notification should be made at the earliest practical stage in the drafting of the regulation, in order to allow time for the other EFTA Governments to study the regulation, to comment and have their suggestions taken into account. The notification should give the full text or a summary of the regulation in English; it should be indicated whether the regulation is identical with the specifications already worked out by an international standards body or whether it deviates - in the latter case the reasons for the deviations should normally be given; the name and address of the national authorities competent to give further information should be supplied; and the implementation date envisaged should also be included.

The Schemes and Conventions for the reciprocal recognition of tests and inspections are not integral to EFTA itself, nor do they depend on the Stockholm Convention. Each is an international arrangement with an independent existence, open to all countries which have comparable testing facilities. The link with EFTA is that the Association provides secretariat services for the arrangements.

The arrangement on the reciprocal recognition of tests of electrical equipment provides that an EFTA or United Kingdom manufacturer whose electrical equipment has received a certificate from a testing station in one country should be able to clear his product with this certificate through any other participating country's testing authority, to the
extent that any of the tests carried out in the first station were in line with the test requirements of the final station. The arrangement is not the object of a separate agreement entered into by the participating authorities.

6. European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

Membership: 35 governments: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Greece, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Kingdom (Guernsey), United Kingdom (Jersey), USSR, Yugoslavia.


Activities: Harmonization of pesticides use according to good agricultural practices, food hygiene, ULV standards, phytosanitary regulations, fumigation standards. Technical committees, working parties and panels work in cooperation with other standards and related bodies active in the same fields, i.e. FAO, European Economic Community (EEC), International Agricultural Aviation Centre (IAAC), International Group of National Pesticide Manufacturers Association (GIFAP), International Union of Forestry Research Organization (IUFRO), European Weed Research Society (EWRS), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), International Federation of Seed Trade (FIS).

Operating rules: Recommendations are normally issued as conclusions of International Conferences and other meetings.

7. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Membership: Western European countries and Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States.

Publication: OECD Observer

Activities: Recommendations on harmonization and simplification of national regulations and on the development of technical regulations for specific products, including drafting model regulations and testing codes. Arrangements, codes and schemes establishing standards for certain services (e.g. export credits for ships) and products (especially agricultural products and chemicals). Details of activities in the field of chemicals were circulated to signatories of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade on 11 June 1980.
Operating rules: Effective implementation is left to member countries

8. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Membership: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China (People's Republic), France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kampuchea, Korea (Republic of), Laos, Malaysia, Maldive, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua-New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States, U.S.S.R. Associate members: Brunei, Cook, Fiji, Gilbert, Hong Kong, Solomon, Trust Territory Pacific Islands, Tuvalu.

Activities: An intergovernmental meeting of heads of standards institutions in the region was convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to reactivate standardization activities in the region in the light of their growing importance in international trade. It was participated in by representatives from countries of the ESCAP Region and UN bodies and non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization of Consumers Union (IOCU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The meeting has been convened only once (in November 1980) and at that meeting participants strongly recommended initiation of a programme of cooperation among member countries in the field of standardization, quality control and metrology through:

(a) exchange of literature on national standards, draft standards, report, bulletins and other materials;
(b) institution of training programmes for international participation;
(c) publication of useful guides to promote the adoption of suitable in-plant systems of quality control;
(d) adoption of appropriate international standards;
(e) harmonization of national standards which are different from each other;
(f) initiation of new projects for development of standardization activities of meeting regional needs;
(g) development of intercountry arrangements for standardization and certification activities; and
(h) active participation in the work of ISO and IEC for development of international standards on items of specific interest to the region.
B. Non-governmental

9. African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO)


Publication: n.a.

Activities: No regional standard has been published to date. Priority fields of study listed in the 1980-82 programme of work cover: basic and general standards, building and civil engineering, industrial and mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, chemical engineering, transport and communications, textiles, agriculture and forestry, food and pharmaceuticals, natural resources and environment.

It is planned to establish a Regional Certification Marking Scheme to be operated by ARSO in connexion with products for which ARSO standards have been issued.

Action is also planned to achieve reciprocal and multilateral recognition of certification marks of member bodies.

Operating rules: Membership is open to national standards bodies of each member state of UN/ECA or the Organization of African Unity (OAU), or where no standards body exists, to a responsible government body designated by the government of the state concerned.

The Organization is composed of a General Assembly, a Council, Technical Committees established by the Assembly, and a General Secretariat. Decisions of the Assembly, which is the supreme organ of ARSO, are taken by simple majority vote, except on certain constitutional or procedural issues.

10. European Committee for Standardization (CEN)

Membership: National standardization organizations in European Common Market countries (except Luxembourg), EFTA excluding Iceland, Finland and Spain. Membership is open to the national standards organization of any European country which is, or is capable of becoming a member of the EEC or EFTA.

Publications: CEN Information (Annual)

Activities: Standards writing and certification. CEN standards called "European standards" (EN), number 50-60 and cover all non-electrotechnical fields, dealt with in 52 technical committees. The main part of CEN’s activity, however, is devoted to achieving a harmonized Western European implementation of ISO and IEC international standards instead of
developing new EN standards. CEN acts as the technical body producing technical reference documents for Common Market directives.

In the area of certification, CEN is working towards the establishment of a Western European system called CENCER for certifying compliance with standards, usually EN standards, based on marking with the registered CEN mark.

In addition, CEN is working towards the establishment of a system of mutual recognition of test results in relation to national certification systems in cases where no EN standards exist.

Operating rules: A European Standard (EN) is characterized by the adherence of a significant majority of CEN members based on the following principles:

- the number of favourable votes should be equal to at least twice those against, abstentions not being counted, with the additional provision that at least four CEN members shall have voted in favour;
- if a draft standard treats a subject for which the European Communities envisage a reference to standards in a directive, the standard should be accepted if the above conditions are fulfilled by the votes which emanate from EEC countries;
- if it appears that the majority does not cover at least two thirds of the production in the countries represented in CEN and two thirds of the consumption in the same countries, of the product in question, the document can be rejected if at least two CEN members demand it.

A European Standard may be referred to as such, but is given practical validity only through publication as a national standard of CEN members and having the full status of a national standard.

For a member body of CEN a positive vote at the final vote stage means a commitment to give to the European Standard, within six months, the status of a national standard i.e. to publish it as a national standard without deviation from the agreed text or to endorse it. This positive vote moreover implies that when a transition period is necessary before an existing national standard in the field can be wholly superseded, the period of transition shall be stated on the cover page of the national publication. Additionally, the period of co-existence of two national standards on the same subject shall be limited as far as practicable and there should be no new standard promulgated on the same subject as the European Standard.

A CEN member which has given a negative vote, or abstains from voting, retains absolute freedom regarding the publication, maintenance and contents of any national standard or standards of its own on the subject. However, it must make available the European Standard upon request.

CENCER is the certification arm of CEN. Its first objective is to operate a conformity certification marking scheme. This scheme provides a system under which products are type tested and the manufacturers
quality control subject to evaluation, approval and continuing surveillance including sample testing of the products.

CENCER's main work is decentralized through its certifying members of the national standards organizations or mandated certification bodies. These administer the individual CENCER certification schemes nationally and serve as links between the manufacturer who is granted a licence, the testing and inspection agency, responsible for the physical testing and inspection, and CENCER which is responsible for ensuring conformity of procedure in the member countries.

11. European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)

Membership: National electrotechnical committees of the member countries of the European Communities, EFTA (excluding Iceland), Finland and Spain.

Publication: CENELEC (booklet)

Activities: Harmonization of national standards of member countries in the electrotechnical field, as far as possible on the basis of IEC publications: CENELEC has produced about 350 harmonization documents, the technical contents of which are to be implemented at national level.

CENELEC also has produced 40 European standards or draft standards and 150 component specifications or draft specifications (prepared by 34 technical committees and sub-committees and 24 working groups of the CENELEC Electronic Components Committee, CECC). CECC has a registered collective mark.

The CENELEC Marks Committee deals with conformity certification matters. There is a special scheme for low voltage cables and cords.

CENELEC also provides European standards for reference in European Community directives.

Operating rules: The main purpose of CENELEC is to remove, through mutual agreement, any differences of technical nature between its members' national standards and national measures to certify conformity which would give rise to trade barriers. Its work complements the aims of Article 100 of the Treaty of Rome, which provides for the approximation of laws and regulations of Member States.

CENELEC cooperates closely with the EC Commission in selecting areas of highest priority for harmonization: CENELEC results are used in certain Commission directives. Non-EEC members follow the same priorities in support of a wider European market.

The harmonization process works as follows: when CENELEC has selected an available international
standard as the basic document, all National Committees stop any national work on the same subject until a decision has been reached within CENELEC on how to introduce this standard at national level. This is known as the standstill agreement. The international standard may be endorsed without any change made to its text or may be modified as found to be necessary in order to meet European market needs. These modifications are prepared by a CENELEC technical committee and agreed by vote of all National Committees. Thereafter they form part of the commonly agreed standard, which is given one of the following CENELEC publication references: European Standard (EN); Harmonization Document (HD). The National Committees then have to take national action.

EN and HD are either endorsed or published as national standards. The first implementation requirement at national level for either EN and HD is that its existence must be made known in all the member countries. Then before the end of an agreed time limit all conflicting national standards must be either withdrawn or amended in a way to align with the technical requirements of the new CENELEC document.

The full text of an EN, officially produced in English, French and German, must be published (or endorsed as nationally valid) as a new national standard with no additional national amendments or requirements.

To implement an HD, the National Committees are free to choose whether to publish an identical text or a technically equivalent text as national standard, or not to publish a new standard at all. This last option is possible on the condition that all existing conflicting national requirements are withdrawn. If a national standard is produced later on, it must be either identical or technically equivalent to the HD.

When National Committees are not able to adopt all the technical requirements of an HD straight away, these difficulties are notified in advance and discussed by CENELEC. An extra transitional period for implementation may be granted to remove national differences. For information purposes a full list of these differences is issued in a separate document.

For EN there is no allowance for national differences.

CENELEC is an independent non-profit-making association which is recognised under Belgian law. CENELEC works separately from, but in close collaboration with, CEN, the European Committee for Standardization (see number 10 above).

The General Assembly (AG) is the highest body in CENELEC. The Technical Board (BT) controls all the technical activities, including selection of international standards for consideration, setting
up and monitoring the CENELEC technical committees. The Liaison Committee (LC) deals with matters specifically related to CENELEC's cooperation with the Commission of the EEC. The General Secretariat (SG) is responsible for the secretariat of the above-mentioned bodies. The Administration committee (CA) deals mainly with legal and financial matters in an advisory capacity. The General Assembly receives regular reports from BT, LC, CA and also from the CECC and the Marks Committee.

12. International Commission on rules for the approval of Electrical Equipment (CEE/Arnhem)

Membership: National organizations in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USSR, Yugoslavia; observers from Australia, Canada, Hong-Kong, Iceland, India, Japan, South Africa, United States.

Publications: CB Bulletin; Certification Scheme (May 1970).


Operating rules: CEE specifications are used in connexion with a certification system managed by a Certification Body (CB) established by the CEE. The CB scheme aims at facilitating the mutual recognition of tests of conformity to national marks. It is open to bodies in all countries, provided that body is willing and able to adhere to the rules. CB certificates are delivered on the basis of CEE standards or of IEC standards adopted by the CEE. A special certificate of compliance issued by an approved testing station in one member country is accepted by all member countries for purposes of obtaining a national approval or for granting a national mark of conformity. Members of the system cooperating with recognized CB Testing Stations are Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

The CEE delivers a certification mark (the E mark), registered in each country whose national organization is a member of CEE. Each CEE country operates the mark independently, coordination among countries being assured by the CB system. That is, obtention of a CB certificate is a necessary condition for access to the E mark. The E mark
applies to five domestic appliances: razors, vacuum cleaners, electric clocks, hand-held massaging apparatus and cord sets (incorporating a plug and a connector).
The CEE is now limiting its activities to certification based on IEC standards. In future, the only activity related to standards writing will relate to the adaptation of IEC standards when required for certification purposes.

13. Nordic certification systems

(a) INSTA (Nordic certification system for conformity with harmonized Nordic standards.)
INSTA is not an organization but a scheme of cooperation between Nordic Standards associations.

Membership: National bodies in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden.

Activities: Cooperation aims at harmonizing national standards. There are no INSTA standards as such. INSTA operates a formalized certification system based on a frame agreement between the member associations. The schemes so far established cover protective helmets, protective footwear, hearing protective devices and safe-storage units.

Operating rules: The INSTA certification system is a third party marking system based on type testing and approval followed by surveillance of the production. It is open to manufacturers from countries outside Scandinavia.

(b) Nordic Committee on Building Regulations (NKB)

Membership: Technical bodies in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden.

Activities: A joint body for promoting development in the field of technical testing (NORDTEST methods). Issues test methods which are recommended for joint use within the Nordic countries. NKB has so far issued 382 methods.

(c) Nordic Scheme (NORDTEST)

The scheme operates on the basis of agreements between the Nordic Institutes for Testing and Approval of Electrical Equipment of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden (EMKO, DEMKO, NEMKO, and SEMKO), for the mutual recognition of tests of electrical equipment and appliances in connexion with national approval arrangements.

Operating rules: The Nordic countries have signed, on 8 March 1975, the so-called Copenhagen Agreement, according to which electrical products manufactured outside the
Nordic countries can pass the Electrical Inspectorate of a Nordic country without re-inspection provided they have been inspected in another Nordic inspection institute and this is certified appropriately. The Copenhagen Agreement is in effect in Finland, Norway and Sweden since 1 July 1975. The Agreement, initially concluded for five years, has been made permanent on 20 May 1980.

(d)

Nordic Committee for Coordination of Electrical Safety Regulations (NSS)

Established in accordance with a recommendation of the Nordic Council. The objective of NSS is to remove differences between the heavy current regulations of the Nordic Countries dealing with the construction and installation of electrical equipment.

(e)

Other

A test cooperation scheme exists for pleasure boats. A common certification scheme provides for the multilateral acceptance among Nordic countries of generally approved building materials, structures and methods.

14. Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC)

Membership: PASC is attended by representatives from national standards bodies, governments and industry of the countries of the Pacific rim, namely: Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, N. Korea, S. Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, United States. Membership may be opened to national standards organizations of countries outside the area which PASC feels can make a substantial contribution to its purpose and objectives.

Activities: PASC, first convened in February 1973, has held several other meetings since that time. The objectives of PASC, as stated in February 1973, are:

1. To exchange information and views and initiate such actions as may be necessary to help ensure that international standards activities are properly coordinated on a consensus basis so as to meet world needs and foster international trade and commerce.

2. To provide a geographically convenient forum for the countries of the Pacific Area to develop and communicate their requirements to the international standards bodies.
3. To form a consultative liaison with the international standards bodies so as to help them meet world needs in standardization by communicating the requirements and recommendations of the PASC member countries.

4. To examine future requirements in international standardization and the necessary changes in the current international standards structure which may be required to meet these requirements.

5. To encourage and strengthen ability of PASC National Standards Bodies to Participate in ISO/IEC.

Operating rules: PASC is a Congress rather than an organization and is hosted by different member bodies which provide the secretariat for the meeting in question.

15. Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT)

Membership: National standardizing institutions of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay; one regional standardizing institution (ICAINTI) representing 5 Central American countries (El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua) and two associate members representing, respectively, the Dominican Republic and South Africa.

Publications: Bulletin COPANT. Pan American Standards and Recommendations Catalog

Activities: Formulates harmonized standards to serve as a basis for commercial transactions of the American countries. Cooperates with these countries with a view to establishing standardizing bodies where none exist at present. To date, COPANT has written 326 approved Pan American standards and a further 518 are under study in its 30 technical committees and 158 sub-committees. COPANT also aims to promote among its members the use of harmonized quality control and metrology systems with a view to the granting of marks of conformity with national and Pan American standards.

Operating rules: Active members are national standards bodies (one per country or group of countries) of the countries in the American continent recognized and accepted by the COPANT Assembly in accordance with established COPANT by-laws and regulations. The international standards bodies, the scientific, technical, trading, industrial and agricultural organizations in the American continent and the regional standards bodies and entities of non-American countries may be associate members.
COPANT standards are printed in Spanish. Some draft standards are drawn-up in Portuguese. English is used in the correspondence, translation of reports and minutes of COPANT annual meetings. There is also an English version of the COPANT catalogue and of the list of COPANT documents under study.
Annex

OTHER REGIONAL STANDARDS ORGANIZATIONS

1. American-British-Canadian-Australia Committee on Unification
2. Asian Packaging Federation
3. Carribbean Common Market Standards Council
4. Community Bureau of Reference
5. Committee for European Construction Equipment
6. Council of European Industrial Federation
7. European Atomic Energy Community
8. European Caravan Federation
9. European Cement Association
10. European Committee for Cooperation of the Machine Tool Industries
11. European Committee of Manufacturers of Air Handling Equipment
12. European Committee of Pump Manufacturers
13. European Committee of the Brass Founding Industry
14. European Confederation of Woodworking Industries
15. European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations
16. European Federation of Lifting, Conveying and Handling Equipment Manufacturers
17. European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers
18. European Federation of Manufacturers
19. European Federation of Parquet Manufacturers
20. European Federation of Particle Board Associations
21. European Federation of the Industries of Earthenware and China Tableware and Ornamental Ware
22. European Federation of the Plywood Industry
23. European Federation of Wholesale Footwear Trade
24. European Flooring Institute
25. European Furniture Manufacturers Federation
26. Euro-International Committee
27. European Liaison Committee for Sewing Machine Industries
28. European Oil-Hydraulic and Pneumatic Committee
29. European Organization for the Promotion of Prefabrication and other Industrialized Building Methods
30. European Pharmacopeia
31. European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization (ERMCO)
32. European Standards on Nuclear Electronics Commission (ESONE)
33. European Tyre and Rim Technical Organization
34. European Tea Committee
35. European Union for the Grain Oilseed, and Fodder Trades and Derivatives
36. Federation Europeenne des Syndicats d'Entreprises d'Isolation
37. Federation Europeene du Mobilier Metallique
38. Institute of Western European Producers of Iron Alloys
39. Liaison Committee for Mediterranean Citrus Fruit Culture
40. Maghreb Committee on Normalisation (COMANOR)
41. Nordic Committee on Food Analysis (NMKL)
42. Nordic Group for Steel Regulation