



ISO Work on International Environmental Labelling Standards

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Report on Progress Resulting from ISO TC207 Meeting, Bogotá , June 2008

by
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for
Environment Canada

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2007, Environment Canada engaged the Consumer Interest Alliance, Inc. (CIAI) to produce a report following the ISO TC207 meeting held in Beijing in June of 2007. That report, titled “Report on progress on International Environmental Labelling Standards - ISO 14020 series: Resulting from TC207 Meeting, Beijing, June 2007” provided a summarized history of the development of standards for Environmental Labels and Declarations, both nationally and internationally. It was designed to provide readers with all the background information necessary to understand where Canada fits into this work and to bring them right up to date with a report on the results of the 2007 meeting of TC207/SC3 on international standards for environmental labels and declarations.

This Report, on the ISO TC207 meeting held in Bogotá in June 2008, is a follow-up to the report produced last year. To avoid the need for the reader to go through last years’

report, it begins with a brief summary of the history of environmental labelling and the development of international standards that were detailed in the 2007 report.

The report then covers;

- the Canadian situation,
- significant international activities relating to environmental labels and declarations,
- activity and work within ISO TC207/SC3 on the ISO 14020 series of standards, and
- other events occurring in ISO TC207 that relate to labelling issues, since the completion of the 2007 report.

It goes on to summarise the work of the Canadian Advisory committee and Canadian positions on key issues prior to Bogotá and then describes in detail the meetings, discussions and events that took place at the ISO TC207 meeting in Bogotá, Columbia in June 2008 that impact on international standards for environmental labels and declarations. Not all of these activities took place in TC207/SC3 – the sub committee primarily responsible for environmental labelling issues.

Of particular significance to the issue of labels and declarations is the work currently underway in SC7 – the sub committee responsible for standards for greenhouse gas management and related issues. This sub committee has presented a new work item proposal (NWIP) on the development of carbon footprints for products and this work has been approved to go ahead in SC7, Working Group 2. There is significant overlap between the development of this document and ongoing work on labelling (SC3) and LCA (SC5) standards. Most of the contentious discussions in Bogotá took place during the meetings of this working group and much of the discussion on labelling in SC3 was focussed on the work of SC7/WG2. Much of this was seen as the repetition of discussions that SC3 had with SC5 (LCA) during the development of 14025. This report covers all of these activities and identifies the ties to and overlap with the ongoing labelling work. It also clarifies efforts being made to achieve cooperation and synchronization between the three sub committees.

There is an outline of the work that is planned and meetings that will be occurring within TC207 and its sub-committees during the next year, leading up to the next plenary meeting – planned for October or November 2009 in Cairo, Egypt. Particular attention is given to all

activities that impact on the international environmental labelling scene, whether or not these are directly under the purview of SC3.

Finally, the events, activities and work plans are analysed from a Canadian perspective with recommendations from CIAI relating to consultations and activities that we believe will be needed to enable Canada to participate effectively in this work and to protect domestic interests, for consumers and industry, and our export market.

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