



CIPH is Working with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and The Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) Towards Alignment of Bi National Standards

In 2015, SCC and ULC Standards collaborated to produce the first joint national standard between Canada and the US for the plumbing and heating sector. The initiative succeeded in facilitating cross-border trade by not only aligning standards, but, more significantly, by creating a single body responsible for certification and regulation management. Adopting a joint standard for both jurisdictions streamlined the research, application, and compliance processes of the industry.

For a firm operating in the plumbing and heating sector, bringing a new product to market is expensive. The cost of certification alone ranges between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per product. For new products, the certification process can account for as much as 20% of product costs. Increased costs are typical of more complex regulatory processes. The initiatives described above reduced the complexity of the regulatory environment, improving outcomes for industry and consumers. A key factor contributing to the success of each initiative was the clearly articulated interest from firms based in, and operating on, both sides of the border.

At Issue:

As part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement, the Regulatory Cooperation team at TBS has been approached by the Canadian Institute for Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) with a list of recommendations for harmonization with the United States. These recommendations are driven by industry and represent issues that limit cross-border trade by complicating certification, promoting fragmentation of the market, and reducing regulatory clarity.

Recommendation:

We are currently identifying Canadian and American regulations that, together, create mirrored processes, onerous certification costs, and complicated support systems. In most cases, developing joint processes between Canada and the US would greatly reduce the administrative burden firms are facing and reduce duplicative work being done by regulators.

We recognise that resolving these issues is dependent on ANSI's interest. Recent leadership turnover in ANSI members and a renewed interest in cross-border collaboration present a window of opportunity to address these issues. The SCC should play a primary role in selecting which items to advance, leveraging their expertise in promoting good regulatory practices and the insight they gain from acting as Canada's main contact with ANSI. We are seeking to meet with the SCC to assess which of these items is most viable and to plan next steps.