

INITIAL WORK PLAN REGULATORY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Regulatory Best Practices

- A list of illustrative best regulatory practices to be used by regulators will be developed **(Completed, April 2008)**

Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) Forum

- Canada to host a Risk Assessment Conference and Workshop to gain the advice of government officials and academics on how to improve and align approaches to risk assessment, particularly in the completion of regulatory impact analyses **(Completed, February 21-22, 2008)**
- Canada to host first meeting of RIA Forum along with RIA Conference in 2008 **(November/December, 2008)**
- Identify pilot project(s) on joint RIA methodology **(next 6 months)**
 - Conduct those pilot projects **(next 12 to 18 months)**
 - Countries to identify and conduct a post-analysis of an existing U.S. Regulatory Impact Assessment (A RIA prepared by the U.S. Department of Transportation on electronic stability control (ESC) system for motor vehicles was chosen. Canadian and Mexican reviews of the ESC RIA will be discussed at the RIA Forum in the fall)
- Work cooperatively towards including assessment of trade impact in the regulatory impact analysis among the Partners **(next 12-18 months)**
- Promote exchange of officials from Partners' regulatory agencies through existing mechanisms **(next 12-18 months)**

Transparency and Early Alert

- The three countries have identified measures that serve as a foundation for transparent regulatory systems
- Mexico has established an online real-time system for searching regulatory proposals as well as a mechanism through which registered users can receive e-mail notifications of draft proposals (see <http://www.cofemer.gob.mx>)
- In the U.S., the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions is now published electronically in a format that will offer users an enhanced ability to obtain and search for information on upcoming U.S. regulations (<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>)
- The U.S. Department of Transportation has established a website to allow early notification of rulemakings that could potentially impact Canada and Mexico (<http://regs.dot.gov/effects/frnEffects.cfm>)
- In Canada, Regulatory Plans are being made available to the public through the Reports on Plans and Priorities completed annually by regulatory departments and agencies (see http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rpp/0708/menu_e.asp)

- Canada and the United States will build on this by developing early alert mechanisms to notify each other of new regulations to avoid incompatibility issues. The work will be initiated by the United States and Canada through:
 - A survey of regulatory departments and agencies to develop an inventory of the formal and informal cooperative arrangements that currently exist between the three countries (**next 6 months**)
 - Assess and analyze this inventory with a view to identifying gaps and highlighting opportunities for closer regulatory cooperation (**next 6 months**)
 - Develop options for creating early alert mechanisms where gaps exist (**next 6 months**)

Standards

- National Standards Symposium in St John's Newfoundland & Labrador — Workshop to be held on Import Safety - Consumer Products; (**Completed, June 2-4**)
- Work-shops to build a better understanding of respective standardization and regulatory systems (**12-18 months**)
- First workshop to be held in the fall of 2008 (**TBC**)

Sectoral Initiatives

- Trilateral agreement has been reached on pursuing the following sectoral initiatives:
 1. Transportation
 - Motor Vehicle Regulations and Traffic Safety
 - Railroad Safety Standards and Regulations
 2. Auto Emissions
 - Motor Vehicle and Engine Emissions Regulations
 - Automotive Emissions Testing
 3. Biotechnology
 4. Chemicals
 5. Digital Television
 6. E-Commerce
 7. Organics
 8. Pesticides
 9. Pre-departure Certification Program for Asian Gypsy Moth
- The Coordinating Committee will reach consensus on any additional sectoral initiatives to be pursued in the future
- The Coordinating Committee to receive annual updates from lead agencies/departments responsible for sectoral initiatives