



SEI Offers Canadian Accreditation

The Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) is pleased to announce on August 3, 2001, its certification program received accreditation as a Certification Body (CB) by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). This prestigious SCC accreditation affirms that SEI's certification programs for safety, health and protective equipment comply with ten international guides pertaining to testing, inspection and certification.

The SCC is a Crown corporation established by an Act of Parliament in 1970, amended in 1996, to foster and promote voluntary standardization in Canada. The SCC states that it promotes efficient and effective voluntary standardization in Canada in order to advance the national economy, support sustainable development, benefit the health, safety and welfare of workers and the public, assist and protect consumers, facilitate domestic and international trade, and further cooperation in relation to standardization. Among other activities, the SCC sets out policies and procedures for the development of National Standards of Canada for the accreditation of product certification bodies and calibration and testing laboratories.

The SCC accredits CB's according to the general requirements taken from ISO Guide 65, *General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems*. As with other CB's such as Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), and Bureau de Normalisation du Quebec, SEI has met all SCC requirements and has agreed to periodic monitoring, audits and surveillance of the program to maintain the SCC accreditation.

The SEI certification program has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) since 1996. ANSI operates a rigorous accreditation program similar to the SCC in Canada. The achievement of the ANSI and the SCC accreditation signifies SEI's commitment to providing the best possible certification services to assist the safety industry in protecting those who use safety and protective equipment on and off the job.

SEI has been operating a non-profit product certification program for over 20 years, and has been certifying products sold in Canada, the U.S. and throughout the world since its inception. SEI offers certification of safety and protective products to standards published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and now the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

SEI is now testing to the CSA standards for eye and face protection products. SEI's contract laboratory, COLTS Laboratories of Clearwater, Florida has full capabilities to conduct testing to CSA Z94.3-99, *Industrial Eye and Face Protectors* as a result of their extensive experience in performance testing for the eyewear industry and their state-of-the-art laboratory. COLTS Laboratories personnel is highly trained and has the capability to conduct testing for all Classes of protectors (with the exception of prescription eye wear) in accordance with CSA Z94.3-99.

Their laboratory includes all of the required impact, optical and flammability test equipment as well as a high-pressure xenon lamp source for testing automatic-darkening welding filters. In addition, COLTS Laboratories has successfully passed a comprehensive audit conducted by SEI to ISO Guide 25 and is accredited by the world recognized American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). The A2LA and SCC operate under a mutual recognition agreement and therefore recognize each others laboratory accreditations.

For a manufacturer to claim SEI certification for their safety equipment, the manufacturer shall pass compliance testing conducted by an SEI contract laboratory. Additionally, manufacturers who participate in the SEI certification program must pass a rigorous quality assurance audit of their manufacturing facility. Also, all products carrying the SEI label are required to be re-certified annually. This means that all products must be re-tested annually, and the manufacturer must continue to meet all SEI quality assurance requirements during the annual follow-up audits.

Information about SEI's certification program and the most current version of the SEI *Certified Product List*, can be accessed on SEI's web site, www.SEInet.org, by anyone, anywhere in the world at any time of the day. The SEI home page features the SEI *Certified Product List* which provides certified product model names and numbers, manufacturer's names, addresses, and contact numbers. A copy of the SEI *Certified Product List* may also be obtained free of charge by writing to SEI, 1307 Dolley Madison Blvd. Suite 3A, McLean, VA 22101. Requests may also be sent by fax: 703/442-5756 or by E-Mail at: info@SEInet.org.

The familiar SEI mark approved by the SCC for use in Canada will have a Canadian signifier, a small letter "c" at the eight (8) o'clock position adjacent to the SEI mark. This signifies that the product has been certified to a standard that is required by Canadian legislation.



Certified Model CSA Z94.3-99

**SEI - Your Symbol of Quality in Safety Equipment
Look for the SEI Label**



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