



## Consultation on Bill C-14 Changes to the Weights and Measures Act and Electricity and Gas Inspection Act

September 9 2011

### **General Comments**

For the most part, the Consumers Council of Canada (the Council) finds that the proposed changes to the Weights and Measures Act and the Electricity and Gas Inspection Act are reasonable and rational. The revision of the Acts is long overdue and Canadian consumers will be better protected under the renewed Acts.

### **Specific Comments**

The Council has two specific concerns with the provisions of Bill C-14.

First: the mandatory inspection frequency for retail food sector devices. The Council believes that the inspection frequency for retail food sector devices should be two years.

The Council believes that the five year inspection frequency for retail food sector devices is unacceptable. The proposed inspection frequency is out of step with the inspection frequencies in the other sectors.

The mandatory inspection frequencies proposed for measuring devices used in seven of the eight trade sectors (retail petroleum, downstream or wholesale petroleum, dairy, fishing, logging, grains and field crops, and mining) is two years.

Jurisdictions such as Germany, France and Sweden have two year inspection frequencies for retail food sector devices and the United States, our largest trading partner, has retail food sector device inspection frequencies between six months and three years.

It is the principle in standards harmonization between Canada and the United States to harmonize to the highest standard. This principle should be followed in the proposed inspection frequency for retail food sector devices.

The Council believes that the inspection frequency for retail food sector devices should be two years as in the other seven trade sectors and in alignment with European and American regulations.

It is in the retail food sector that consumers have the greatest interaction with these devices and are at the greatest risk. This position is shared by the Consumers Association of Canada (CAC). Bruce Cran, CAC president, concurred with the Council's position in a recent telephone consultation and, in fact, CAC holds that the inspection frequency for retail food sector devices should be annual in the best interest of Canadian consumers.

Second: collected AMPs

The Council believes that monies collected through the issuance and collection of Administrative Monetary Penalties should not be returned to General Revenue. These funds should be used to improve the work of the agency that oversees the regulations under the Acts. This practice exists in regulations in other legislation where AMPs are in place.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Huzar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'H' and a long, sweeping tail.

Bill Huzar  
Chair  
Consumer Protection Committee  
Consumers Council of Canada