

independence, as identified in Appendix A of this subpart. The list shall be accompanied by supporting evidence. Designated CAB's will be listed in Appendix D of this subpart for participation in the confidence building activities once confirmed by the importing party. Nonconfirmation would have to be justified based on documented evidence.

§ 26.37 Confidence building activities.

(a) At the beginning of the transitional period, the Joint Sectoral Group will establish a joint confidence building program calculated to provide sufficient evidence of the capabilities of the designated conformity assessment bodies (CAB's) to perform quality system or product evaluations to the specifications of the parties.

(b) The joint confidence building program should include the following actions and activities:

(1) Seminars designed to inform the parties and CAB's about each party's regulatory system, procedures, and requirements;

(2) Workshops designed to provide the parties with information regarding requirements and procedures for the designation and surveillance of CAB's;

(3) Exchange of information about reports prepared during the transition period;

(4) Joint training exercises; and

(5) Observed inspections.

(c) During the transition period, any significant problem that is identified with a CAB may be the subject of cooperative activities, as resources allow and as agreed to by the regulatory authorities, aimed at resolving the problem.

(d) Both parties will exercise good faith efforts to complete the confidence building activities as expeditiously as possible to the extent that the resources of the parties allow.

(e) Both the parties will each prepare annual progress reports which will describe the confidence building activities undertaken during each year of the transition period. The form and content of the reports will be determined by the parties through the Joint Sectoral Committee.

§ 26.38 Other transition period activities.

(a) During the transition period, the parties will jointly determine the necessary information which must be present in quality system and product evaluation reports.

(b) The parties will jointly develop a notification and alert system to be used in case of defects, recalls, and other problems concerning product quality that could necessitate additional actions (e.g., inspections by the parties of the importing country) or suspension of the distribution of the product.

§ 26.39 Equivalence assessment.

(a) In the final 6 months of the transition period, the parties shall proceed to a joint assessment of the equivalence of the conformity assessment bodies (CAB's) that participated in the confidence building activities. CAB's will be determined to be equivalent provided they have demonstrated proficiency through the submission of a sufficient number of adequate reports. CAB's may be determined to be equivalent with regard to the ability to perform any type of quality system or product evaluation covered by this subpart and with regard to any type of product covered by this subpart. The parties shall develop a list contained in Appendix E of this subpart of CAB's determined to be equivalent, which shall contain a full explanation of the scope of the equivalency determination, including any appropriate limitations, with regard to performing any type of quality system or product evaluation.

(b) The parties shall allow CAB's not listed for participation in this subpart, or listed for participation only as to certain types of evaluations, to apply for participation in this subpart once the necessary measures have been taken or sufficient experience has been gained, in accordance with § 26.46.

(c) Decisions concerning the equivalence of CAB's must be agreed to by both parties.

§ 26.40 Start of the operational period.

(a) The operational period will start at the end of the transition period after the parties have developed the list of conformity assessment bodies (CAB's)