At present there exist several types of normative and technical documents (NTD) on testing, specified by different basic normative documents. According to the All-Union State Standard (GOST) 8.001–71 [1], for acceptance testing of measuring equipment, it is necessary to submit information on testing means and methods either in the form of a separate draft document or in the section on "Technical description." It is intended to draft recommendations on this question for imported equipment. According to [2] the basic type of NTD for testing measuring equipment which is either released from production or repairs, or is in use, consists of the State Standard. Before a standard is drafted it is permissible to use the methodic directions of the USSR State Committee of Standards (Gosstandart) or of the departmental metrological service agencies. According to the Gosstandart regulation, metrological institutes may develop techniques for testing measuring equipment in cases when favorable conditions do not exist for drafting a State Standard. Moreover, temporary techniques for testing and metrological certification of measuring equipment which were developed by metrological service agencies are also being used.

In view of the fact that the NTD system on testing is defective [3], it is difficult to select among all the NTD types a suitable one, since they either do not contain the required criterion at all, or it is ambiguous.

It should be noted that it is not necessary in all the cases to compile State Standards for methods and means of testing working and reference measuring equipment. If the criterion established by the basic standard [4] stipulates with sufficient clarity and lucidity that a standard on testing means and methods can be developed, provided there exists a State Standard, then the criterion referring to state testing and the Stage Register will not necessarily provide an unambiguous answer. The problem than arises about the advisability of drafting a State Standard on means and methods for testing measuring equipment which has passed state testing and is entered in the State Register (when a State Standard for technical requirements is lacking), or when the measuring equipment is produced in small batches.

The existing NTD on drafting State Standard for testing reference measuring equipment which has passed its metrological certification does not provide an unambiguous answer to this question.

At present requirements have been established for the drafting, content, and presentation of standards on testing means and methods [4], as well as on the procedure for working out, approving, and establishing metrological-institute techniques. The content and presentation of the remaining NTDs on testing are not specified, and this produces considerable difficulties in drawing up the documents officially. Testing techniques which can be approved by departmental metrological service agencies are often dispatched for approval to metrological institutes. In this case, however, approval of the state metrological service agencies is sufficient.

The practice of exempting measuring equipment which has passed state testing from following the metrological-institute techniques impedes extending the application sphere of documents compiled by qualified experts. At the same time it is advisable to match the testing techniques of newly developed measuring equipment presented for state testing to the Gosstandart guiding NTDs, which, as distinct from these techniques, pass through the same stages as the drafted standards.
Directives are as yet lacking on the procedure for drafting, coordinating, and approving NTDs on metrological certification of measuring equipment. Let us also note that the drafting, coordination, and approval of NTDs on testing is not reflected in the compound plans for scientific-research and experimental-design work in producing measuring equipment, and this extends the time required for adopting newly-developed measuring equipment.

Thus, the development of a uniform system for selecting the types of NTDs on testing as well as basic NTDs which specify the procedure for drafting, coordinating, and approving various types of NTDs on testing and metrological certification is a pressing problem for metrologists. Moreover, it is necessary first, to revise the existing NTDs and on this basis establish the required new NTD types for testing with an indication of the precise attributes which should be used for selecting any given type of NTD. Second, it is advisable to uniformize the content and structure of every NTD type, as well as the procedure of their drafting, coordination, and approval on the basis of the standards on testing means and methods and testing techniques which are developed and approved by the metrological institutes.

The basic NTD on testing and metrological certification should incorporate NTDs on all types of measuring equipment which has been approved for application on the basis of state testing or metrological certification and is brought into circulation at the time the NTDs are issued.

The type of NTDs for newly-developed measuring equipment and their duration are agreed with the leading metrological institutes or centers engaged in state acceptance testing or metrological certification.

Recommendations for the development of new NTD types should be adopted only after it has become clear that the existing NTDs (with their appropriate modifications taken into account) cannot be applied to the new measuring equipment.

The NTDs should be divided according to the sphere of their application into all union and departmental (trade) ones.

The All-Union NTDs should comprise the State Standard on testing means and methods, as well as All-Union (metrologically certified) and temporary testing techniques (to be included in the measuring-equipment technical description sections). The departmental NTDs should include testing techniques (metrologically certified) and factory standards (metrologically certified). Departmental testing techniques can be included in the measuring-equipment technical description.

State Standards for the testing means and methods remain the basic type of All-Union normalizing documents on testing. Documents for measuring equipment which has passed its state testing and is approved for application should be drafted, as a rule, by state metrological service agencies with an active participation of the principal and local metrological organizations of ministries and departments.

The compiling, structure, and presentation of the standard on testing means and methods should correspond to the GOST 8.042–71, its drafting stages to GOST 1.0–6.8, its presentation to GOST 1.5–68, and its technical assignments to GOST 1.11–75.

The All-Union testing technique (metrologically certified) should be drafted, like the standard, by the state metrological service agencies with the active participation of principal and local metrological organizations of ministries and departments.

This technique is drafted when measuring equipment has passed its state testing and is being mass produced, but a State Standard containing its technical requirements is lacking; when measuring equipment mass produced according to State Standards is not provided with sufficient testing means; when measuring equipment which is imported for general use has passed its state testing and metrological certification by the state metrological service agencies and is utilized in several organizations of different departments (at least two). These techniques should be approved by metrological institutes in accordance with the existing USSR Gosstandart regulation.

The temporary testing-technique draft should be developed by the organization which submits the measuring equipment for state acceptance testing according to the GOST 8.001–71 and coordinated with the principal organizations of the state metrological service. It is assumed that the state metrological service agency which carries out state testing will, in case of positive results, recommend the approval of the temporary technique and the duration