As the result of the industrial and construction management reorganization, the State Inspection Laboratories for Measuring Equipment (SIL) of the Committee for Standards, Measures and Measuring Instruments have obtained the opportunity of actively controlling the condition of measuring equipment and inspecting it, not only directly in the industrial establishments but also through the Councils of National Economy. The Ivanovo SIL established close business contact with the CNE of the Ivanovo Economic Region Administration from the very first days of its formation.

In the first place we insisted on measures for preserving the existing instrument repair organizations, administrative inspection agencies in industrial establishments and base laboratories of the abolished ministries and administrations. As early as June 1957 we presented to the Council of National Economy appropriate proposals in this connection, as well as suggestions for determining the extent and volume of their work and the establishment by the Council of National Economy within its framework of such organizations and the transfer of existing organizations into that framework.

Secondly, in conjunction with the Sovnarkhoz (Sovet Narodnogo Khozyaistva - Council of National Economy) we worked out a system for inspecting measures and measuring instruments. Instructions for the inspection of measures and measuring instruments within the framework of the Council of National Economy were prepared as well as regulations for base laboratories and their relations with establishments. These documents were approved by the Sovnarkhoz Chairman and came into force in November 1957. At the same time the setting-up of three base laboratories for inspection, repair and adjustment was provided for. One of the laboratories was set up at the "Promenergo" office and the other two in the instrument-making plants "Ivmashpribor" and "ZIP".

The inspection instructions were worked out on the basis of the standard "Instructions for the Administrative Inspection of Measures and Measuring Instruments" recommended by the former Committee for the Affairs of Measures and Measuring Instruments, taking into consideration the changes which have taken place in the administrative structure of industry and the form of state control of measures and measuring instruments. In particular, the instructions ensure the right of the establishment and agency managers themselves to establish the dates for checking most of the measures and measuring instruments, providing the managers can guarantee their continuous efficiency and accuracy. They are also empowered to use for this checking the personnel of their establishments and base laboratories in agreement with the SIL. The instruction also obliges the heads of the administrative inspection departments to instil new measuring techniques in industry, to observe the operational and design qualities of new instruments and to study and draw conclusions from these observations and also to develop and instil the practice of controlling, by means of instruments, the quality of production at all the stages of manufacture. The instruction notes that the SIL not only controls the condition of measuring equipment but enforces state standards and manufacturing specifications. The heads of the Sovnarkhoz establishments and agencies are requested to render the SILs every assistance for carrying out the work outlines above.

The supervision of administrative inspection is entrusted by the Council of National Economy to the Chief Mechanical and Power Engineer's Departments where these functions are exercised by one of the responsible members of the department. In the Sovnarkhoz industrial administrations, supervision is entrusted to the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Department or to the Engineering Department. Here responsibility is also delegated to one of the engineers of the department. At establishments and agencies supervision will be exercised by heads of the inspection departments or persons responsible for the measuring equipment and appointed by the establishment managers from among the engineers in the Chief Mechanical or Power Engineer's Departments or the Technical Inspection Department.

As stated above three laboratories were set up within the Sovnarkhoz framework; one in the offices of "Promenergo" for electrical and thermal instruments, another at the "Ivmashpribor" plant for instruments used in the textile industry, and the third at the "ZIP" plant for instruments testing mechanical properties of metals.
The "Promenergo" base laboratory has been fully equipped and commenced functioning from the fourth quarter of 1957. The equipment of the other two laboratories is being completed.

The base laboratories operate according to instructions approved by the Sovnarkhoz on the basis of mutually agreed contracts with establishments.

The "Promenergo" laboratory, for instance, has concluded, by the beginning of this year, 80 contracts with its customers and now it regularly checks their electrical and thermal instruments according to specifications and in the time agreed upon between them, carries out routing inspection and repairs when required, assembles and installs new instruments, renders technical assistance in selecting the means and methods of measuring and in designing circuits and graphs for checking instruments, and provides instruction to persons responsible for the measuring equipment and to those using it.

The regulation provides the Laboratory, as a Sovnarkhoz Department, with the right to issue to the establishments within its own sphere binding instructions for removing defects in condition of the measuring equipment or in the methods of measuring. All the work is mainly carried out at the establishments. If necessary, some instruments are sent to the laboratory for checking or repair.

The "Promenergo" laboratory checks and repairs a wide range of instruments, possessing for this purpose the required premises and a large variety of portable and stationary measuring equipment and standard instruments. The laboratory personnel consists of 40 people including 15 engineers and technicians. The Laboratory is a highly specialized department for the inspection of measures and measuring instruments within the Sovnarkhoz framework and is capable of carrying out work at a high technical level.

The work of other base laboratories is organized on a similar basis.

In addition to this laboratory the region has an instrument repair factory, which as well as repairs, exercises technical supervision over the instruments for mass mechanical measurements in all the branches of the regional economy.

The measures adopted by the Sovnarkhoz regarding inspection of measures and measuring instruments have produced positive results but they cannot be considered as complete or adequate. This year it is necessary to organize a base laboratory and repair and adjusting shop for length and angle measuring instruments and to ensure efficient supervision of the administrative inspection agencies at the establishments and base laboratories.

In the second half of 1957 the work of our laboratory was affected by the instructions of the Committee on the experimental modification of the laboratory's state Inspection of measures and measuring Instruments. The modification consisted of granting the heads of establishments and agencies greater rights in managing the measuring equipment of their establishments and increasing their responsibility for the maintenance of the measuring equipment. They can fix, of their own accord, the dates for the inspection of the greater part of measures and measuring equipment, depending on their type and conditions of operation. The inspection can be carried out by the personnel of the establishments and agencies possessing this equipment. If they lack the means for doing it the equipment can be checked in the laboratories of the Committee or administrative inspection laboratories which have the right to inspect equipment.

The criterion of proper maintenance of measuring equipment in establishments and agencies is their constant efficiency and accuracy and their correct use.

In this connection our inspection work has also radically changed.

Mass inspection, which previously amounted mainly to checking the validity of stamps on the instruments, is now replaced by actual testing of the measures and measuring instruments and rendering every assistance to the establishments in measuring-equipment problems.

The new methods of State inspection were reported to the Council of National Economy.

The SIL introduced the new methods of state control of measures and measuring instruments in four towns and districts of the region. In this area there are 46 Sovnarkhos establishments. In six months the number of inspection agencies doubled in these establishments and by the first of January 1958, in conjunction with the base laboratories, they extended their control over 81% of the measures and measuring instruments. At the beginning