Experience in the Work of the Lithuanian GKL

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It is characteristic of the Lithuanian GKL to appreciate everything that is new and progressive. Therefore, it is not accidental that it pays considerable attention to problems of standardization, which have only recently been incorporated in the sphere of its activity.

It has been found in practice that production quality control and the adherence by the enterprises to standards, norms, and technical specifications (which is enforced not only by the State Committee agencies) is often duplicated.

On the initiative of the Lithuanian GKL, the Council of Ministers of the Republic decided to regularize this branch of inspection work and entrusted the functions of a coordinating and adjudicating center to the laboratory administration. This measure has not only reduced overlapping in the work of the inspection agencies (GKL, quality inspection of the Sovnarkhoz, its industrial administrations, quality inspection of the Ministry of Trade, etc.), but it made each inspection considerably more thorough and effective, owing to the reduction in their number. Moreover, the setting up of a coordinating center has made it possible to involve in checking the compliance with standards a number of organizations which previously either had not taken part in it at all, or participated in it only to a small extent. Owing to this measure, it became possible to organize (in addition to inspection work carried out directly by the GKL) in only the first six months of this year the checking of production quality and the observance of the GOST requirements in 92 enterprises of the Republic.

On the initiative of the GKL, a network of area republican organizations was set up for the standardization and normalization of production, consisting approximately of 30 departments based on the most important republican planning bureaus, institutes and enterprises in the corresponding industries.

This has led to more energetic and specific standardization and normalization work throughout the Republic; moreover, it is coordinated with the corresponding All-Union area organizations.

As the result of the joint efforts of the Lithuanian GKL, the Sovnarkhoz, and the State Planning Committee of the Republic, eight more independent bureaus and departments for standardization and normalization were recently set up in Lithuania. Many persons engaged in standardization on a part-time basis are now working for it full time. They are no longer subordinated to the chief designers and heads of the technical departments, but report directly to the chief engineers of the plants. However, the proportion of the personnel recommended by the State Committee to be engaged in standardization (5-10% of the number of designers and technologists) is still being adopted very slowly, and the GKL has yet a great deal to do in this respect.

The checking of production quality and the adherence to standards carried out by the laboratory's standardizing engineers themselves, and in cooperation with other competent organizations entails, as a rule, a profound and comprehensive study both of the inspected articles, and their production processes and technical specifications controlling their manufacture. The basic aim of this inspection is to discover existing defects and eliminate them, in conjunction with the enterprises. In the first half of 1963, the laboratory inspected 42 types of products and discovered 106 kinds of defects, of which 75 were eliminated during the course of inspection.

The Lithuanian GKL made it its business to establish a substantial supply and technical depot provided with modern testing equipment.

The GKL has been able to obtain, with the help of the Republican Council of Ministers and local Soviet Executive Committees, the allocation of premises and their reconstruction or repair for the main laboratory at Vilnius, as well as for its three permanent branches.

It became possible with the equipment obtained from centralized sources and through the main Republican supply agency to organize several new types of testing, including the testing of standard cells, reference resistors, reference loaded-piston manometers, potentiometers, testing machines, and dynamometers.
All the permanent branches of the GKL are able to test Class 0.2 and 0.5 electrical instruments, instruments for linear and angular measurements, thermocouples, secondary instruments, stop watches et al. The instruments received by the GKL were used for equipping mobile laboratories installed in GAZ-69 and GAZ-51 trucks. It was possible to equip nine such laboratories; moreover, two of them were provided this year with coach bodies, thus making them suitable not only for transporting reference instruments, but also for convenient and efficient State-testing of instruments inside the vehicles.

The GKL received in August 1963 a weight-testing truck type ZIL-157K with a crane and special half-ton weights for checking automobile weighbridges.

The GKL pays special attention to providing the enterprises of the Republic with new measuring equipment. With this purpose in view, the GKL organizes systematic seminars on various types of measurements for the workers in test laboratories of plants and other organizations.

In its work of providing new measuring equipment, the GKL aims at the automation of production, improvement of production control, organization of test laboratories at the enterprises, and the extension of the types of instruments used and covered by service inspection.

The Lithuanian GKL is constantly preoccupied with the development of the service inspection of measures and measuring instruments, right from the appointment of persons responsible in the plants for the state of the measuring equipment up to the organization of TsILS (Central Test Laboratories) and TsLIT (Central Measuring Equipment Laboratories).

At present, test laboratories have been established at all the large industrial enterprises of the Republic. The right of service inspection has been granted to 53 enterprises, including 41 Sovnarkhoz plants and 10 area laboratories which service their own administrations.

The GKL has organized a repair workshop for the Sovnarkhoz enterprises in order to maintain in good working order the stock of measuring instruments. The GKL aims at centralizing the repair of all types of instruments.

At present, the basic repair organization consists of the "MATAS" plant of the Instrument-Making Administration of the Lithuanian Sovnarkhoz. The plant is also engaged in the technical maintenance of instruments by contract and the calibration of fuel and lubricant tanks. The plant has ten mobile workshops on GAZ-51 trucks, with special bodies for servicing collective, state and dairy farms, and other enterprises.

In a number of decrees issued by the Republican government agencies on the initiative of the GKL, provision is made for the extension of this plant's workshops to district centers, as a result of which, at the present time, the plant has 19 permanent outside workshops. Each workshop services two, or in very rare cases three, agricultural districts, since, in the republic, there are 41 such districts, thus providing far better repair facilities for the temporary branches of the laboratory.

The GKL maintains constant contact with Soviet, party, and agricultural organizations, in order to maintain a really efficiently working organization.

On the basis of analyzed data of its control and inspection work, the Lithuanian GKL prepares draft resolutions and decrees for the Republican Council of Ministers, the Sovnarkhoz, Ministries, and administrations.

The real basis and earnest for success in any enterprise has always been, and will remain after all, in a cooperative effort. The administration and social organizations of the Lithuanian GKL have always paid the greatest and unflagging attention to this most important sphere of their activity. This has led to a considerable increase in the cultural and educational level of the laboratory personnel. Thus, 35% of the personnel are studying at secondary or higher technical educational institutions, and a similar proportion have already completed their training.

Characteristics of the Communist attitude to labor are penetrating to an appreciable and noticeable extent into the working and everyday life of the GKL personnel. Laboratory workers voluntarily increase their output targets, advise, in their spare time, the personnel of outlying plants and organizations, exceed if necessary their normal working hours in the installation and adjustment of test equipment, etc.

Clocking in or out has been abolished in the laboratory, which has improved discipline. Trade-union contributions are collected without a treasurer, collective spare-time recreation is organized for the laboratory workers and their families.