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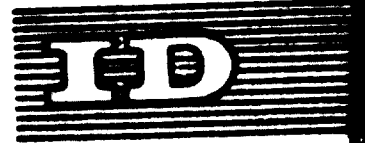
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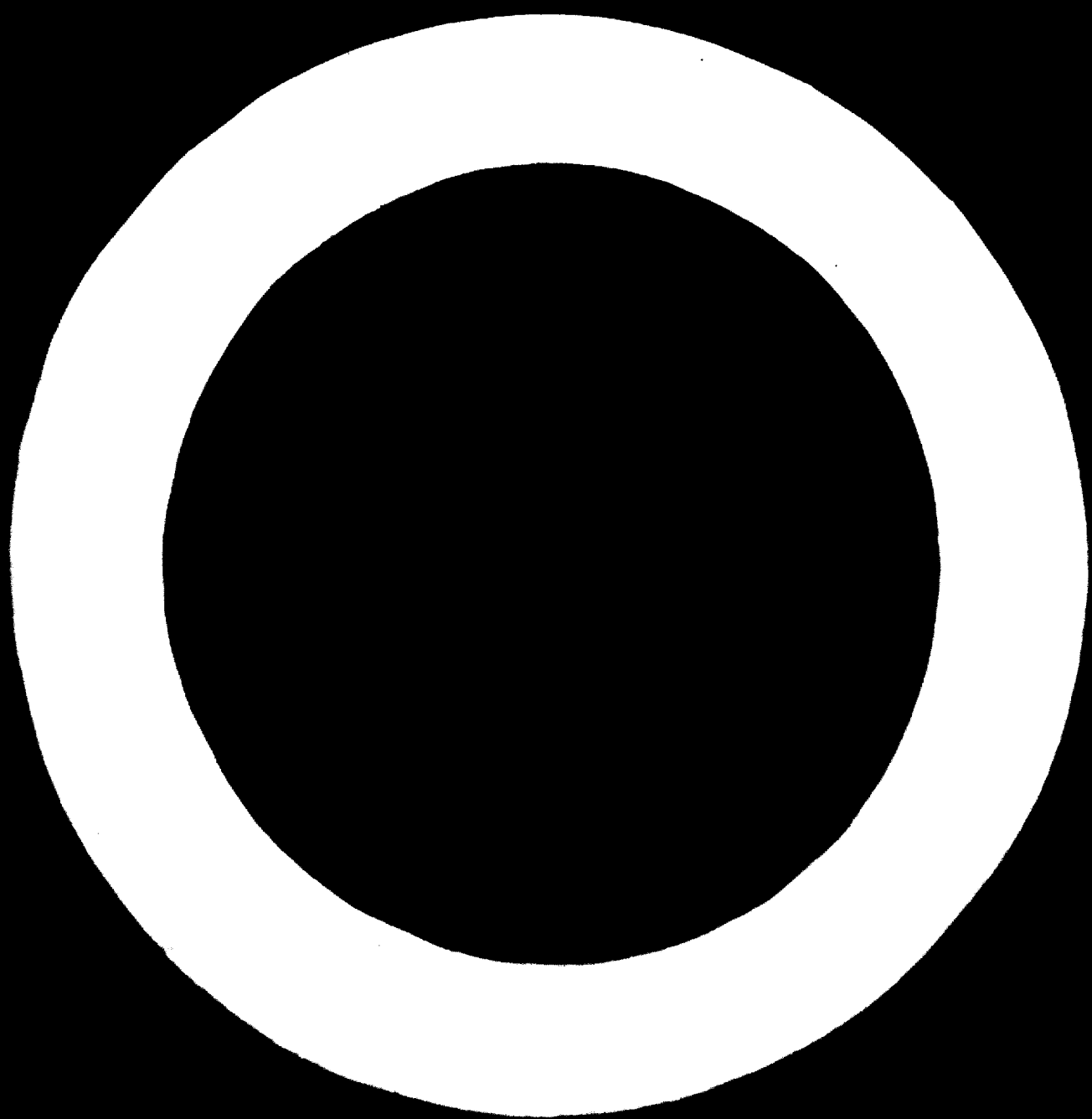
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## Introduction

The Syrian Arab Republic, situated on the Mediterranean, is strategic in its geographical position. It has a population of 6 millions and an area of 185.000 km<sup>2</sup>. The climate is moderately warm and healthy. The land, utilized for agriculture, is about 45% of the total area, however only a small fraction of the agricultural land is irrigated, but it is hoped that when the Euphrates Dam is finished, Syria will have a considerable portion of the land irrigated.

## A Glimpse of Syrian Industry

Syria is traditionally an agricultural country, and the industry is based on agricultural products, mainly textiles, 75% of which is now state owned. Only 14% of the cotton is locally manufactured. The rest is exported as ginned cotton. Another important industry is food processing and canning, sugar production, and vegetable oils. However, there exist a number of other important industries, i.e., cement, glass, petroleum refining and chemical fertilizers. Furthermore, 'converting' industries like paints, detergents, plastics and a number of industries based on assembly work ( e.g. refrigerators, washing machines, TV sets) were erected.

At present an intensive investigation is already underway to evaluate the iron ores in various locations in Syria and there is some hope that Syria will have, in the near future, an iron and steel industry.

Syria is in a state of continuous evolution being transformed from a purely agricultural society into a mixed agricultural and industrial one. The rate and quality of production is quite satisfactory, but in order to improve the quality of production to match contemporary requirements, suitable testing, controlling and development facilities are needed and should be provided by a central organization.

## Industrial Testing and Research Centre

The Industrial Testing and Research Centre was established in 1965 after the Plan of Operation was signed by the Syrian Government and the United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund) on 29 March 1965.

Purpose: (as stated in the Plan of Operation) The Centre was to be established as an independent, non-profit making institution designed to serve industry by :

- improving the quality of industrial products through the establishment of suitable standards, specifications and control ;
- advising industry concerning higher quality and increased productivity including assistance in installing testing facilities in the factories ;
- assisting research and development work, with particular emphasis on the optimum use of local resources; and
- training technical personnel from universities and industries in the areas of specialization of the Centre.

Description: The Centre to be suitably equipped for testing and technological research in sectors of industry already existing and for those expected to be established in the future. General and Special laboratories to be established and the Centre organised to comprise the following sections:

- Information section - to cover the preparation of standards and specifications and technical information services;
- Chemical section - with facilities for chemical analysis, testing and to carry out research and development work;
- Mechanical and Electrical section - for testing of materials, prototypes of equipment and manufactured products;
- Inspection Section - with facilities for metrology, non-destructive testing, inspection of production methods, and safety precautions at factories;
- Administration Section - to be in charge of facilities for the development work on pilot plants both for chemical and mechanical/electrical sections, apart from its normal functions ;
- Co-operation Section - establishing co-operation with universities and faculties. Graduates from these, and professional technical personnel from industry, to be invited to join the work at the Centre for a suitable period.

The services of the Centre to be available to everybody. Suitable fees to be charged for service and for issue of government approved certificates. It is intended that the Centre eventually becomes at least a partly-self-supporting unit. The financial responsibility for the operation of the Centre remains the total responsibility of the government.

## Syrian Arab Standardisation and Metrology Organization

According to the Plan of Operation, the Centre was equipped with the professional staff who were trained in different fields in order to assume the activities of the Centre. However, as the Centre was not equipped with testing facilities, the section responsible for specifications and standards started preparing some important national standards based on international and regional recommendations.

Although a considerable number of drafts were accomplished, it was unfortunately not possible for the Centre to issue them as national standards because of the existing number of institutes who had their own standards, namely, the Ministry of Supply, whose function in this field is to prevent fraud. Moreover, the Centre, as it was, could not fully co-operate with international and regional standardization institutes. Therefore the Syrian Arab Standardization and Metrology Organization was proposed as an autonomous body and on October 13, 1969 the Syrian Council of Ministers approved, by a decree, its establishment. The idea of the decree was expressed in Articles 1 and 2, viz:

**Article 1** An independent, national organization for standardization and metrology is hereby established in the Syrian Arab Republic, which shall be named "The Syrian Arab Standardization and Metrology Organization".

**Article 2** The Organization shall be the sole authorized body to establish, publish, amend and modify national standards, and to authorize the use of the mark of conformity to standards.

The Industrial Testing and Research Centre will assume the responsibilities of the above-mentioned organization, until the final structure of the organization is completed.

### Organisation and Administration

#### Committees:

1. Permanent Committee for Metrology. This committee represents the following:  
Ministry of Higher Education ; Education and Culture; Public Transport; Supply and Internal Trade; Industry; Defence; Municipalities and Rural Affairs ; The Bureau for Textile Development and the Industrial Testing and Research Centre.

2. Permanent Committee for Standardization This committee

represents the following:

Ministries of Industry; Economy and Foreign Trade; Petroleum and Electricity ; Supply and Internal Trade ; Public Works; Communications ; Municipalities and Rural Affairs; Defence; Customs Department and Industrial Testing and Research Centre.

Members of the permanent committees are to be of director status.

Functions of Permanent Committees

- a. To advise on matters of importance regarding priority of specifications
- b. Revise the drafts prepared by the Technical Committees
- c. Approve revised drafts

3. Technical Committees and their Functions

To prepare drafts of specifications as specified by the permanent committee, taking into consideration the climatic conditions and economic and social circumstances.

4. Wording Committee

The Wording Committee is responsible for shaping the final wording after the specification has been approved by the technical committees.

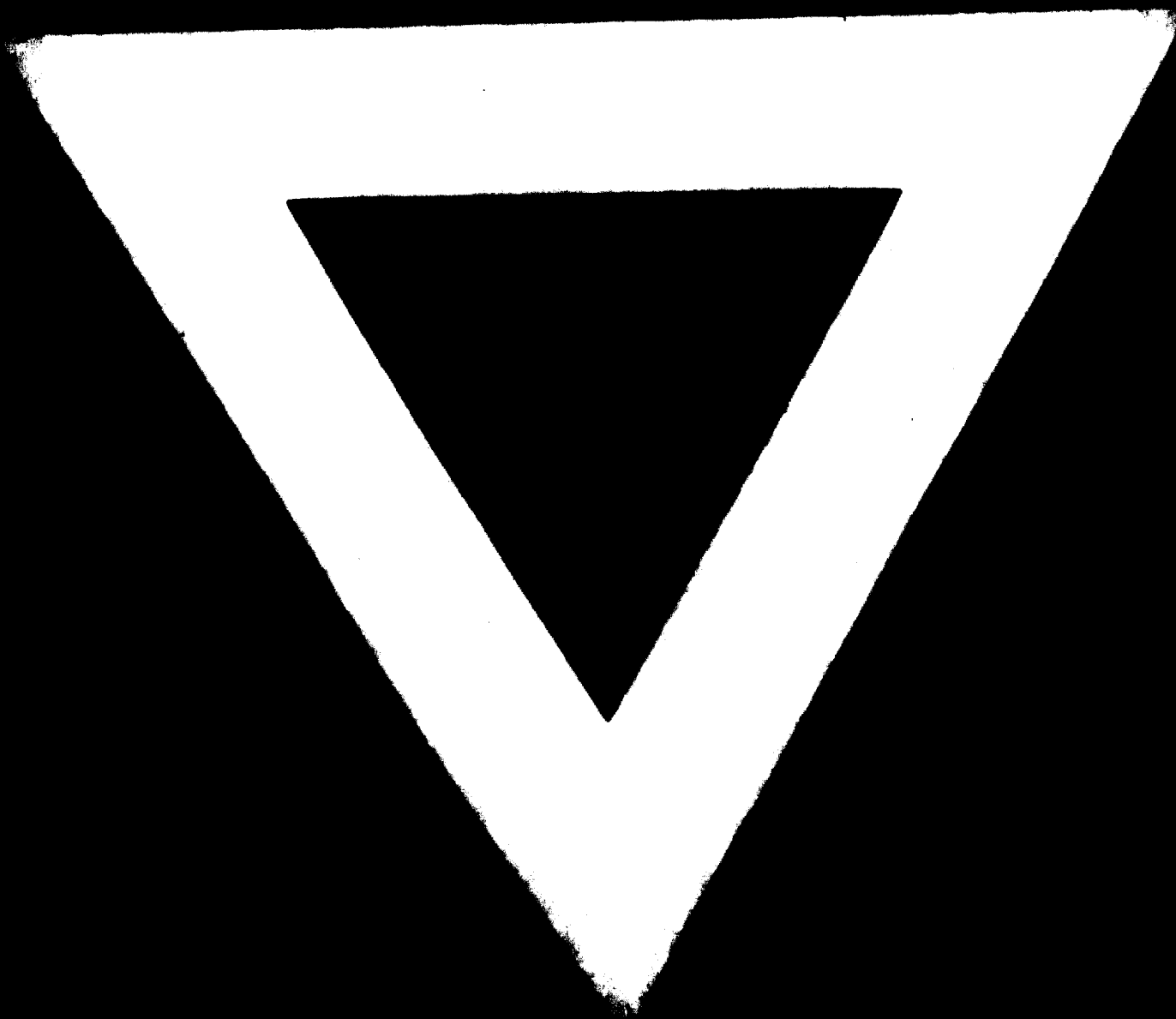
Procedure:

The drafts prepared by the Technical Committees and finally worded by the Wording Committee are distributed to interested and concerned parties. Within two months those parties submit their comments on the drafts. The Technical Committees examine these comments before finally shaping the draft and presenting it to the Permanent Committee.

Activities :

Although the staff engaged in the field of specifications is relatively small, the Syrian Arab Standardization and Metrology Organisation has completed more than 40 specifications, which are ready for publication. We hope, however, that when the facilities for testing and research are available at the Industrial Testing and Research Centre the Syrian Arab Standardization and Metrology Organisation will contribute towards raising the quality level of national industry and facilitate the exchange of goods and services with the rest of the world.





**74.10.18**