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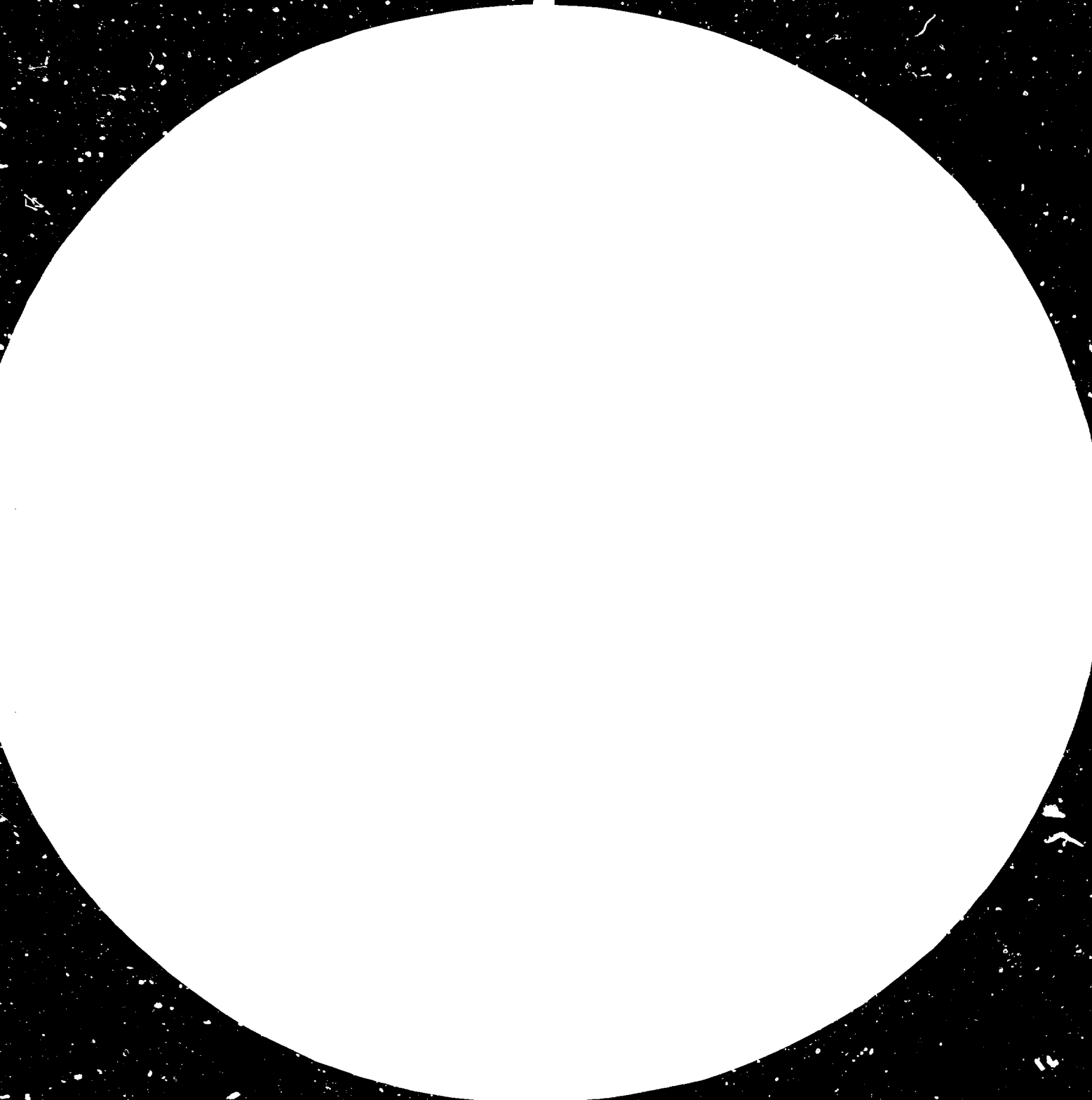
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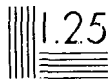


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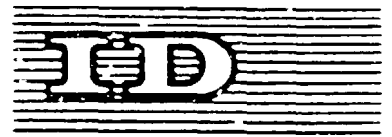
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THE SYSTEM OF STANDARDIZATION IN THE SOCIALIST  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA\*

prepared by

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If we start from the well-known definition of the standard which has been established by the European Economic Commission of the OUN, according to which the standard represents: "technical specification or some other document accessible to the public, prepared in cooperation with all parties concerned on the basis of their essential consent or approval, based on the proved results of science, technics and practice, and passed by the body recognized at national, regional or international level with the view to attaining optimum advantages for the society", then standardization would imply only the activities of national and international organizations for standardization with the view to the elaboration and publication of technical "consensus standards". However, the word "standardization" has many meanings; standardization implies both the elaboration of standards mentioned above and physical making of standards (e.g. etalon of the mass or length), as well as the elaboration and application of technical documents referring to construction, properties, purpose, characteristics, quality and testing of the products by other parties and with a specific purpose. Likewise, the establishment of producers' specifications or technical conditions concerning orders made by big buyers, represent one form of standardization. By passing a regulation which determines special technical requirements regarding the properties, construction, testing of the product, and the execution of works and performance of services, a government body in doing so prescribes simultaneously certain standards and the passing of these regulations lies indisputably within the notion of standardization.

In Yugoslavia, standardization implies:

- establishment and application of standards, technical norms and quality norms for products, works and services at the level of the organizations of associated labour, their associations within branches and groups in industry, energy and other activities, and at the level of the Federation;

--passing and application of the requirements which determine specific technical conditions and requirements regarding the products, works and services, quality control, obligatory certification and procedures of obligatory certification, issuing and acknowledgement of the corresponding documents, are done by the homologation of products, their parts and equipment, as well as the questions concerning declaration, marking, coding of the products, works and services, and all at the level of the Federation.

Standardization in Yugoslavia lies within the competence of the Federal Law. The bearer of all activities within standardization at the level of the Federation is the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization, an organization under federal management. The Federal functionary who runs the institute, i.e. the Head of the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization, is authorized to pass all the regulations in the field of standardization which are passed at the level of the Federation, whereas the inspection of the application of these regulations is carried out by inspection services of the Socialist Republics and Autonomous Provinces. The Yugoslav Institution for Standardization is responsible for regulative and supervising authorizations in the field of obligatory certification and homologation, as well as of certain authorizations regarding following of the international agreements which are binding for the SFRY and which refer to the obligatory certification, homologation, incorporation of Yugoslavia in the international systems of certification and mutual acknowledgment of corresponding documents. In addition, the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization is responsible for international cooperation in the field of standardization, as well as of cooperation of Yugoslavia with international government and non-government organizations for standardization.

In order to secure the unity of the system of standardization in Yugoslavia, the Federal Law determines that the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization is to coordinate programming and planning of all activities in the field of standardization which are performed at any level in the country.

This legislative regulating of standardization in Yugoslavia has been conditioned by a sequence of circumstances and factors. The most significant ones are the following:

— on the internal level: the need for securing a technical base for the unity of the Yugoslav market, technological unity of big systems such as electricity generating, the telecommunications system, or systems in the field of traffic and transport, a technical base for the development and promotion of production, marketing and other economic activities, as well as protection of consumers particularly with regard to safety when using the products;

— on the international level: the need for harmonization of standards and technical regulations, and by incorporation of Yugoslavia in the international system of quality assurance and certification with the view to the elimination of so called "technical barriers" regarding the placement of Yugoslav products on international markets.

It is necessary to point out an important fact. The possibilities of contemporary technology, based on science, increase every day, but parallel with these possibilities the risks of its applications are greater. Sometimes, the new technology is used unreasonably and selfishly; and possible negative consequences of its application are not sufficiently taken into account. The development of technology in itself does not endanger either human beings or the human environment; the danger arises from the irresponsible application of the technology; therefore, it is necessary either to prevent or at least to neutralize such application. Responsible use of scientific discoveries and contemporary technology is one of the basic aims of the regulations which regulate their application; and these regulations are the regulations in the field of standardization. These regulations which theoretically (not always in practice) represent the optimal social choice of technical solutions in the given socio-economic, social and other conditions of one country, are at the same time a means of social direction and control of responsible application of technological solutions and possibilities.

With regard to the above stated position and role of standardization in Yugoslavia, the legislator has prescribed the following requirements to the bearer of these regulations:

1) that these regulations should be contemporary, which is a prerequisite of the suitability of every regulative act in the field of technics and its application;

2) that they should be based on proven results and the achievements of science and technics, as well as on practical experiences, thus reducing the risks of applying insufficiently investigated technology, to the minimum possible, and secure a responsible application of new technology;

3) that they should be economically justified, and this is achieved by requesting an analysis of possible positive and negative effects of their application to be carried out prior to their passing;

4) that they should be in conformity with the attained degree of development in Yugoslavia, as well as with the policy and goals established by the social plan of Yugoslavia which means that they are to be applicable under our conditions, and to solve those problems which are significant for the realization of the social plan of Yugoslavia.

The existing regulations are subject to obligatory re-assessment five years after they are passed at the latest; this is done by the legislator by means of a provision in order to establish whether there is a need for their revision; consequently, the bearer of the regulations is bound to revise them if determined that the regulations are outdated.

For the purpose of elimination of technical barriers in foreign trade, the legislator requires that these regulations regarding technical and technological solutions contained in them, be in conformity with international standards and technical regulations, conditioning the degree of their conformity with the interests and potential of Yugoslavia. This means that the legislator permits taking over of technical/technological solutions of certain international standards and technical regulations under the condition that they meet the above mentioned requirements, which practically excludes the possibility of direct application or "taking over" of international standards and technical regulations in Yugoslavia. Total harmonization, however, has been permitted, with regard to marks, symbols, terminology and the like. I have to emphasize that direct application of international standards and technical regulations is not often possible as they contain provisions on obligatory legal relations, agreements, arbitration, protection at work and the like, which are in Yugoslavia established by other regulations and in some other way.

Standardization in Yugoslavia, as mentioned above, has developed at three levels: at the level of the Federation, at the level of the associations of organisations of associated labour and at the level of the organizations of associated labour themselves.

The activities of standardization at the level of the organizations of associated labour and at the level of their associations are performed by establishing and applying internal, or branch standards, and at the level of the Federation by passing and applying Yugoslav standards and regulations which contain standards (or refer to them), quality norms or other technical norms, methods and test procedures, conditions and requirements regarding the issuing of certain documents, declarations, marking, coding of the products, works and services.

All these levels of standardization are mutually connected by coordinated programming and planning based on the Social Agreement which is concluded by the parties concerned and on synchronized performance of these programmes and plans.

The starting base for the programming and planning of standardization are the interests of some organizations of associated labour, whereas at the level of their associations these individual interests are harmonized within branches and groups; and at the level of the Federation by means of programmes and plans these interests are conformed with general interests of the whole country. The fact that the initiative in this field arises from the level of the branches or the level of the Federation, does not change the fact that the activities of all the levels are directed to the promotion of works and activities of the organizations of associated labour themselves, as the bearers of production and other activities in which standards and regulations have their concrete application.

The technical and organizational unity of the system is secured, apart from the above mentioned, also by united metrologies of elaboration of internal and branch standards, and by legislative restriction of the subjects of Yugoslav, internal and branch standards.

#### Yugoslav standards determine the following:

- 1) the purpose, properties, and characteristics of the product quality;
- 2) conditions and requirements which are to be met;
- 3) works procedures and processes and some others;
- 4) the way of declaring, marking, coding and packaging or the way of marking the works;
- 5) the contents and the way of rendering services, criteria of the quality of services, and the procedures of the quality control of the services;

6) the terminology, definitions, symbols, signs, marks, abbreviations, codes and colours, used to convey and pass on information;

7) the metrology of the elaboration of the branch and internal standards:

**Branch standards determine particularly the following:**

1) the special purpose, properties and characteristics of products and works regarding the needs of certain production branches, or activities, as well as special conditions and requirements, which should be met in the production of articles or in the execution of works for the requirements of corresponding production branches or corresponding activity, and

2) special works and others procedures and processes which are characteristic for the corresponding branch of production, or activity, and for these products and works for which a regulation of Yugoslav standard is not passed, and for the elements which are not determined by such a regulation.

In a similar way the contents of internal standards (standards of the organizations of associated labour) have been determined. According to the Standardization Act, these standards may determine the following:

1) the purpose, properties and characteristics of products, works and services of the organizations of associated labour;

2) working procedures and processes and some other matters in the organizations of associated labour;

3) stricter requirements regarding the production of articles than those prescribed by the regulation on Yugoslav standards, with the view to attaining a higher level of quality, and

4) a narrower choice of parts and assemblies of products which are prescribed by Yugoslav standards for typization in production;

As with branch standards, determination of the purpose, properties and characteristics of products, works and services, as well as procedures and processes, have been restricted to the products, works and services which are not covered by the regulation on the Yugoslav standard.

One of the particularities of the Yugoslav system of standardization is the way of passing the acts in the field of standardization at the level of the Federation. Very few Yugoslav standards, technical norms and quality norms are passed in the form of rules of qualification or some kind of recommendation. Most frequently it deals with regulations, that is to say, it deals with a legal regulation in the field of the application of technics and technology. Nevertheless, Yugoslav standards, technical norms and quality norms are according to their origin classical "consensus standards" as the establishment of technical contents of these regulations is entrusted to the expert technical committees comprised of the producers' representatives, consumers, scientific, expert and educational institutions, as well as management bodies. As the technical contents have been established the process of elaboration of the regulation itself starts: making of its unification (the conformity of technical contents with other regulations), addition by legal norms and legal formation of the act itself, passing and publication in the languages and scripts of the people of Yugoslavia. Considering the sudden development of technology in some regions, and on the other hand, the legal imperative regarding the contemporaneity of these regulations, this procedure may seem too long. But the question is how to replace this procedure in order to accelerate the process of passing the regulations. The simplest solution, at first sight, would be to determine technical contents of the regulations by an expert in the management body, assuming that he is such an expert that he will be able to solve all the problems which should be solved by the regulation. If this solution was taken into careful consideration, such a solution would



mean the replacement of democratic decision by a technocratic dictate, which is unacceptable. Besides, it is hard to imagine that any individual is equipped with the corresponding diapason of expert knowledge; such an individual could, when determining the technical contents of the regulation, have a sequence of consultations with adequate experts for some regions (technics, economy, law) and in such a way time would surely not be saved. The solution of this situation would be sought by regulating with reference to a standard; unfortunately, such a way could not have been found for two reasons:

— firstly, time is also needed for the process of determination of the technical contents of acts and realization of consensus.

— secondly, the manner of putting forward the matter and formation of standards and recommendations, for the time being, is such that without considerable revision it cannot be incorporated in the regulation.

The only solution left is for the process of elaboration of these regulations (including also the establishment of their technical contents) to be shortened by means of better organization of work on their elaboration.

Branch and internal standards are passed according to a similar procedure. With a view to the coordination in the system of standardization which requires an insight into the subject and the contents of standards at the branch and international level, these standards are forwarded to the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization which is at the same time responsible for the information operations both within the Yugoslav system of standardization and on the international level (by means of the net ISONET, and within the Agreement on Technical Barriers in Trade of GATT, which Yugoslavia has joined).

Our system of standardization prescribes also effective instruments of protecting the interests of domestic organizations as the importer of industrial and professional equipment, which at the same time do not represent a technical barrier in international trade. It is a question of an obligatory guarantee for correct functioning of products or equipment, and for obligatory provision of the products or equipment with technical directions.

Yugoslavia, as a medium developed country, still has a great need for importing both professional and industrial equipment. If the equipment is not provided with corresponding technical directions which enable its correct assembly, use and repair, and if corresponding information on spare parts and possibilities of their supply does not exist, and if it is not possible to secure effective rendering of services for their maintenance at the corresponding level of expert skill, great damage is possible, and the often very expensive equipment which has been purchased may easily become totally unusable. If the products, which are in question are such, as for example, electro-medical equipment and devices, in that case the safety and protection of the lives and health of people are jeopardized, if it concerns devices and equipment for industry and community services, besides safety, the economic interests of corresponding organizations are in question, as well as larger social communities. For these reasons our system foresees the possibility of passing the regulations which determine the products (including the mentioned kind of equipment) which can be marketed, as well as imported, only if furnished with a guarantee for their correct functioning, and technical directions whose detailed contents can also be prescribed. Likewise, regulations can determine the products which belong to the category of technically complex industrial products of long-lasting exploitation conditioned by technical properties, by the way of use and maintenance of products, for which the producer, or the importer or the agent of a foreign firm is bound to determine the term of servicing for maintenance and repair of the products, spare parts, outfits and other products without which the use of that product would not be possible according to its purpose. The term of servicing is an obligatory part of technical direction for such products. Up to now, several regulations of the kind have been passed and put into practice in the course of this year, which are equally binding for both domestic and foreign firms. Though it is still too early to talk about their effects, nevertheless, the first data on their application show that marketing of this kind of product has not been reduced, and that the products are provided with the prescribed documents and corresponding services secured.

In the last few years, Yugoslavia, has been paying great attention to product quality. In that manner Yugoslavia endeavours to secure product quality by means of homologation and obligatory certification of the product. Obligatory certification (homologation) implies, in a narrow sense, the procedure which establishes the existence of the properties and characteristics ("quality characteristics") of the product in the manner determined by laws and regulations passed on the basis of the law; these properties and characteristics are prescribed by the regulations on Yugoslav standards, technical norms and quality norms, as a prerequisite for safe utilization of the product or of protection of social community interests determined by the law.

In a broad sense, obligatory certification (homologation) is uniform system which at the level of the Federation covers:

- determination of the products whose properties and characteristics with the view to attaining the goals of the system are subject to the procedure of obligatory certification (homologation);
- establishment and definition of the properties and characteristics of the products due to which in that specific procedure the products are subject to testing;
- determination of a uniform way of testing of the product, taking samples, method of testing, determination of the needed testing equipment and conditions of that equipment, as well as the conditions to be fulfilled by an organization carrying out the tests regarding technical equipment and expert personnel;
- establishment of conditions indispensable for the objectivity of the whole procedure;
- determination of the way of inspecting the conformity of the product, under the regime of obligatory certification, (homologation), with the tested or homologated type or sample;
- issuing the certificates and marking with the certification mark which is a condition for the product to be marketed under the regime of obligatory certification; and
- inspection of the functioning of the system in practice.

The aims of the system are as follows:

- securing technical and constructive safety in production, and exploitation of products, building of plants and when performing the works;
- safety and protection of lives and health, the human environment, publicly owned means and the property of citizens;
- realization and protection of the interests of National Defence;
- realization and protection of significant economic interests of social communities as a whole;

The system enables the following:

- protection of the Yugoslav market from the circulation of dangerous and low quality goods;
- incorporation of Yugoslavia in the international system of assuring quality and certification, and in that manner elimination of one kind of technical barrier when exporting Yugoslav products;
- raising the level of the product quality and works, and

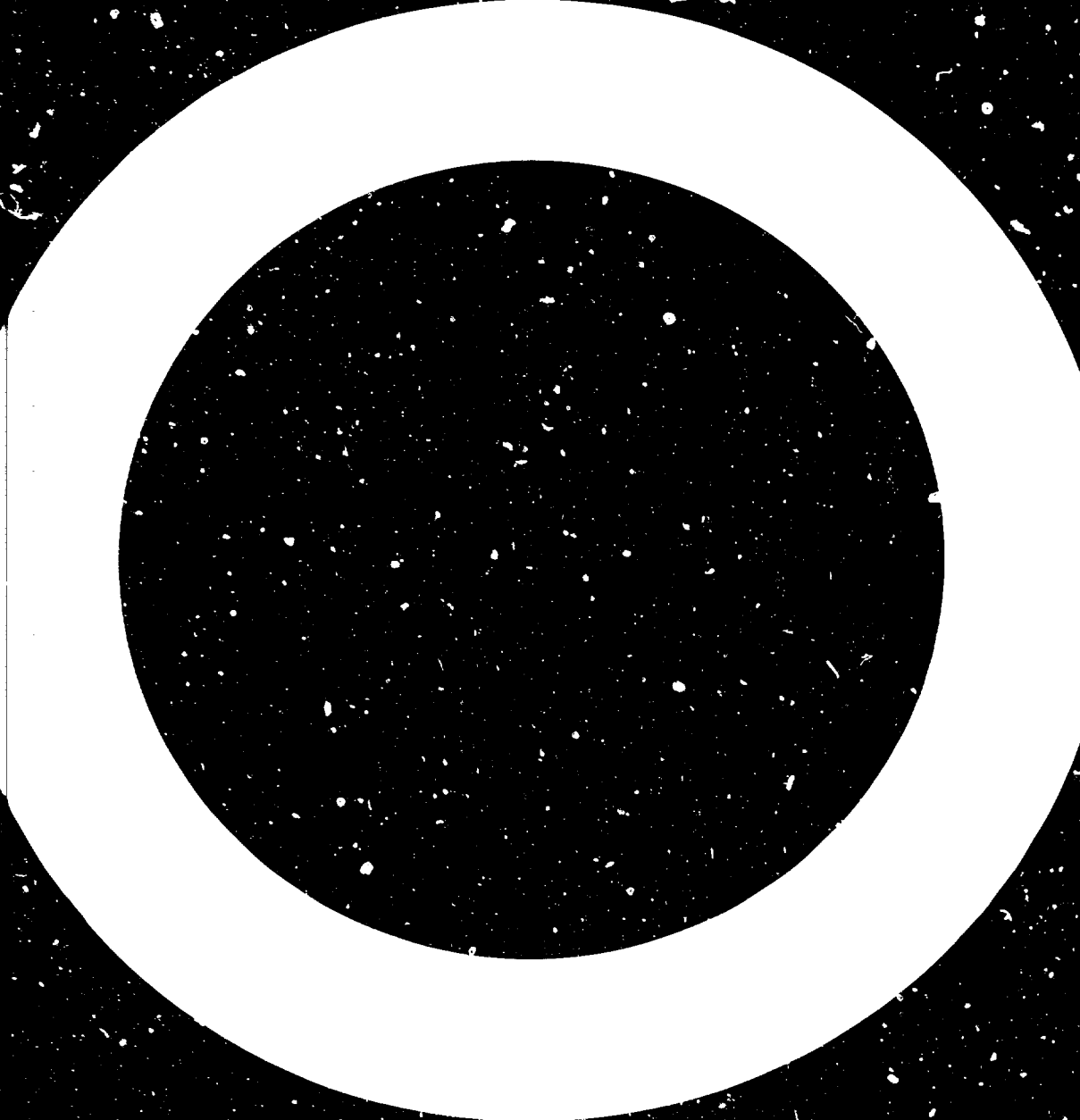
— objectivity and economy of the procedure, rational use of the testing capacities and linking the existing specific parts of the system into one whole.

This system was put into practice after the Standardization Act was passed in 1977; up to now, it has covered a large number of products primarily from the aspect of safety and protection of significant economic interests of the country. Under the regime of obligatory certification (homologation), among other things, are electrical household appliances, equipment and parts of motor vehicles, cement and some strategically important raw materials.

Parallel with this system, there is in Yugoslavia both quantitative and qualitative quality control performed by specialized organizations of associated labour (as their economic activity), on the basis of an agreement with the user of these services.

The Yugoslav system of standardization uses a special quality mark — "the JUS quality mark". The right to mark products with this quality mark is obtained by the producer on the basis of permission granted by the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization, under the condition that the product meets the prescribed conditions of high quality, and that the producer accepts long-lasting and continual inspection of production of the article. When granting such permission the Yugoslav Institution for Standardization is authorized to assess whether the producer with regard to the production equipment, organization of the production process, expert qualifications and the training of the employees and other conditions, may attain and maintain in production a high level of the product quality. An organization which has obtained the right to mark their products by the quality mark, can refrain from that right if it wishes, but can also lose it should the check-up of the product quality establish that the product in question no longer fulfils the prescribed conditions of high quality. The product quality which can be marked with the JUS quality mark is determined by special Yugoslav standards whose application is not obligatory in the production of similar products which are not marked with that mark. Marking of the product with the JUS quality mark contrary to the provisions of the Standardization Act is prohibited and punishable by law.

From the above stated it arises that the Yugoslav system of standardization approaches the optimum, considering that it covers in an organized way all the elements of integral standardization, except metrology. However, this system is connected and coordinated with metrology by means of the above mentioned Social Agreement on standardization and quality.



## ANNEX

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a federal state having the form of a state community of voluntarily united nations and their Socialist Republics, and of the Socialist Autonomous Provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo, which are constituent parts of the Socialist Republic of Serbia, based on the power of and self-management by the working people; it is at the same time a socialist self-management democratic community of working people and citizens and of nations and nationalities having equal rights.

The Socialist Republics are states based on the consist of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia—Herzegovina, the Socialist Republic of Croatia, the Socialist Republic of Macedonia, the Socialist Republic of Montenegro, the Socialist Republic of Serbia, the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo, which are the constituent parts of the Socialist Republic of Serbia, and the Socialist Republic of Slovenia.

The Socialist Republics are the states based on the sovereignty of the people and the power of and self-management by the working class and all working people, and are socialist, self-managing democratic communities of the working people and citizens, and of nations and nationalities having equal rights.

The Socialist Autonomous Provinces are the autonomous, self-managing democratic socio-political communities based on the power of and self-management by the working class and all working people, in which the working people, nations and nationalities realize their sovereign rights, and when so specified by the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Serbia in the common interests of the working people, nations and nationalities of the Republic as a whole, they do so also within the Republic.

The territory of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a single unified whole and consists of the territories of the Socialist Republics.

The socialist socio-economic system of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is based on freely associated labour and socially-owned means of production and on self-management by working people in production and in the distribution of the social product in basic and other organizations of associated labour and in social reproduction as a whole.

The means of production and other means of associated labour, products generated by associated labour and income realized through associated labour, resources for the satisfaction of common and general social needs, natural resources and goods in common use are social property. No one may acquire the rights of ownership of social resources which are conditions of labour in basic and other organizations of associated labour or are the economic foundations for the realisation of the functions of self-managing communities of interest or of the socio-political communities.

Workers in associated labour working with socially-owned resources have the inalienable right to work with these resources to satisfy their personal and social needs and to manage, freely and on equal footing with other workers in associated labour and the conditions and results thereof. The rights, obligations and responsibilities concerning the disposal, utilization and management of social resources are regulated by the constitution and statute, in line with the nature and purpose of these resources.

Farmers and members of their households engaged in farming and working with resources subject to the right of ownership are guaranteed the right to make use of the results achieved through their labour, to satisfy their personal and social needs and, on the basis of their contributions, to enjoy social security benefits in accordance with the principles of reciprocity and solidarity.

Working people who with their personal labour independently perform, as their occupation, an artistic or other cultural activity or a legal or other professional activity in principle have the same socio-economic status and basically the same rights and obligations as workers in organizations of associated labour.

The freedom of independent personal labour with means of labour in citizens' ownership is guaranteed. Conditions for performing activities with independent personal labour with means of labour in citizens' ownership and property rights to these means of labour and to business premises used for the performance of these activities are regulated by statute.

Farmers and working people who independently perform activities with their own personal labour may, in conformity with state and contracts pool their labour and means of labour with organizations of associated labour in various forms of cooperation and other forms of business collaboration. Pooling their labour and means of labour freely and on terms of equality with workers in associated labour they manage on an equal footing with the workers of this organizations common affairs and jointly decide on jointly earned income, and share its distribution according to their contribution to the realisation of this income, in conformity with their self-management agreement.

In the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the nations, nationalities, working people and other citizens realize and ensure sovereignty, equality, national freedom, independence, territorial integrity, security, social self-protection, the defence of the country, the international position of the country and its relations with other states and international organizations, the system of socialist socio-economic relations based on self-management, the unity of the political system, the basic democratic freedoms and rights of man and the citizen, the solidarity and social security of the working people and other citizens, the unity of Yugoslav market, and adjust common economic and social development and their common interests.

The working people, nations and nationalities of Yugoslavia realize their economic interests within the unified Yugoslav market, where they enjoy equal rights in the performance of activities and income earning, on the basis of action of market laws and social guidance of social development and adjustment of market relations. Socio-political communities are responsible for securing the unity of Yugoslav market.

#### EXPLANATIONS OF SOME EXPRESSIONS AND NOTIONS USED IN THE TEXT

**Associated labour** — is a Yugoslav economic and legal category denoting economic and non-economic activities performed with socially-owned resources and organized on the principles of self-management.

**Organization of associated labour** — is a generic term for those economic and non-economic organizations which carry out their activities with socially-owned resources and are organized on a self-management basis. (This is, in fact, what is usually referred as an "enterprise" for the economic sector, or an "institution" for the non-economic sector).

**Basic organization of associated labour** — is a component part of an organization of associated labour which makes up a technologically rounded whole, an independent economic and self-managing unit which can have the character of a legal entity (work units, plants, independent departments in non-economic organizations).

**Self-management agreement** — is a self-management enactment adopted on terms of equality by workers in organizations of associated labour or by working people in local communities with a view to regulating and adjusting their interests, such as a more rational division of labour, pooling of resources for the pursuance of common aims, regulation of mutual relations in their cooperation, etc. A self-management agreement is only binding on

those who have signed or accepted to it.

**Social compact** — is a self-management enactment concluded on equal basis by organizations of associated labour, government agencies and socio-political organizations under which the parties thereto ensure the regulation of socio-economic and other relations of a broad interest. Their purpose is to replace the state's role in the resolution of social contradictions and the realization of cooperation and solidarity in the economic and other spheres of life. Social compacts have the character of law. Parties to a social compact determine by its measures for its implementation and define their material and social responsibility for the execution of jointly undertaken obligations.

**Socio-political organizations** — are political bodies of working people and other citizens organized on a programmatic, socialistically-oriented platform (the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia, the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the Federation of Trade Unions, the War Veterans Federation, etc.).

**Socio-political communities** — are all territorial communities in which the working people and other citizens exercise the constitutionally-defined functions of power and management of other social affairs (federation, republics, autonomous provinces, communes and big cities having the status of a special socio-political communities).

**Social plan** — a document of the socio-political community adopted on the basis:

- of agreements of the common interests and aims of economic and social development in the communes, municipal or regional communities, autonomous provinces, republics and the federation,
- of the working and development plans and programmes of organizations of associated labour, self-managing communities of interest and other self-managing organizations, and
- of jointly appraised development possibilities and conditions.

These plans lay down common development policy and guidelines as well as frameworks for adoption of measures of economic policy and of administrative and organizational measures which ensure conditions for the fulfilment of them.



