

**THE PROGRAM OF CERTIFICATION DEVELOPMENT IN
ST.PETERSBURG AND LENINGRAD OBLAST**

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Abstract

The main purpose of St.Petersburg is established as a stable improvement of life quality of all population layers.

“The target comprehensive program on products and services certification in St.Petersburg” is implemented in St.Petersburg and Leningrad oblast.

Confirmation of conformity plays key role in the matter of customer protection against dangerous and off-standard products.

Major problem of executive bodies at the present stage of economy development is the creation of economical key factors in the region, directed on increase of product competitiveness, maintenance of stability of manufacturing through implementation of quality assurance systems.

The problems related to governmental regulation of product quality, fullest satisfaction of customer demands and protection of their interests, creation of preconditions for manufacturing competitive products have paramount significance in modern society with developed market economy. The certification (recognized in the world way of independent confirmation of product conformity to the specified requirements) provides connection of manufacturing and consumption in the exchange segment - in a product market and takes the part of a major element in competition. The governmental regulation in this field supposes application of the program-target methods of certification planning, allocation of state priorities and development of the implementation programs using state budget funds, investments of non-state structures.

The main purpose of city development in a general view is established as a stable improvement of life quality of all population layers. This purpose is universal for development of any city.

Therefore there was a necessity for the Strategic plan of St.Petersburg to define more specifically the main purpose, being actual just for St.Petersburg and which is formulated as follows: the formation of St.Petersburg as integrated in Russian and world economy multifunction city ensuring high quality of active surrounding and manufacturing.

The word quality has key value, since whichever concepts of the regional economy

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development were discussed today, we shall come to necessity to solve such important problems, as stable improvement of life quality of all population layers.

A quality level is reliable indicator of national economy.

In the territory of St.Petersburg and Leningrad oblast the “Target comprehensive program on products and services certification in St.Petersburg” is implemented. This program is a complex of tasks and measures linked with resources, executors and terms of implementation, directed on certification development.

The present program contains a list of perspective measures designed under a direction of the RAS Corresponding member V.V. Okrepilov, directed on certification system improvement in St.Petersburg and making conditions for increase of safety and quality of production and services produced and sold in the city. (Fig. 1)

The quality management measures, promoting implementation of the strategic plan of St.Petersburg

Creation of the favorable economic climate	Integration into the world economy	Improvement of the city environment	Creation of the favorable social climate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - development of “Quality” programs; - product and service certification; - metrological provision of manufacturing; - personnel training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - quality systems; - application of self-assessment methods; - quality awards; - harmonization of standards, rules and procedures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - environmental protection (implementation of the standards ISO 14000 series); - power care (metering of consumption of heat, gas, cold and hot water) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - customer protection against dangerous products (state supervision); - service quality improvement.

Fig. 1

The measures of the program are drawn up on the basis of the certification system review existing in St.Petersburg taking into account of revealed lacks and perspective directions in the field of certification for the period from 1999 till 2002.

In the program a brief estimation of legislative and normative base condition adjusting certification problems, and infrastructure of certification bodies and testing laboratories (centers) of St.Petersburg is set up.

The main purposes of the program are:

- protection of customers against dishonest manufacturers (sellers, executors), control of products safety for environment, life, health and property;

- further improvement and development of certification infrastructure, including legislative and normative base, measuring and testing base, metrology maintenance and training of experts and specialists on certification, testing and quality systems;
- rendering assistance to companies on transition to the quality management system pursuant to the international standards with the purposes of improvement of product quality and its competitiveness in the internal and international markets, as well as development of the regional export potential;
- improvement of training system of specialists in the field of testing, certification, quality assurance and self-assessment methods;
- creation of a uniform information system in the field of certification and customers rights protection;
- making conditions for performance of companies, organizations and businessmen in the unified documentary market, participation in international economical, scientific-technical cooperation and international trade.

In the matter of customer protection against dangerous and off-standard products the key role belongs to confirmation of conformity. The certification is a method of objective control of product quality, its conformity to the established requirements (standards), and also the means of governmental control over product safety.

The certification can be mandatory and voluntary. The mandatory certification is carried out pursuant to Russian Federation legislative acts for the product established in the list of products subjected to mandatory certification. The voluntary certification is carried out under the initiative of the legal persons and citizens.

Mandatory certification is organized and implemented by Gosstandart of Russia. On separate kinds of products the organization and implementation of mandatory certification is assigned to other Russian Federation control bodies pursuant to their competence.

Legal fundamentals of normative and metrology assurance of certification is contained in more than 30 Federal Acts. The legislative base of certification is permanently improved.

In the previous period a number of following documents requiring respective alterations in certification system development was drawn up and validated:

- The order of Russian Federation government dated 13.08.97 №1013 “On approval of a list of the products, services and works subjected to mandatory certification”.
- The order of Gosstandart of Russian Federation dated 23.02.98 №5 “On the list of products and services subjected to mandatory certification”.

By these acts the nomenclature of an industrial products is considerably expanded, certification of electrical energy is entered, as well as list of consumer goods (spectacle frames and lenses, watches etc.) is supplemented.

- The law of Russian Federation “On alternations and amendments in the law

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of Russian Federation “On product and service certification” dated 31.07.98 №154-Ф3, by which the new form of products (services, works) certification is entered and it means acceptance of declaration of conformity by the manufacturer (seller, executor). Lists of products, which conformity is to be confirmed by the declaration, the requirements to them and procedure for adoption will be approved by Russian Federation Government.

- The order of Russian Federation Governmental dated 01.01.98 №113 “On some measures, directed on improvement of quality assurance systems of products and services”, in which it is recommended to the executive bodies of Russian Federation entity to support companies implementing quality systems on the basis of the international standards ISO 9000 series.
- The law of Russian Federation “On industrial safety of dangerous manufacturing objects” dated 21.07.97 №116, in which certification of manufacturing objects is entered with the purpose to control working conditions.

Nowadays more than 50 accredited certification bodies of products and services are included in infra structure certification bodies of St.Petersburg.

The certification bodies carry out certification of products and services by 7 groups:

- 1 group – products of machine- and shipbuilding;
- 2 group - products of electrotechnical, electronic and instrument-making industry, medical engineering;
- 3 group - products of agricultural production and food-processing industry, perfumes and cosmetics;
- 4 group - products textile and light industry;
- 5 group - products of raw branches, woodworking and other products;
- 6 group - services;
- 7 group – quality systems.

For a carrying out certification tests more than 150 testing laboratories are accredited in St.Petersburg.

Leading branch (base and head) organization, large-sized and medium-sized companies of the different ministries and offices are included in the system of accredited testing laboratories.

The analysis of equipment of testing laboratories has shown, that the cumulative potential of the regional testing base is unique and, as a whole, the level, when domestic manufacturers and suppliers of imported products can test them, not applying for services of laboratories located in other regions, had been reached.

In laboratory equipment the share of modern testing equipment and devices made in USA, Germany, France has grown, that has allowed them to expand their accreditation scopes.

Metrology provision of testing carried out in testing laboratories of St.Petersburg, as a whole, is satisfactory. For maintenance of metrology provision of testing at the proper

level it is necessary to:

- systematically (annually) review condition of measurements, control and test of products and services;
- create system of interlaboratory comparisons of test results.

Nowadays infrastructure of certification bodies and testing laboratories requires further development (on some kinds of industrial products, consumer goods, electric power etc.).

The priority direction of testing system improvement is provision of safety of people life and health in a part of the control of foodstuffs and consumer goods. Activity directed on maintenance of ecological safety, sanitary health and labour safety has great importance.

With the purposes to increase competitiveness the voluntary certification system of products and services demands further development, which is not sufficient distributed in the region.

Major problem of executive bodies at the present stage of economy development is the creation of economical key factors in the region, directed on increase of product competitiveness, maintenance of stability of manufacturing on the basis of implementation of quality assurance systems.

The specialists on certification, testing, quality management are trained on the basis of higher educational establishments of St.Petersburg and institutes on retraining staff, as well as by Center for testing and certification – St.Petersburg (Test-St.Petersburg) and by St.Petersburg branch of CISM on following specialties:

- products certification with the analysis of manufacturing;
- services certification;
- quality systems certification;
- testing laboratories accreditation.

Allowing expected extension of voluntary certification volumes, the available quantity of the certification experts is obviously insufficient. The training program for certification experts requires improvement.

Implementation of the program will:

- allow to ensure more effective protection of customers against dishonest manufacturers (seller, executors);
- ensure creation of a unified information system of certification-related works;
- solve problems of optimization of certification costs;
- allow to coordinate activity of the collegiate inspection bodies in the field of quality and safety of goods, works and services;
- creates conditions for implementation of quality systems on the basis of ISO 9000 series, ISO 14000 series with the purposes to reach competitiveness of products of St.Petersburg companies in the internal and external markets, development of an export potential of the city.

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The program “Quality” allows to receive:

- social effect - by increase of a level of safety of products, manufacturing processes applied, increase of welfare and occupation level of the population involved in manufacturing competitive products;
- technical effect – due to improvement of manufacturing processes, inspection and testing of products, increase of accuracy and stability of manufacturing processes, decrease of a level of presence of defects of manufacturing;
- economic benefit - by reduction of losses of manufacturing and realization due to poor quality of products in the regional markets, decrease of general share of quality costs.

All this raises confidence, that we will manage to solve problems of economical and social development and, first of all, increase of the population welfare.