

11 LEGAL METROLOGY TENDENCIES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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The beginning of a new stage of the development of legal metrology in the Russian Federation may be considered as from 1993 when the Federal Law “On assurance of measurement uniformity” was adopted. This Law has established for the first time and at the highest level the basic norms and rules of the administration of metrological activities in our country. When developing this Law we took into account the most of international and national experience to protect the society and the State from non-trustworthy measurement results. Of course, we relied upon the OIML D 1 “Law on metrology”, which at the moment is reconsidered by a special Joint WG. We are preparing to follow the new version of this document, because it’s the time for changing of our Federal Law of 1993.

There is no need to explain the different elements of legal metrology in Russia established by the law because all details have been published in the OIML Bulletins No.1, 1994, and No. 3, 1998.

The globalization of the world’s trade, the international integration and trends to the establishment of a global measurement system, the intention of Russia to join the WTO – there is not even a complete list of prerequisites to the reformation of legal metrology in the Russian Federation. In view of these reasons we are developing the conception of the national policy in the field of metrology for the coming decades and the middle-term program of its realization. The aim, the tasks, the strategy of the conception are formulated for the new approach of metrology as a science and as specific activities related to measurements. All new challenges are divided in 3 main directions – legislative, including the legal metrology documents, executive, including the metrological service, fundamental and applied metrology, and supervising, including the state metrological control and supervision.

Concerning the legislative field, it is necessary to take into account the future federal law on principles on principles of technical regulations. In consequences of that, there is some tendencies for legal metrology: more concentration on removal of barriers to trade, restriction of the sphere of control and supervision, harmonization of the organization of the principles of metrological activities with the international level, paying more attention to consumer protection in the field of safety. Now we are in process of establishing the new technical regulations for the uniformity of measuring requirements, the assessment of conformity in legal metrology of domestic products and services for the competitiveness of Russian products, appropriate adaptation of accreditation and certification processes based on international principles developed by ILAC, ISO and EA to the procedures of verification and type approval.

We are also preparing the adoption of the future European Directive as a national technical regulation.

Last year, the Gosstandart of Russia has adopted as national standards the ISO standard 17025 and others dealing with accuracy in measurements. They represent the master standards for the development of legal metrology.

Legal metrology as a part of national measurement system is a model for global measurement system in generally. Besides the procedures of conformity assessment and effective quality assurance systems for type approval testing and verifications it's necessary to elaborate procedures for mutual recognition of tests and verifications results. This problem depends on the competence of laboratories and on true traceability of measurement results to the corresponding key comparisons of the national measurement standards. So, for the future it's necessary to harmonize all the arrangements of the international organizations concerned.