

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF STANDARDS

WASHINGTON

HDE:GDM

(Sept. 24, 1926)

Letter
Circular
LC 209

GENERAL POLICY OF THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS WITH REGARD TO TESTING

The Bureau of Standards in cooperation with the Government, industrial, scientific and technical organizations is primarily engaged in research and testing work relating to the development of fundamental scientific and engineering data on materials, processes, and devices in science and industry.

Permissible Tests

The following classes of work within the Bureau's field may be taken up when in the judgment of the Bureau the conditions warrant:

1. Fundamental tests for National or State Governments or to aid science and industry or the general public, especially fundamental investigations involving standards which the Bureau is uniquely fitted to conduct.

2. Routine tests and other services authorized by law where funds, facilities, and personnel are available, for example, the testing and certification of weights and measures, materials, and devices, provided such work does not involve competition with qualified commercial laboratories, which it is the policy of the Bureau to aid.

3. Referee tests or investigations to settle disputes where private laboratories are unable to agree on fundamental measurements, test results, or interpretation of such results, provided (1) the importance of the case justifies the time and outlay, and (2) all parties agree in writing to accept and abide by the Bureau's report.

4. Informal tests the results of which promise to be of sufficient value to the Bureau in solving some Bureau problem relating to similar materials, processes, or device.

5. Cooperative tests (without fee) the results of which are desired both by the Bureau and cooperating agencies, insofar as funds and staff permit. In many cases a research associate of the organization concerned is detailed to work with the Bureau's expert in solving a problem. If done primarily for the information of a manufacturer in improving his product or process, a nominal fee may be charged to cover the test.

Non-permissible Tests

The Bureau reserves the right to refuse any work temporarily or permanently if such work would delay other research or testing which the division concerned may consider relatively more important. (In view of the wide range

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of the Bureau's activities and the great variety of tests called for, such cases occur almost daily in almost every division of the Bureau.)

The following are examples of non-permissible tests:

1. Investigations of secret processes or tests of materials by such processes.
2. Tests of inadequately described materials, devices, or processes.
3. Assays, analyses, and tests to be made by methods already standard, for which private laboratories are equipped.
4. Unnecessary tests or duplication of previous work, such as further tests on a given class of material already well studied, and on which there is no imperative need for further information.
5. Tests, the primary object of which is sales promotion.

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