

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
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Letter
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VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE THROUGH
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF INDUSTRY AND THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS.

(September 3, 1937.)

To illustrate the achievements of industry in the reduction of unnecessary variety, and, by example, to show the broad applicability of the procedure which has made them possible, there is presented herein for a selected list of commodities a comparison of the number of varieties produced under simplified practice with the number produced before simplified practice was applied. Those who desire more detailed information on the examples cited are referred to the covering Simplified Practice Recommendations, the numbers of which are given in the column headed "S.P.R. No."¹

Simplified Practice means reduction of excessive variety of manufactured products, or of methods. Simplified Practice Recommendations are records of stock items retained after superfluous variety has been eliminated. These recommendations are developed by voluntary cooperation among manufacturers, distributors, consumers, and other interests, upon the initiative of any of these groups, through a regular procedure of the National Bureau of Standards established for that purpose; a procedure designed to insure not only the initial success of a program, but also its continued adjustment to meet changing industrial conditions.²

The following brief notes suggest some of the more obvious advantages to be gained from a simplified practice program by the various participants. To the manufacturer: Less capital tied up in slow-moving stocks, simplified inspection requirements, longer runs with fewer changes, less idle equipment, less stock to handle, larger production units, less special machinery, more prompt delivery, less chance of error in shipment, and less obsolescence in material and equipment. To the jobber, wholesaler, and retailer: Increased turnover, elimination of slow-moving stock, staple lines--easy to buy and quick to sell, greater concentration of sales efforts on fewer items, decreased capital invested in new stocks and repair parts, less storage space required, and decreased overhead and handling charges. To the consumer: Better values than otherwise possible, better service in delivery and repairs, and better quality of products.

¹Supplied by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a nominal cost. Do not send stamps. Those items marked (*) are available at this date, in mimeographed form only, from the Division of Simplified Practice, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. A complete list of recommendations (LC-345) may be obtained free from the Division of Simplified Practice.

²The procedure is explained in detail in Simplified Practice, Its Purpose and Application, Letter Circular LC-456, December 2, 1935, Division of Simplified Practice, National Bureau of Standards.

VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION
OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE

Item	Varieties			S.P.R. No.	
	Before simplifi- cation	After simplifi- cation	% re- duc- tion		
Abrasive products, coated	8,000	1,865	77	89-36	
Asphalt	102	11	89	4-36	
Axes, forged	845	384	54	158-37	
Bags, glassine	124	26	79	107-31	
Bags, paper, grocers'	61	47	23	42	
Bags, paper, notion and millinery ... sizes..	188	28	85	129-31	
Barrels, steel; and drums capacities..	66	26	61	20-28	
Bars, steel, reinforcing	32	11	66	26-30	
Bars, steel, spiral, reinforcing sizes..	7	4	43	53-32	
	(lengths..	33	1	97	*24
Beds, hospital	(widths..	34	1	97	
	(heights..	44	1	98	
	(colors..	3	2	33	75-29
Blackboard, composition	(widths..	18	3	83	
	(lengths..	90	5	94	
Blankets	78	11	86	11-36	
Board, binders	718	10	99	81-28	
Board, box, thicknesses of	244	96	61	*44-36	
Boilers, range; and expansion tanks	130	13	90	8-29	
Boilers, steel, horizontal firebox heating..	2,328	38	98	157-37	
Bolts, plow	1,500	840	44	23	
Books, composition. Counts (No. of leaves)..	76	41	46	84-28	
Bottles, carbonated beverage:					
	(shapes..	15	12	20	
Soda and imported	(capacities..	15	12	20	
ginger ale	(heights..	78	6	92	
	(wt. of glass..	16	8	50	
	(capacities..	11	3	73	123-30
Water and water shape	(heights..	13	3	77	
ginger ale	(wt. of glass..	18	4	78	
	(capacities..	8	3	62	
Beers, export, select	(heights..	18	2	89	
or C.S.	(wt. of glass..	18	2	89	
Bottles, milk and cream, and bottle caps ...	49	4	92	*10	
Boxes, corrugated and solid fiber, for canned fruits and vegetables	150	41	73	*146-33	
Boxes, corrugated, for department and specialty store use	322	75	77	*128-31	

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VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE (Cont'd.)

Item	Varieties			S.P.R. No.
	Before simplification	After simplification	% reduction	
Boxes, folding, for department and specialty store usesizes..	262	59	77	*127-31
Boxes, folding, one-pound for coffee	100	2	98	64-30
Boxes, set-upsizes..	1,084	194	82	*126-31
Brick, common; and rough and smooth face brick	75	2	97	7
Brick, face, rough and smooth; and common brick	75	2	97	7
Brick, paving, vitrified	66	4	94	1-36
Brick, sand-lime	45	1	98	38-37
Brushes, calcimine, block (widths..	47	10	79) 121-31
sizes for(thicknesses..	34	8	76	
Brushes, paint and varnish	480	143	70	43-28
Cans, fruit and vegetable (names and dimensions)	200	21	90	*155-37
Cans, tinned, steel, ice creamtypes and sizes..	14	5	64	164-36
Caps, bottle, milk and cream; and milk and cream bottles	49	4	92	*10
Cartons, ice cream; and ice cream brick moldsmold sizes..	30	1	97	120-36
Cartridges, metallic	348	194	44	62-37
Chain, welded	1,831	1,214	34	100-29
Checks, guest, restaurant:				
(grades..	4	3	25) 113-30
Cardboard checks(widths..	12	5	58	
(lengths..	16	14	12	
(grades..	7	4	43) 20
Paper checks(widths..	10	8	20	
Chinaware, cafeteria and restaurant	700	309	56	33
Chinaware, dining car	700	345	51	39
Chinaware, hospital	700	345	51	40
Chinaware, hotel	700	258	63	5
Cloth, screen, wire insect	360	154	57	122-31
Containers (cans), fruit and vegetable, (names and dimensions)	200	21	90	*155-37
Containers (cans), tinned, steel, ice creamtypes and sizes..	14	5	64	164-36
Containers, extracted honeysizes..	65	10	85	156-37
Containers, glass; for cottage cheese and sour creamsizes..	20	3	85	148-33

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VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE (Cont'd.)

Item	Varieties			S.P.R. No.
	Before simplification	After simplification	% reduction	
Containers, glass, for mayonnaise and kindred productscapacities..	25	5	80	131-35
Containers, glass, for (preserve jars..	40	9	77)	
preserves, jellies, (jelly glasses..	25	7	72)	91-32
and apple butter(apple butter jars..	6	4	33)	
Cups, ice cream; and cup caps(cups..	16	5	69)	132-36
(caps..	15	6	60)	
Drums, steel; and barrelscapacities..	66	26	61	20-28
Duck, cotton	460	94	80	27-36
Elbows and fittings for eaves trough and conductor pipevarieties..	110	76	31	*29
Fencing, woven-wire; and woven-(styles..	552	71	87)	9-28
wire fence packages(pkg. sizes..	2,072	200	90)	
Files and rasps	640	475	26	*6
Fittings, wrought iron and wrought steel, and pipe and valvespipe sizes..	62	48	24	57-32
Flashlight cases, metal and fiber	25	7	72	63-33
Fungicides and insecticides (package sizes)	38	22	42	41
Galvanized-ware, tinware and Japanned ware..	1,154	873	24	55
Gauze, surgical	70	29	59	86-37
Goring, shoe, elastic(qualities..	16	5	69)	112-29
(widths..	13	9	31)	
Hammers, forged	386	180	53	159-37
Hatchets, forged	242	118	51	160-37
Insecticides and fungicides (package sizes)	38	22	42	41
Investment, dental; plaster and artificial stone, (plaster..	22	3	86)	117-30
packaging of(investment..	26	13	50)	
Insulators, porcelain, one-piece	272	210	23	73
Jacks, screw, bell-bottomsizes..	78	38	51	97-30
Japanned ware, tinware, and galvanized ware ..	1,154	873	24	55

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VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE (Cont'd.)

Item	Varieties			S.F.R. No.
	Before simplification	After simplification	% reduction	
Lath, metal (expanded and sheet)	125	29	76	3-36
Lights; sidewalk, floor (sizes..)	120	6	95	49
and roof (styles..)	80	5	94	
(shapes..)	10	2	80	
Lining, brake, automobile	100	37	63	66
Lockers, steel	65	23	64	35-28
Lumber, rotary cut, for (lengths..)	102	6	41	59
wire-bound boxes (widths..)	65	6	91	
(thicknesses..)	9	6	33	
Millboard, asbestos; and (paper..)	72	20	72	*19-28
asbestos paper (millboard..)	21	4	31	
Mirrors, dental cone-socket	7	4	43	137-32
Molds, brick, ice cream; and				
ice cream cartons (mold sizes..)	30	1	97	120-36
Nails, cut, small, and (sizes..)	428	185	57	47-28
cut tacks (packages..)	423	127	70	
Packages, salt	71	38	46	70
Packaging of dental plaster,				
investment, and artificial (plaster..)	22	3	86	117-30
stone (investment..)	26	13	50	
Packaging of insecticides and fungicides ...	38	22	42	41
Packaging, woven-wire fence; (styles..)	552	71	87	9-28
and woven-wire fencing (pkg. sizes..)	2,072	200	90	
Paper, asbestos; and (paper..)	72	20	72	*19-28
asbestos millboard (millboard..)	21	4	81	
Paper, photographic	73	62	15	98-36
Paper, tissue (roll, sizes..)	13	3	77	46
(shoe, sizes..)	21	4	81	
Pipe, wrought-iron and wrought-steel; and valves and fittings (pipe sizes..)	62	43	24	57-32
Pipe, conductor; and eaves trough, elbows and fittings (varieties..)	110	76	31	*29
Plaster, adhesive	26	15	42	*85-28
Plaster, dental; investment, and artificial stone, (plaster..)	22	3	86	117-30
packaging of (investment..)	26	13	50	
Rasps and files	640	475	26	*6
Refractories, malleable foundry	138	25	87	79-28

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VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE (Cont'd.)

Item	Varieties			S.P.R. No.
	Before simplifi- cation	After simplifi- cation	% re- duc- tion	
Roofing, iron and steel	292	178	39	78-28
Rubber, dental (base and veneering). colors..	42	11	74	138-32
Scoops, shovels and spades (1st revision) ..	5,136	1,161	77	*48
Screen cloth, insect, wire	360	154	57	122-31
Shells, loaded paper shot	4,067	283	93	31-37
Shovels, spades and scoops (1st revision) ..	5,136	1,161	77	*48
Slate, blackboard	251	25	90	*15-35
Slate, roofing.....possible sizes..	1,260	309	75	*14-28
Slate, structural	827	118	81	13-28
Spades, shovels, and scoops (1st revision)..	5,136	1,161	77	*48
Spirals, steel, reinforcing	7	4	43	53-32
Spools, metal, for annealing, handling, and shipping wire	8	6	25	63
Steel, sheet	1,630	209	87	28-29
Stone, artificial, dental; plaster and investment, (plaster ..	22	3	86) 117-30
packaging of	26	13	50	
Sweeps, floor	11	7	36	88-37
Tacks, cut, and small (sizes..	428	185	57) 47-28
cut nails	423	127	70	
(sizes..	16	8	50) 93-29
Tags, shipping, paper(grades of stock..	21	8	62	
(thicknesses..	7	5	29	
(colors..	32	15	53) 8-29
Tanks, expansion; and range boilers	130	13	90	
Tanks, storage, hot water	120	14	88	25
Tape, sealing, paper, No. 1 kraft	8	3	62	114-30
Ternes, roofing	1,203	936	22	*30-28
Textiles, cotton, hospital and institutional	454	26	94	74-30
Tile, building, hollow	36	22	39	*12
Tinware, galvanized, and Japanned ware	1,154	873	24	55
Tools, forged	665	503	24	17-35
Towels, terry, fast selvage	74	6	92	119-31
Traps, lavatory and sink, brass	1,114	76	93	21
Trough, eaves; and conductor pipe, elbows and fittings	110	76	31	*29
Turnbuckles	248	115	54	71-28
Twines, hard-fiber (ply and yarn goods)	1,304	1,124	14	92-32
Units, building, concrete	45	18	60	32-32

VARIETY REDUCTION EFFECTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SIMPLIFIED PRACTICE (Cont'd.)

Item	Varieties			S.P.R. No.
	Before simplifi- cation	After simplifi- cation	% re- duc- tion	
Valves, wrought-iron and wrought-steel; and pipe and fittings pipe sizes..	62	48	24	57-32
Wheelbarrows	125	27	78	105-32
Wheels, brush, dental	50	10	80	116-30
Wheels, buffing, full disk.; stock diameters.	17	11	35	115-30
Wheels, grinding	715,200	254,400	64	45-32
Wheels, grinding, dental lathe	91	10	89	130-32

(End)