

# Chamber of Commerce of the United States

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Fabricated Production Department

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## REDUCING THE BILL OF WASTE

Industry is fast taking unto itself a new watchword - "The profits of tomorrow are to be largely realized from the wastes of today."

Industrial waste is present in many lines and in manifold forms, most of which is avoidable. Of this waste a most prolific source is the over-diversification and multiplicity of variety which for many years has crept into most all commodity lines. The operation of eliminating wasteful variety of sizes, styles and kinds is usually accomplished in two ways - individual and organized effort. The first step is a survey to determine what should be eliminated and what retained.

We are prepared to tell you what the further process is - there is no line too difficult.

The eliminations made by the following lines which have recently simplified in whole or in part are indicative of the progress being made:

### FILES - (Metal Cutting) -

A report submitted by the manufacturers under date of October 9, 1923, made provision for a reduction in varieties from 1351 to 454, an over all elimination of approximately 66 percent. The recommendations, in accordance with approved practice, have been submitted to and accepted by the distributors and others, thus completing the procedure as a national schedule, which becomes effective July 1, 1924.

### HOLLOW BUILDING TILE -

Efforts of this industry over a period of 18 months culminated in a most constructive simplification program. On October 19, 1923, representatives of the producers, engineers, contractors and others determined upon 19 types of hollow tile as necessary to comply with all the real needs of the industry and trade. This accomplishes an elimination of 21 unnecessary varieties and, furthermore, establishes definite standards of weights and tolerances for each adopted size. The action became effective January 1 of this year and is subject to annual revision.

### RANGE BOILERS -

A most complete simplification undertaking was accomplished on October 30, 1923, by a conference of manufacturers, plumbers, jobbers and allied interests. Thirteen sizes of boilers were adopted as recognized standards in place of approximately 130 sizes previously produced and carried. Furthermore, definite standard specifications were determined for tapping sizes and locations, together with other construction features. The reduced schedule is to become effective on July 1 of this year, permitting the clearance of all stocks of present sizes and varieties. Provision is made for annual revision of the schedule in the light of the effectiveness with which the industry operates under simplified practice:

TUBULAR PLUMBING GOODS (Brass Traps) -

The possible area of simplification in this field was given consideration at conferences of manufacturers, plumbers and others held on November 16, 1923, and March 6, 1924. A survey completed by the industry disclosed the fact that there were catalogued some 1114 traps, of which 119 comprised 90 percent of the total business. In other words, to meet only 10 percent of the demand, it was necessary to produce and stock 90 percent of the total varieties. The final meeting recommended a list of 76 sizes and types of traps as adequate to meet the real needs of all interests. Further proposals provided for stamping on each trap the manufacturer's name and gauge of tubing used; in addition, all tubing to be confined to 17 and 20 B. & S. gauge. These recommendations are to be submitted to the entire industry and trade for acceptance and endorsement.

LUMBER -

Probably the most extensive and far-reaching simplification project yet undertaken through cooperation of all factors was that achieved by the lumber industry on December 12 and 13, 1923. Something over 100 representatives of all involved interests took under consideration some 38 recommendations previously prepared by the central committee of the industry. These recommendations may be broadly grouped into the following 6 classifications, all of which were adopted by the conference:

1. Standard lumber classification.
2. Standard grade names and classifications.
3. Standard yard lumber sizes.
4. Method of lumber measurement
5. Standard shipping weights
6. Shipping and other provisions.

This is the first step in enabling the purchase and sale of lumber on definitely determined grades and conditions and means millions in economy.

SLATE -

On January 21, 1924, a meeting of producers, distributors and consumers set up standards of blackboard slate for both permanent and portable purposes. The provisions cover standards of dimensions and specifications such as joints, tolerances, finish, number of slabs for various wall spaces, etc. The proposals are to be submitted to the entire industry and trade for approval and are to become effective July 1, 1924, at which time stocks and current orders are to be cleared.

HOT WATER STORAGE TANKS -

At a preliminary conference on January 28, 1924, a number of manufacturers submitted simplification recommendations covering capacities, and dimensions, which, if accepted, will effect a reduction of from 250 varieties to 10. There are to be 5 standard sizes designed to accommodate two working pressures, namely, 65 pounds and 100 pounds per square inch. Besides dimensions, provisions are made for such other phases as tappings, manholes, hand holes and coils. These tentative recommendations are to be submitted to all interests for consideration preliminary to a general conference to be scheduled later for definite and final action.

BLANKETS -

Sizes of bed blankets were reduced from 78 to 12 by a general conference

held on February 1, 1924, just one year from the date of the preliminary meeting of this group. The conference was attended by representatives of the manufacturers, distributors and consumer organizations. The standards adopted provide 6 sizes for single and 6 sizes for double beds and have application to wool, wool mixed and cotton blankets. In order that booked orders may be completed and that stocks may be cleared, the schedule is made effective as of November 1, 1924, and will cover 1925 business.

#### FORGED TOOLS -

Action taken at a meeting of manufacturers, distributors, users and others on February 11, 1924, brought about a reduction in varieties from 549 to 365, an elimination of approximately 34 percent. This broad classification of forged tools comprise such items as picks, mattocks, hoes, sledges, mauls, crow-bars, wedges and various blacksmith's tools. The simplified schedule is to become effective for all production on July 1, 1924, and is subject to annual review and revision by the committee of manufacturers and other interests.

#### BOLTS AND NUTS (Agricultural Implements)-

The farm implement industry in conjunction with the National Screw Thread Commission, various engineering societies, and other groups determined upon standard dimensions and sizes of various bolts and nuts at a conference on February 19 and 20, 1924. Three major types of bolts and nuts considered were plow, carriage and machine. Four types and designs of plow bolts, 10 sizes of carriage bolts and 10 sizes of machine bolts were adopted as standards. In addition, 6 sizes of wrenches were established as standards. This project will not only permit of concentrated production on standard sizes and reduce large stocks in the hands of manufacturers and dealers, but will materially aid the farmer.

The foregoing accomplishments are typical of what is being done by industries in relieving the burden of over-diversification in commodity lines. It is evident from these brief reviews that the resultant benefits and economies ramify widely - thus insuring the success and permanency of the movement.

The conferences at which this work was accomplished were held in Washington at the request of the manufacturers, distributors and consumers, most of them on the initiative of trade associations representing these lines. The cooperating agencies assisting them were the Simplified Practice Division of the Department of Commerce, the American Engineering Standards Committee and this Department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

Your inquiries concerning further details of the various conferences and any phase of the waste study are welcomed - we can help you.