



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35



DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Introduction to Metrology

Metrology word is derived from two Greek words such as metro which means measurement and logy which means science. Metrology is the science of precision measurement. The engineer can say it is the science of measurement of lengths and angles and all related quantities like width, depth, diameter and straightness with high accuracy. Metrology demands pure knowledge of certain basic mathematical and physical principles. The development of the industry largely depends on the engineering metrology. Metrology is concerned with the establishment, reproduction and conservation and transfer of units of measurements and their standards. Irrespective of the branch of engineering, all engineers should know about various instruments and techniques.

Introduction to Measurement

Measurement is defined as the process of numerical evaluation of a dimension or the process of comparison with standard measuring instruments. The elements of measuring system include the instrumentation, calibration standards, environmental influence, human operator limitations and features of the work-piece. The basic aim of measurement in industries is to check whether a component has been manufactured to the requirement of a specification or not.

Types of Metrology

- **Legal Metrology**

'Legal metrology' is that part of metrology which treats units of measurements, methods of measurements and the measuring instruments, in relation to the technical and legal requirements. The activities of the service of 'Legal Metrology' are:

- (i) Control of measuring instruments;

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- (ii) Testing of prototypes/models of measuring instruments;
- (iii) Examination of a measuring instrument to verify its conformity to the statutory requirements etc.

- **Dynamic Metrology**

'Dynamic metrology' is the technique of measuring small variations of a continuous nature. The technique has proved very valuable, and a record of continuous measurement, over a surface, for instance, has obvious advantages over individual measurements of an isolated character.

- **Deterministic metrology**

Deterministic metrology is a new philosophy in which part measurement is replaced by process measurement. The new techniques such as 3D error compensation by CNC (Computer Numerical Control) systems and expert systems are applied, leading to fully adaptive control. This technology is used for very high precision manufacturing machinery and control systems to achieve micro technology and nanotechnology accuracies.

OBJECTIVES OF METROLOGY

Although the basic objective of a measurement is to provide the required accuracy at a minimum cost, metrology has further objectives in a modern engineering plant with different shapes which are:

1. Complete evaluation of newly developed products.
2. Determination of the process capabilities and ensure that these are better than the relevant component tolerances.
3. Determination of the measuring instrument capabilities and ensure that they are quite sufficient for their respective measurements.
4. Minimizing the cost of inspection by effective and efficient use of available facilities.

5. Reducing the cost of rejects and rework through application of Statistical Quality Control Techniques.
6. To standardize the measuring methods
7. To maintain the accuracies of measurement.
8. To prepare designs for all gauges and special inspection fixtures.

Necessity and Importance of Metrology

1. The importance of the science of measurement as a tool for scientific research (by which accurate and reliable information can be obtained) was emphasized by Galileo and Gvethe. This is essential for solving almost all technical problems in the field of engineering in general, and in production engineering and experimental design in particular. The design engineer should not only check his design from the point of view of strength or economical production, but he should also keep in mind how the dimensions specified can be checked or measured. Unfortunately, a considerable amount of engineering work is still being executed without realizing the importance of inspection and quality control for improving the function of product and achieving the economical production.

2. Higher productivity and accuracy is called for by the present manufacturing techniques. This cannot be achieved unless the science of metrology is understood, introduced and applied in industries. Improving the quality of production necessitates proportional improvement of the measuring accuracy, and marking out of components before machining and the in-process and post process control of the dimensional and geometrical accuracies of the product. Proper gauges should be designed and used for rapid and effective inspection. Also automation and automatic control, which are the modern trends for future developments, are based on measurement.