



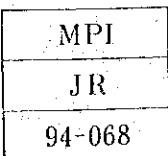
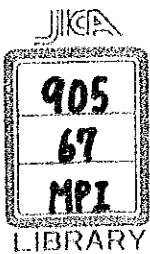
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA)
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

THE STUDY ON THE RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY
IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA (II)

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MARCH 1994

THE ENERGY CONSERVATION CENTER, JAPAN



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1. Characteristics of the Document

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOCUMENT

The Ministry of Industry or an energy conservation center soon to be established in future is expected to play a leading role in promoting factory diagnosis and education of the factory engineers required to promote energy conservation in Bulgarian factories. To go ahead with these activities, it is necessary to set up a guideline which will provide a basis for the activities of staff members.

The document contained in this report describes the technical items which will be helpful in working out the guideline, with particular attention paid to the following:

- (1) The document shall provide the description which is useful to the engineers of the Ministry of Industry or the Energy Conservation Center as ① manual for diagnostic instruction, ② textbook for the seminar, or ③ data to determine the progress of factory rationalization or streamlining.
- (2) The document shall be described in such a way that it can be understood by the engineers four or five years after graduating from universities or colleges, even if they are not currently engaged in the relevant field of the industry.
- (3) In order to ensure that the range of the description items conforms to the current situation of the industry in the Republic of Bulgaria, the description shall be restricted to the items related to the process in the factories under the current study, and shall include basic items, numerical values for reference, and the technique and cases for energy conservation.

It is expected that this document will be used as a reference when the guideline is worked out by the Ministry of Industry or the Energy Conservation Center, and will be improved by adding the information which will be collected through unique factory diagnosis.

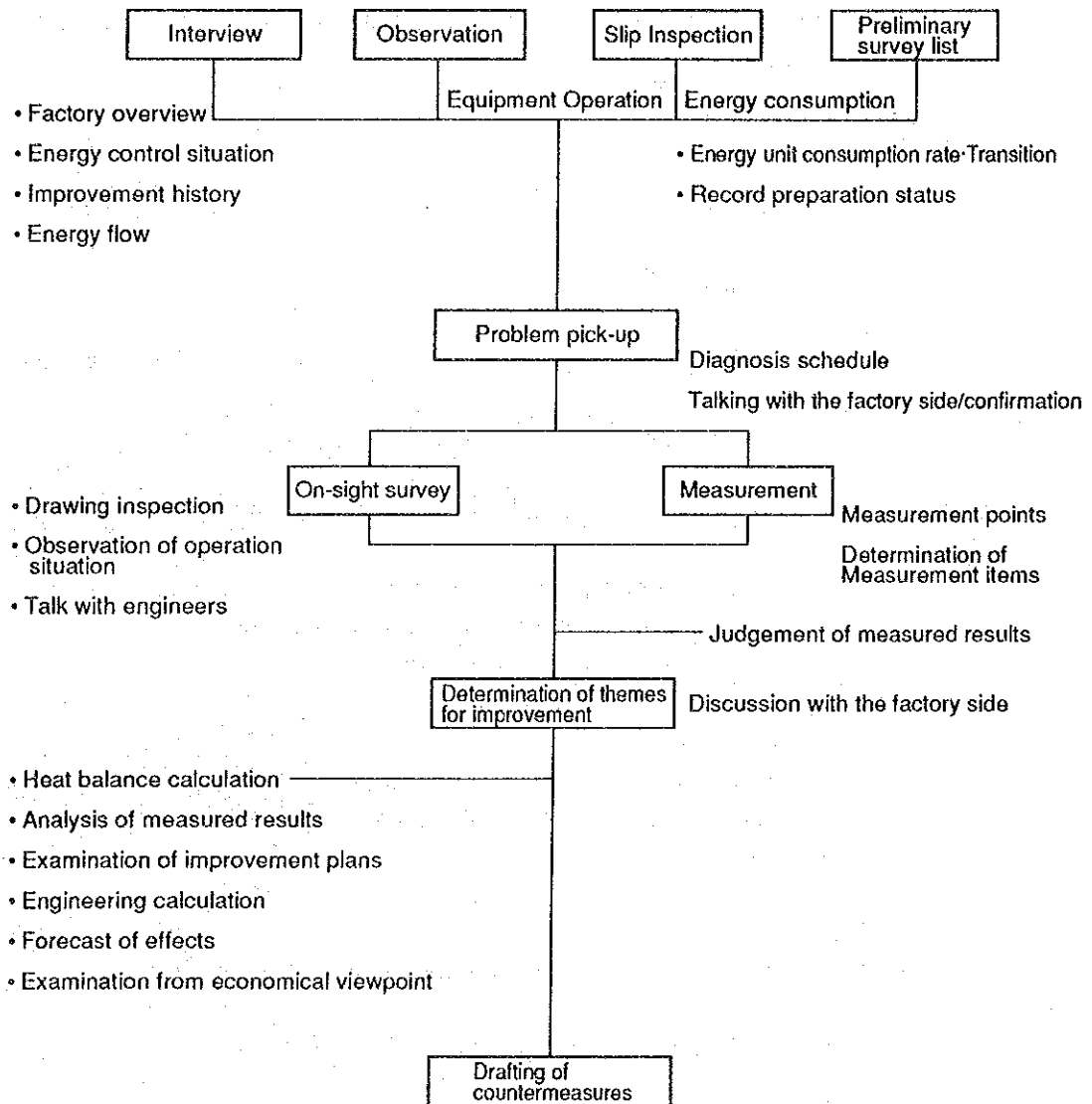
2. Diagnostic Procedure

2. DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURE

(1) Factory diagnosis procedure

Figure 2.1 shows the general procedure for factory survey:

Figure 2.1 Flowchart of Factory Survey



① Factory overview

It is necessary to get correct information on the understanding and enthusiasm of the management people for energy conservation, the efforts made in the past and the points considered as problems by the factory.

1. Factory overview (factory name, type of industry, capital, number of employees, organization, history, share and position in the industry)
2. Trend of the production volume of major products for the last five years
3. Trend of the energy consumption for the last five years
4. Production process chart of major products
5. Type, capacity and operating conditions of energy consuming equipment such as boilers
6. Energy flow
7. Electric power one line diagram and power receiving equipment
8. Factory layout
9. Items which the factory considers as problems and wishes to be studied
10. Items for energy conservation actions taken in the past
11. Items for energy conservation actions to be taken in future
12. Economic environment for the industry and the factory, and the factors inhibiting the promotion of energy conservation measures

② Working out the diagnostic program

- (a) General observation of the factory should be conducted while listening to the explanation of the factory people, and the outline of the following points should be grasped by checking the preliminary questionnaire, energy consumption and production record:

Problems of the equipment and operation

Points which should take priority in diagnosis

Technical level of the factory

Deterioration and maintenance of the equipment

Trend of utilization rates

Energy unit consumption rate and its transition

(b) Determining the diagnostic program

Equipment or processes which should take diagnostic priority

Measuring point, measuring items and measuring time

Sharing the works

(c) Explaining the diagnostic program to the factory to get understanding and cooperation as follows:

Adjustment with the production program

Preparing the holes for installation of measuring instruments or taking samples

Preparation of power supply

③ Measurement and study to be implemented according to the diagnostic program

Selection and layout of the measuring instruments

Entering the set conditions in the measuring instruments

Monitoring to see if the adequate data have been gained or not

Detailed structure and dimensions of the equipment according to equipment drawings or actual measurement

Determining the problems by observation of the operation

Hearing from engineers

Data required to evaluate the economic effect of the improvement plan
(Study of the energy price, fund and cost)

④ When the measurements have been obtained, items should be described in the report to propose improvement measures after the analysis, be picked up and explained to the factory people to confirm such items.

⑤ Study of improvement proposal

Based on the data entered in the check list, measurement record chart, data floppy, and drawings, heat management as well as electric management including calculation of heat balance, heat transfer and fluid conveyance power should be analyzed, and study should be made to seek ways for energy conservation by modification or addition of the equipment, thereby working out the plan best suited to the current situation of the factory.

On the basis of this plan, the approximate cost and expected effect required for improvement should be calculated, and economic evaluation of various improvement proposals should be made according to the common indices or techniques, thereby determining feasibility and priority.

A study should be made of the impact accompanying these improvement measures, showing the points to be noted for implementation.

(2) Points to be noted for diagnosis

In Japan, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) provides the items to be standard for judgment when the factory manager of the factory plans rationalization or streamlining in the use of energy within the technically and economically feasible range.

According to this provision, the energy conservation technique is classified into seven categories as given below, showing the conformance criteria and target level for major items:

- I Rationalization of fuel combustion
- II Rationalization of heating, cooling and heat transfer
- III Prevention of heat loss due to heat radiation and transfer
- IV Waste heat recovery and reuse
- V Rationalization in conversion of heat into power
- VI Prevention of electric heat loss due to resistances
- VII Rationalization in conversion of electricity into power

Thus, these items provide a guideline for diagnosis of energy conservation. The following gives the conformation criteria in the Japanese standards by way of reference.

The following also introduces examples of rationalization and improvement measures for each item:

I. Rationalization of fuel combustion

Table 2.1 Standard Air Ratio of Boiler

Classification of evaporation	Solid fuel		Liquid fuel	Gas fuel	By-product gas
	Fixed bed	Fluidized bed			
Large-sized boiler for electric utilities	—	—	1.05 - 1.2	1.05 - 1.1	1.2
Other boilers					
30 t/h or more	1.3 - 1.45	1.2 - 1.45	1.1 - 1.25	1.1 - 1.2	1.2 - 1.3
10 to 30 t/h	1.3 - 1.45	1.2 - 1.45	1.2 - 1.3	1.2 - 1.3	—
5 to 10 t/h	—	—	1.3	1.3	—
< 10 t/h	—	—	1.3	1.3	—

Table 2.2 Standard Air Ratio of Industrial Furnace
(Except for solid fuel furnace or the furnace of below 500 Mcal/h)

Classification	Continuous type	Intermittent type
Metal melting furnace for casting	1.30	1.40
Continuous billet heating furnace	1.25	
Other metal heating furnace	1.25	1.35
Metal heat treating furnace	1.25	1.3
Petroleum heating furnace	1.25	
Thermal cracking furnace and reforming furnace	1.25	
Cement kiln	1.30	
Lime baking furnace	1.30	1.35
Drying oven (only the burner section)	1.30	1.50

I-1 Selection of burners

Type, capacity, turndown ratio
Maintenance, tip worn

I-2 Improvement in atomization

Fuel temperature, viscosity
Volume of atomizing air and steam
Fuel pressure
Dispersion reagent, emulsion

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| I-3 | Prevention of air entry | Furnace pressure control,
Narrowing of the aperture, master/slave door, seal improvement,
Reduced opening time |
| I-4 | Fuel-air ratio control improvement | O ₂ control, CO control,
Cascade control,
Cross limit control |
| I-5 | Load stability | Load distribution improvement and control of the number of units,
Steam accumulator |
| I-6 | Combustion temperature rise | Combustion by oxygen enrichment,
Gas atomization, |
| I-7 | Complete combustion at a low temperature | Combustion by catalyst
Fluidized bed combustion |

II. Rationalization of heating, cooling and heat transfer

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| II-1 Heating by industrial furnace | | |
| II-1-1 | Optimization of heating temperature | Setting the work standards, |
| II-1-2 | Heat pattern improvement | Temperature distribution, temperature rise speed,
In-furnace gas flow |
| II-1-3 | Load optimization | Furnace floor load,
Load distribution to more than two equipment,
Load leveling |
| II-1-4 | Material loading method improvement | |
| II-1-5 | Furnace shape improvement | |
| II-1-6 | Reduction in calorific heat of furnace body and transfer tool | Reduced weight |
| II-1-7 | Flame emissivity improvement | |

II-1-8 Direct heating

Improvement by modification into direct heating furnace,
Submerged combustion,
Direct resistance heating
Far infrared heating,
Microwave heating,
Induction heating
Dielectric heating

II-2 Heating by steam

II-2-1 Optimization of steam pressure

II-2-2 Air purging

II-2-3 Direct steam blow-in method improvement

II-3 Heat transfer

II-3-1 Reduction in resistance for heat transfer

Prevention of scale, sludge and frost from growing on heat transfer surface,
Boiler water quality control, chemicals supply, blowing optimization,
Removing condensed film, defrosting,
Cleaning, soot blowing, filter cleaning

II-3-2 Improvement of heat transfer coefficient

Air flow rate increase, heating by jet flow, high-speed burner,
Fluidized heat transfer,
Atomized mist cooling

II-3-3 Heat exchange system

Optimization,
Increase in unit numbers

II-3-4 Heat exchanger

Use of material with high heat conductivity
Heat transfer tube shape
Heat transfer tube arrangement
Expanded heat transfer surface, fin plate,
Buffer plate, turbulence accelerator

II-4 Operation

II-4-1 Optimization of start and stop time

Use of remained pressure of boiler

II-4-2 Reduction in load

Air conditioning temperature, rate of air circulation optimization,
Use of potential heat in the preceding process,
Reduction in process wait time
Reduction in empty furnace time, lot concentration
Optimization of distillation column reflux ratio, selection of feed/extraction tray

II-5 Process

II-5-1 Improvement of Control method

Reduction of margin

II-5-2 Introduction of Automated system

II-5-3 Cascade use of heat

Multi effect evaporator, steam re-compression
Increase in the number of distillation tower trays
Plant integration
Pooling of energy among plants

II-5-4 Change of separation method

Mechanical separation
Separation by membrane
Adsorption
Extraction and super-critical extraction

II-5-5 Layout change

Reduction in transport distance
Avoiding the complicated transports
Reduction in idle operation time by reduced transport distance

II-5-6 Mitigation of reaction conditions

Catalyst improvement
Chemicals improvement
Bio reactor

II-5-7 Change of product standards

Avoiding the excessively high quality product
Materials requiring no heat treatment in the next process

- II-5-8 Change of materials Recycling
- II-5-9 Scale up Reduction of operating time by increased electric power
- II-5-10 Introduction of continuous operation
- II-5-11 Introduction of higher speed
- II-5-12 Omission of some processes Hot charging
- II-5-13 Use of highly efficient equipment

III. Prevention of heat loss due to heat radiation and transfer

Table 2.3 Standard Outside Temperature of Furnace Wall
(except for the rotary furnace and the furnace with the capacity of 500 Mcal/h or less, outer air temperature 20 °C)

Temperature inside the furnace	Temperature outside the furnace wall (unit: °C)		
	Ceiling	Side wall	Bottom in contact with the outer air
1,300	140	120	180
1,100	125	110	145
900	110	95	120
700	90	80	100

- III-1 Prevention of leakage Inspection, repair at earlier stage, Selection and maintenance of steam trap
Improved seal for the rotary section and joint
- III-2 Reduction in heat release area Improvement of piping route
Removal of unnecessary piping
Closing of the master valve for unnecessary piping and putting blind plate

III-3 Heat insulation

Improved heat insulation for flange and valve,
 Use of heat insulation material with low heat conductivity
 Reduced thermal emissivity of the cover
 Installation of covers or lid
 Maintenance of heat insulations
 Reduced weight of heat insulation material for batch furnace
 (Specific bulk weight should be less than 1.3.)

III-4 Prevention of gas flowing into the furnace and radiation loss

Reduced aperture size, closing, installation of the door
 Reduced door open/close time

III-5 Optimization of boiler blow volume

IV. Waste heat recovery and reuse

Table 2.4 Standard Exhaust Gas Temperature for Boiler (unit: °C)
 (Load factor: 100% at the outer temperature of 20 °C)

Classification of evaporation	Solid fuel		Liquid fuel	Gas fuel	By-product gas
	Fixed bed	Fluidized bed			
Large-sized boiler for electric utilities	—	—	145	110	200
Other boilers					
30 t/h or more	200	200	200	170	200
10 to 30 t/h	250	200	200	170	—
5 to 10 t/h	—	—	220	200	—
< 10 t/h	—	—	250	220	—

Table 2.5 Standard Exhaust Heat Recovery Rate of Industrial Furnace

Gas temperature at furnace outlet (°C)	Waste heat recovery rate (%)		
	> 20Gcal/h	5 - 20Gcal/h	1 - 5Gcal/h
< 600	25	25	—
600 - 800	35	30	25
800 - 900	40	30	25
> 900	45	35	30

IV-1 Waste energy

Exhaust gas, exhaust air
 Waste water, waste liquid
 Condensate
 High-temperature solids (red hot cokes)
 Mechanical energy (water head)
 Waste pressure (blast furnace, fluid coker)
 By-product gas (steel converter)
 Coldnees (liquefied natural gas)
 Natural energy (solar light, heat and outer air temperature)

IV-2 Purpose of use

Heating of material and raw materials
 Preheating of combustion air or feed air
 Preheating the boiler feed water
 Preheating the fuel (oil)
 Steam generation
 Power generation, electric power generation
 Air conditioning
 District heat supply
 Refrigeration
 Fish culture
 Heating of green house
 Snow melting

IV-3 Means

Heat exchanger and fluidized bed
Heat pipe
Heat pump
Use of heat medium
Waste heat boiler
Reduced pressure type recovery boiler
Turbine (organic solvent and steam)
Total enthalpy heat exchanger

V. Rationalization in conversion of heat into power

V-1 Improvement of energy efficiency

Improvement of steam conditions
Combined system
Cogeneration
Power recovery of steam pressure reduction

V-2 Rationalization in power plant

Improvement of turbine and nozzle shape
Condenser vacuum control (cleaning, water temperature and leakage)
Power plant operation
Variable pressure operation
Control of the number of auxiliary equipment, speed control
Optimization of back and extraction pressure
Peak shift (use of electric power during mid-night hours and on holidays, heat storage)

V-3 Direct power generation

Fuel cell

V-4 Engine efficiency improvement

V-5 Rationalization of steam ejector

Optimization of the number of steps and steam pressure
Conversion to vacuum pump

VI. Prevention of electric heat loss due to resistances

VI-1 Power transmission

VI-1-1 Increase in voltage

VI-1-2	Reduction in temperature	
VI-1-3	Conversion into DC power	
VI-2	Wiring	
VI-2-1	Minimizing the wiring length	Power receiving substation equipment Sub-station system, load arrangement improvement, Wiring route improvement
VI-2-2	Wiring system improvement	
VI-2-3	Selection of wire diameters	
VI-2-4	Balancing loads between 3-phase	
VI-3	Transformer	
VI-3-1	Optimum capacity	
VI-3-2	Load distribution, control of the number of operating units	
VI-3-3	Wire connection method	
VI-3-4	Disconnected when not in use	
VI-4	Electric equipment	Reduced contact resistance
VI-5	Power factor improvement	Installation of phase advance capaci- tor, load interlocking ON/OFF Optimization of load factor of equip- ment Use of synchronous generator
VI-6	Operation	
VI-6-1	Maximum power control	Load leveling Demand control
VI-6-2	Optimization of circuit voltage	
VI-7	Use of the equipment with minimum loss	Superconductivity

VII. Rationalization in conversion of electricity into power

VII-1	Motor	Use of highly efficient motor Optimum capacity
VII-2	Power transmission	Transmission device improvement, Lubrication control, Belt (material and relaxation adjustment)
VII-3	Operation	Prevention of idle operation, intermittent operation, Maintenance of optimum voltage, Intermittent charge for electric precipitator
VII-4	Fluid transport	
VII-4-1	Load reduction	Reduction in flow rate (leakage prevention) Reduction in pipe resistance (rationalization of pipe route and cleaning) Reduction in suction temperature Change of transport method Highly efficient equipment, impeller, variable blade
VII-4-2	Optimization of equipment capacity	Impeller cut
VII-4-3	Control	Speed control (VVVF, clutch, pole change) Control of the number of units
VII-5	Energy recovery	Regenerative braking
VII-6	Electric heating	
VII-6-1	Load reduction	Hot charge Furnace loading method, power input method improvement Reduction in contact resistance
VII-6-2	Highly efficient equipment	Higher efficiency of Frequency converter Direct heating (direct electric conduction, induction heating, dielectric heating, microwave heating, plasma heating)

VII-6-3 Comparison with combustion heating

VII-7 Air conditioning

VII-7-1 Load reduction

Building shape, structure, direction, surroundings,
Prevention of outer air from entering (automatically operated door, curtain)
Optimization of volume and frequency of air circulation
Heat insulation
Separation of heat generating bodies, isolation of illumination heat sources,
Local air conditioning,
Zoning (change of air conditioning requirements according to the location)
Room heating by far infrared radiation

VII-7-2 Ventilation

Filter cleaning,
Reduced duct resistance
Fan speed control
Increased size of humidifier nozzle

VII-7-3 Improved control

Return water temperature control

VII-7-4 Operation control

Water quality control for cooling tower
Cleaning of heat exchanger

VII-8 Illumination

VII-8-1 Optimum illuminance

VII-8-2 Interior

Wall color

VII-8-3 Improved equipment layout

VII-8-4 Use of sun light

VII-8-5 Turning off the unnecessary lights

VII-8-6 Illumination control

VII-8-7 Fixtures cleaning

VII-8-8 Lamp replacement at proper intervals

VII-8-9 Use of highly efficient equipment Lamp, stabilizer

VII-9 Electrolysis

VII-9-1 Reduced contact resistance

VII-9-2 Reduced voltage Reduction of overvoltage
Improvement of electrodes

VII-9-3 Operating condition control Bath temperature, concentration, dis-
tance between electrodes

3. Energy Management

3. ENERGY MANAGEMENT

With the transfer of the economy to the market economy system, Bulgaria is moving ahead with privatization of state-owned enterprises, and each of the companies is required to strengthen the international competitiveness more than ever in both product quality and price. In order to achieve higher efficiency and level in energy consumption as well as productivity and quality, the first requirement is to use the appropriate and well-maintained equipment according to the purpose and to handle them properly. The most effective way for energy conservation is to reduce the number of the equipment troubles and to ensure higher product yields.

The second requirement is to consider if there is any room for improvement in the current equipment and operation method, and to make constant efforts to reach a higher level through repeated studies and factory experiments.

To achieve this, the management people of the factory and the engineers as well as all the operators working in the first front of the site are required to make an concerted effort. It is not too much to say that the success of the campaign depends on the willingness of all the employees of the company, and the factory management to encourage the willingness of these employees is the key to the success. Energy management can be defined as "an organized effort to achieve energy conservation".

(1) Defining the management policy

Because of deeper recognition of the energy situation and requirements for improved factory profit, the factory management and supervising people have come to be greatly interested in energy conservation issues. In order to start the energy conservation activity as a campaign involving all the members of the factory, it is necessary to demonstrate a strong determination of the top management to achieve the goal as a company policy. It is essential to show a quantitative target in terms of percentage of energy to be reduced for each ton of the product, and the deadline by which this target must be achieved, as well as such restrictive items as the upper limit of the annual investment and the investment recovery period. When the top management has defined a direction in which the factory is moving forward, the employees can be convinced that they are working in the direction desired by the top management of the company. Since all the factory members are making efforts in the same direction, cooperation among them will become very smooth.

The target of the top management is shown as an overall goal, so each division in the factory should set up concrete, detailed targets regarding the items for which it can take actions within the scope of their responsibility to achieve the goal set up by the top management, and should make efforts to reach such targets. Since such targets are given in a familiar form which is easily understandable, they will be effectively conveyed to every member of the factory to get positive cooperation.

When the targets broken down for each division are to be set up, they will be studied in the committee (discussed later) to see if such individual targets meet the overall goal or not. It

is also important to bring up rivalry in a good sense in the factory so that each division should set up higher level to make further efforts in challenging it.

(2) Setting up the organization to promote the energy conservation campaign

In the campaign such as energy conservation campaign where a great number of people pertaining to different classes join, it is necessary to appoint some persons who will take care of the overall progress of the activities. In the case of a small-sized factory, individuals may take up this responsibility. However, in the case of a large-sized factory, a special-purpose section may be organized for this purpose.

In any case, this section, as staff members of the plant manager, is required to pay attention to the progress of energy conservation campaign. If there is any delay in the progress, it should check the causes for such delay and should make efforts to remove such causes.

To be concrete, the duties of this section comprises having a correct information on the energy consumption situation, comparison with the original schedule, collection and checking of improvement proposals, distribution of improvement budgets, progress control of the improvement works, evaluation of the results, working out of the education and training program, and preparation for the meeting of the committee.

The committee is effective in ensuring a smooth communication and deep understanding among various divisions such as production, sales, material purchase, equipment maintenance, accounting so that the effective actions will be taken. In this meeting, impact of the energy conservation measures upon each division should be discussed, and it should be confirmed that energy conservation measures do not adversely affect the profits of the entire factory.

The committee should be headed by the factory manager having authority and responsibility for production, or a person having an equivalent authority and responsibility. Otherwise, the meeting will end up determining nothing and implementing nothing.

No matter how excellent an idea for the energy conservation countermeasures are based on, it will not lead to good results, unless the operators have a deep understanding of the meaning and put it into practical use in the daily works. In some cases, the QC circle (a small circle for activities) is effectively used for energy conservation with good results. The QC circle is to improve the human relations at the job site and to provide a joy of positive works by making use of the positive willingness which is essentially built in humans. Until workers recognize that the QC activities are useful and necessary for each of them, however, it is necessary to take some means as education or incentives which will facilitate promotion of the activities. It should be noted that the workers in the front line are always in contact with the energy-consuming equipment, and are in a position to feel most sensitively the phenomena which may occur according to changes of operating conditions. It will be very effective if it is possible to use information of these people and to pick up improvement actions from them.

(3) Scientific and organized activities

To go ahead with the energy conservation campaign, it is essential to have correct information on the energy consumption. It will be impossible to work out an effective strategy if there is no data showing the change of the unit consumption rate to production volume, and the differences according to the equipment, product types and material types. It is not too much to say that the factory data contains a huge amount of suggestions for improvement. If the data are checked with awareness to solve problems, it is possible to find out ways for improvement. Install measuring instruments at the required positions, and record readings. Analyze the information on a periodic basis, and try to find out meaning in the information. In this case, the data should be processed in a statistical method, and be careful to detect significant differences.

When the improvement program is implemented, be sure to follow up the results. Efforts should be made to improve the work quality according to PDCA circle advocated by Dr. Deming. As shown in Figure 3-1, the PDCA circle comprises the following processes; to determine a method regarding an improvement item (PLAN), to train oneself in that method and to put it into practice (DO), to confirm the result (CHECK), and to evaluate the result and to standardize it if satisfactory, and to take corrective actions if not satisfactory (ACTION). If the goal in one step has been achieved, PDCA efforts will be made to achieve the goal in the next step. This method is useful in improving the work quality in every aspect including energy conservation activities.

Figure 3.1 PDCA Circle



In the first stage of selection of the theme in the PLAN phase, the items which should be improved can be easily found out. The improvement proposal system must be effectively used. Proposals may be given by any of the individual workers, QC circles, or staff members. The proposals should not be left unchecked. Immediately they must be brought to the meeting of the committee for review. Advice may be given to some proposals or may be partially modified; in this way, they should be taken up for implementation if possible. Some award should be given to the proposals. It is important to give official commendation to the proposal which has been adopted with excellent results, thereby encouraging the employees to take greater interest in the energy conservation campaign. For proposals which could not be adopted, it is necessary to explain the reason and to lead them for better proposal.

In the DO phase, it is necessary to explain the purpose of the improvement and concept of improvement program to all the factory people and to call for their cooperation to achieve the goal. Lead them so that they will report even minor abnormalities, and fine adjustment can be made smoothly in order to ensure successful activities.

The results should be checked on a periodic basis and reported to the committee or superiors, as well as to the workers in order to encourage them to take greater interest in the activities. In this case, it is important to define the criteria from the beginning, which should not be changed easily on the way.

In the ACTION phase, if the excellent results can be expected by executing the improvement plan, it should be incorporated in work standards to make sure. The required measures should also be taken for the equipment. This procedure is intended not to give much load to the operator in the normal operation, and is essential to ensure continued improvement activities.

If the considerable results can be obtained on a continued basis, the process should be described and should be made public to serve as a good example for other groups. At the same time, official commendation should be given to the related persons, thereby encouraging their further efforts.

(4) Providing education and information

Even if the employees are willing to cooperate, the improvement program cannot be implemented smoothly without information on how to solve the problem. Their interest in the activities will be increased if they can make proposal in addition to pointing out problems.

For this purpose, intra-company education is very important. Seminars are held and guideline manuals are distributed. Even if the staff members are sent to seminars sponsored by external organizations, the results will be much reduced if the information gained from such an event is restricted to these participants, without being conveyed to the other staff members and general operators.

The participants in the external seminars should convey the knowledge in the intra-company seminars when they have come back to their own factory. This will raise the general level of the factory, and will also confirm their knowledge.

The improvement movement will also be encouraged by active exchange of information with the employees of rival companies, material suppliers and product vendors. Of course, it is necessary to compete among companies. Exchange of technical information on the give-and-take basis to some extent will raise the level of the industry and strengthen international competitiveness, thereby contributing to mutual benefits. For example, to disclose the unit consumption rate will motivate competition. Furthermore, problems can be picked up from different angles by getting advice and diagnostic comments from public organizations, consultants and university professors.