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Letter to Duane Pearsall From Tom Bellinghausen Re: E. F. Mikol's Visit to Statitrol

Statitrol Corporation

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March 16, 1967

Statitrol Corporation
1030 West Ellsworth Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80223

ATTEN: Duane Pearsall

Dear Duane

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I have received from E. F. Mikol to Bill Beck, Quality Manager in our Chicago Factory. This is a report concerning his trip to your facility and his recommendations. I thought that you would find this of interest.

Enjoyed the opportunity to spend a little time with you last Monday. I hope we can do this more in the future.

Sincerely

Jane

T. A. Bellinghausen
Product Manager
Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

TAB/jl
Enc.
DATE
March 7, 1967

TO
Bill Beck

FROM
E. F. Mikol

DIVISION
Commercial Engineering

SUBJECT
TRIP TO STATITROL CORPORATION
DENVER, COLORADO

BACKGROUND
Statitrol Corporation is a small electronic company located in Denver, Colorado from which Honeywell intends to purchase Smoke Detector Heads and Power Supplies. Products produced by Statitrol and purchased by Honeywell are currently shipped directly to the field. The purpose of my visit was to review, evaluate, and recommend improvements in quality systems and procedures utilized by Statitrol.

SUMMARY OF VISIT
On Friday morning, March 3, 1967, I met Duane Pearsall, President of Statitrol who accompanied Duane Weisenhaus, the Quality Engineer assigned to this project, and myself, on a tour of Statitrol facilities.

Statitrol production facilities consist of approximately 300 square feet of production area with three production people and their supervisor (refer to figures 1 and 2 of this report). Since components utilized in the devices produced by Statitrol are small, the stock supply consists of a series of shelves located in one corner of the production area (see figure 3). Shelves and "lazy susans" are utilized to store sub-assemblies as they are produced (figures 4 and 5).

Statitrol's quality system consists mainly of a production check of each device for performance on fixtures designed and constructed by the company (figures 6 and 7). All instruction to production personnel was verbal.
SUMMARY OF VISIT - (continued)

After touring the production facilities, I spoke at length to Mr. Pearsall concerning production and quality procedures and recommended the following:

1) Initiation of a system of written receiving inspection procedures to insure material is to specification as it is received rather than waiting for production or field difficulties to highlight defective parts.

2) Documentation (in detailed, written form) of assembly, adjustment and production checking techniques now used, to insure consistent production and test methods. I explained that since current methods are verbal, they are subject to change with increases or changes in personnel and are bound to change if production personnel are allowed to adopt their own procedures without written guidelines to follow.

3) Periodic inspection of production by an individual who is not directly concerned with production schedules, utilizing written inspection procedures and preferably using different test equipment than used by production personnel.

4) Development of a system for periodic checking of production fixturing utilizing accurate meters as "masters" to verify the accuracy of production equipment.

5) Organization of a system for investigating defective material returned from customers to determine and correct the cause of complaint or failure. It was also recommended a log of symptoms and causes of complaints be maintained for future reference.

Throughout the visit, Mr. Pearsall was hospitable and receptive towards suggestions forwarded and indicated he would make every attempt to incorporate them, where possible, into the company's procedures.

PERSONAL COMMENTS:

By contractual agreement, Statitrol will supply 30,000 Smoke Detector Heads to Honeywell over a three year period along with an unspecified quantity of power supplies. In my opinion, this agreement will require rapid expansion of Statitrol production facilities. Unless recognized by Statitrol and proper adjustments are made now, this required growth may cause serious production and quality problems.

E. F. Michel

EFM: cc
NOTE:

Figures 1 through 7 mentioned in this report are in the form of Polaroid pictures.

Persons copied in this memo wishing to see figures 1 through 7 please contact Bill Beck.