The theoretical principles of adaptive changes management in activities of the enterprises are essential components of an effective strategy for the development and a strategy for forming the competitiveness of the enterprises at the present stage of economic development. Of particular relevance is the study of adaptation change management for agro-industrial enterprises, whose effective functioning is a guarantee of ensuring the country food security and a driving force for the development of the country's economy.

The purpose of the article is to research and improve the theoretical approach to the allocation and classification of existing changes in the activities of enterprises, taking into account the specific features of agro-industrial enterprises. The article analyzes theoretical approaches to the concept definition of the “change”, considers approaches and attributes under which the classification of existing changes occurs in the activity of enterprises.

Modern enterprises need to manage adaptive changes in terms of forming an adaptive management mechanism – at the level of management of external, internal and administrative changes. We should always take into account the possibilities and actions of the bifurcation mechanism of the system change.

It is proposed to adapt the enterprise to changes from the perspective in four main components: organizational, economic, legal, technological and social components. Such an integrated combination of directions and components in the management of adaptation will enable the effective management in enterprise activity. In this case, all aspects of the company's activity in the market conditions will be systematically taken into account.