

TIMBER AND WOODWORKING

Nakhodka, Primorskiy Kray: Problems in Timber Exporting

Shipping timber abroad has long been considered one of the country's main sources of foreign currency. Unfortunately, timber exporting arrangements have become rather muddled as of late. The volume of shipments of unsorted lumber, that is products of the highest quality, has decreased and we have had to pay millions of hard-currency roubles to our foreign buyers in fines for breaking our contracts. We get many complaints because of poor quality, incomplete shipments, etc.

Our lumber is sold on a highly competitive foreign market. In order to maintain our share of the market we must be able to compete in terms of list of products, packaging, stability of shipping arrangements, and, most importantly, we have to be able to supply a high-quality product. There are many problems to be solved, as can be seen. Among them are the transshipment of the lumber and the boat loading operations. The following article deals with the difficulties faced by workers in the lumber exporting organizations and with the changes that have to be made in this important sector.

.

Floods of timber pour into the Pacific Ocean routes through the ports of Nakhodka and Vostochnyy. More than 300 suppliers ship their timber products east. Various control and inspection services check for quality. Over the past few years so many inspectors have thronged to the ports that they often literally step on each others' toes, muddling up the rule books with often contradictory, ultra-bureaucratic regulations.

The Nakhodka Timber Export Transshipment Station exports forest products to foreign countries. It deals with several Soviet foreign