

As a result, the Krasnoyarsk Forestry Administration issued a letter on 23 March 1987 forbidding the use of the VM-4A in such sites. In its next letter, dated June 23, 1987, it clearly recommended replacing the feller-skidder unit with the LP-29 and LP-18.

The VM-4A has a substantial drawback - it doesn't clamp onto the tree that is being cut down: it just pushes against it with the felling mechanism. As a result, the butt ends are cracked and chipped which significantly lowers the value of the log. We carried out a check in the Pinchunga logging enterprise at the beginning of the year and found that half of the felled trees had cracks or chips. Five percent of the I to III grade assortments is lost when these butts are trimmed... The Siberian Scientific Research Institute of the Timber Industry analysed three logging enterprises; the Pinchunga and Manza, which use VM-4As, and the Inbakhinskiy which has LP-19s. It was found that the percentage of logs classified as IV-grade because of chips and cracks amounted to 15.4, 15.7 and 3 percent of the total volume, respectively. In connection with this, the "Krasnoyarsklesprom" Association loses approximately 150,000 cubic metres of roundwood annually. One must then add to this the unavoidable loss of lumber because of micro-cracks....

There is no need to explain why we need to sort the timber according to species. Sorting is particularly important in the enterprises forming part of the timber drive, where VM-4A units are prevalent. In order to sort the timber these enterprises would need additional equipment. But the LP-19, however, can both sort the logs and load them onto the timber transport vehicles.