

eyes, irritation of the upper respiratory tract and coughing. Laboratory tests indicate the presence of substances rated as Class 2 to Class 4 health risks, which have 36 times the maximum allowable concentrations of phenols, 342 times the permissible limits of formaldehyde, and 60 times the limits for ammonia"!

Reading this document, local medical officials found the solution to a puzzling question: Why, under the favourable conditions of the past summer, there was a sharp increase in the number of cases of bronchitis and acute asthma, especially among the children of new residents.

"When we heard the results of the studies," declared N. Nakonechnyi, head of the Main Administration of Oil and Gas Industry Construction of the Tyumen Region, "we immediately ordered our branches in all towns to halt construction on buildings from the Perm' DSK. The directors of this enterprise were also notified about what had happened. We requested that they undertake immediate measures. The logic underlying normal relations is: if you turn out a defective product, you undermine your partner-factory, and so you make haste to correct the mistake. But our 'partners' chose a different route and began stalling."

Initially, the people at Perm' attempted to prove that the new insulating material was, in their words, altogether harmless. Then, they started trying to reduce the maximum allowable concentrations of the toxic substances from 300 to 10. The procrastination continued through the entire third quarter. Finally, the Main Administration cancelled the ten-month plan for housing deliveries, threatening thereby the fulfillment of the annual plan as well.