

PULP AND PAPER

A Plea to Cease Importing Wide Trim Papermaking Machines and Manufacture Them Domestically

There are currently about 500 paper-and paperboard manufacturing machines in operation in the USSR. Most of these have already been in use for 35 years, and as many as 220 of them - for half a century.

The building of the largest factories in Europe (Izhevsk and Petrozavodsk) for the production of papermaking machines with trim widths of up to 7 metres was a major achievement in itself. Attesting to this are the B-15, K-09, KP-10, and BP-45A machines with trims of 6,720 and 6,300 mm, built at these factories and operating to this day.

Paradoxically, during the last 15 years these factories have not received a single order for similar machines, which is because of a shift in favour of importing machines with trims of 8,400 and 8,900 mm.

Today, these factories are only working at 50 per cent of their capacity for producing papermaking machines, and in some years, at even less. Their volume of output consists largely of spare parts and miscellaneous equipment.

There is a variety of reasons for this, including the very long period needed to build the machines. To improve their performance characteristics, experience is needed. If the programme for producing B-15s were carried to completion, this machine would rank with the finest