

The Krasnoyarsk Pulp and Paper Combine is a pioneer of the Siberian pulp and paper industry. Construction began in 1936. The first Siberian pulp was made here in 1960..... The Combine has reached an annual production capacity of 255,000 tonnes. The Combine is valued at 170 million roubles.

What strikes the visitor first on walking through the shops? The abundance of contrasts: the imported conveyor-packaging line equipped with robots and the pike hook held by the workmen; the high-output slashing table and the ancient pulpwood flumes; the newly-constructed buildings and the current production facilities with their gaping windows and walls darkened by damp and time.

"The reconstruction project has been going on for years", Deputy Chief Engineer B. Afanas'ev, our guide, notes. "More than four million roubles have been invested in it. This would seem to be a great deal. But this is the problem: we are really very far behind. To make matters worse, there is no comprehensive design. Everything was done on a patchwork basis. Just take a look at our digesters and everything will be clear to you."

We had a look. It turned out that besides the worn-out main equipment, the pulpers are blessed with a surplus of other disasters.

"Our main problem is poor-quality raw material" - this refrain was heard on everyone's lips, from the workers to the shift foreman. "You can find everything in the chip cars: gravel, coal, metal. The chip itself hasn't been sorted according to species and there is twice as much bark as there should be. This is why we have to add extra acid during the digesting process."