

foreign firms with inferior timber - a consequence of defects in processing and in the wood itself - resulted in heavy losses to the State.

Arising from the shipment of sub-standard products, during the current Five-Year Plan the port Novorossiisk has received from foreign purchasers 74 claims for compensation totalling 3,400,000 roubles worth of foreign currency. The resulting losses amounted to 442,000 roubles. Losses for the port of Leningrad due to the poor quality of timber shipments amounted to 423,000 and 262,000 roubles worth of currency. Claims for compensation were also submitted for cargoes from the port of Maimaksa. During the said period it had shipped for export 918,000 cubic metres of pulpwood that deviated from the standard requirements as to quality of trimming and barking of timber products.

The managers of the timber ports had resigned themselves to gross violations of the requirements listed in the technological-normative documentation concerning the pre-handling and storage of timber designated for export, and to serious shortcomings in organizing the work and loading the timber into the ships. Lateness in preparing the cargoes for shipment in the necessary assortment, inefficient utilization of machinery and not infrequently, the lack of a needed item in the stock awaiting shipment are causing substantial delays in ships being loaded. At the port of Novorossiisk, during the last three years almost every third ship of the 611 that were loaded was subjected to long delays in turnaround. Fines levied for delays in the loading of foreign vessels there totalled 659,000 roubles worth of foreign currency. The port of Leningrad paid 200,000 roubles in fines for idle periods, short loads and dead freight.