

More than half of the lumber and a large proportion of the boards, plywood and timber in the round are shipped by way of seaports serving the timber trade.

A committee of the RSFSR State Inspection Service carried out an audit of enterprises producing timber for export in the Karelian and Komi ASSRs, the Vologda, Kirov, Kostroma and Perm Oblasts, and the Maimaksa (Archangel Oblast), Leningrad and Novorossiisk timber ports.

The audit revealed that these ports are falling down on their responsibilities for shipping timber to foreign markets. Due to widespread contract violations the State incurred a deficit of about 65 million roubles worth of currency during the period 1986 to 1988, as well as further losses in the form of fines. For the port of Leningrad, for example, for non-fulfillment of the terms of the contracts, fines amounted to about a million roubles in foreign currency.

To create the appearance that all is well in the shipment of products, and with the consent of the higher authorities, the administrators of the timber trading ports are supplying green timber to foreign markets.

During the period 1986 to 1988 the Novorossiisk port alone dispatched more than 330,000 cubic metres of green lumber. Some 65,000 cubic metres of this total were unsorted (that is, of a higher quality), with the result that the State suffered a shortfall of more than 600,000 roubles worth of currency. The vicious practice of selling undried lumber was also discovered in the port of Leningrad. Furthermore, the supplying of