

Low Quality Cores Present a Threat to 1989 Newsprint Exports from Kondopoga

Newsprint from Kondopoga is highly esteemed, both at home and abroad. More than thirty countries buy it from us. In 1986, for example, deliveries for hard currency exceeded 30,000 tonnes.

But now, things are not looking too good: many firms are refusing to deal with us. Has there been a decline in the workmanship of the Kondopogans? Has the quality of their product decreased? Neither is true. It is simply that foreign buyers don't like the cores on which the paper is wound. Our cores are soft and quickly become crushed. Their wall thicknesses are variable and they have an unattractive exterior. We are all aware how difficult it is to remove all of the product from a poorly constructed core when using rolls in printing presses.

This is not the fault of the Kondopoga papermakers. A few years ago we acquired imported equipment, learned how to produce spirally wound cores and improved the sizing of the layers. All the same, we have fallen below world standards.

Nowhere in the country was there any thick paperboard weighing 250-300 grammes per square metre - the base stock for cores. This is why the Combine has been using boxboard produced at the Perm' Pulp-and-Paper Combine and the Suoyarvi experimental paperboard factory. It is made from waste paper with low strength and wide variations in thickness. However hard you try, you can't manufacture a high-quality core from it.

Naturally, we sounded the alarm. Three years ago we approached former Deputy-Minister G.F. Pronin with a request that arrangements be made to produce coreboard, and that the necessary