Common Footprint Quality Standard • CFQ •
CFQ - your guarantee for strong and stackable packaging

The new European-wide Common Footprint Quality (CFQ) promises top-quality corrugated packaging that’s stackable and fit-for-purpose. CFQ accredited trays deliver the protection delicate fruit and vegetables need, giving you assurance that your fresh produce will arrive in store in optimum condition every time.

CFQ builds on the FEFCO Common Footprint (CF), which harmonises the tabs and noses of corrugated trays throughout Europe. The CF standard of the European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers guarantees the stackability that allows you to handle and transport fruit and vegetables efficiently; the Q promises quality and strength.

CFQ accredited trays consider both the type of fresh produce being packed and the distance it must travel. This makes them the best choice for strong packaging that is able to cushion, carry and protect fruit and vegetables, not only throughout their journeys.
Safe and efficient!
CFQ accredited trays

1. Consistent high performance:
The strength and durability of any tray carrying the CFQ stamp have been rigorously tested to ensure it is fit for purpose while optimising handling and transportation.

2. Simplicity for your supply chain:
The CFQ stamp offers assurance that trays can be stacked safely and quickly so distribution centres and warehouses can handle trays from different origins, stacking them on top of each other with ease.

3. Optimised transportation:
Light and modular, with standardised bases and variable heights, CFQ trays offer the best weight-to-volume ratio for shipments and storage, maximising truck loads while minimising transportation costs and warehouse space.

4. Cross-border compatibility:
The modular CFQ trays are strong and fit for purpose. In Europe, all trays with the CFQ logo are compatible, facilitating handling and logistics operations.

5. Assured quality:
Use of the CFQ stamp is only granted to corrugated manufacturers that have been audited to ensure they meet CFQ’s strict technical specifications.
CFQ: Safe storage and transport

Strict technical specifications mean you can be confident the CFQ trays will protect your fresh produce and ensure it arrives in store in perfect condition. A variety of tests are carried out to confirm that trays always adhere to the high CFQ standards:

**Resistance to vertical compression:**
The Box Compression Test verifies that stacked CFQ trays, especially those at the bottom, are able to support the weight of those above without being crushed.

**Resistance to bending:**
The Static Bottom Deflection Test verifies that CFQ trays are resistant to sagging under the weight of produce, ensuring the fruit and vegetables in the trays beneath are kept safe.

**Resistance to moisture and fluids:**
Water absorption tests (Cobb method) verify that, when kept under the correct storage conditions, the CFQ trays can absorb a defined amount of moisture or fluid while maintaining the characteristics of the tray.
Going the distance

CFQ certifies the maximum load that trays can carry and uses a coding system to indicate the distance the fresh produce can safely travel in that tray:

- **CLASS L**
  - is for long-distance or overseas exports, for instance from Spain to Russia

- **CLASS E**
  - is for exports over shorter distances, for instance from Italy to Germany

- **CLASS D**
  - is for domestic or nearby cross-border transport

Efficient in the Supply Chain

The CFQ tray’s variable height, along with its construction and choice of papers, can be adapted to ensure it’s an ideal fit for the produce it’s carrying yet remains as light as possible.

Standardised interlocking tabs and matching receptacles ensure CFQ trays of different heights can be stacked together safely and efficiently.
The CFQ tray’s standardised base size corresponds to sub-multiples of pallets, allowing efficient use of the pallet footprint. CFQ trays fit perfectly onto a standard pallet or half pallet, avoiding gaps and pallet overlap so space can be used optimally, even with mixed loads.

This perfect combination of space optimisation and ideal packaging weight optimises transportation and storage. This allows freight companies to reduce fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions – saving energy, cost and the environment; it allows retailers to state a clear requirement that fulfils supply chain needs.

The stamp of quality

All tray testing is performed externally under standard conditions prescribed by FEFCO and continuously monitored by the National Associations of Corrugated Board Manufacturers. Their independent auditors use their own control laboratories to regularly audit tray producers.

For corrugated manufacturers, non-compliance with the CFQ standards means increasingly dissuasive fines. They may even be banned outright from using the label.

Modularity is mandatory

The CFQ standard gives assurance that every tray is an ideal fit for your produce while optimising transportation and storage. Equally important, CFQ trays from different producers in different countries can be stacked together, allowing you to save even more on shipping and storage costs.

A network of corrugated manufacturers can produce standardised CFQ trays quickly and deliver just in time from their locations near your growing areas, to meet your seasonal demand peaks cutting down on stock levels throughout the supply chain.
Want to sell more? Use printable packaging

Like all corrugated packaging, CFQ trays are perfectly designed for displaying your fruit and vegetables. Their printability makes them an ideal communication and promotional tool. By conveying information on quality, ripeness, brand, country, locality of origin and more, in attractive full colour, they help to increase your sales.

Protecting produce

As corrugated packaging, CFQ trays are designed to take particular care of all kinds of delicate produce. They provide perfect cushioning, control ventilation, mitigate temperature changes and keep dust and light out.

Only ever used once, the trays are always new and perfectly clean. Rigorous scientific research has proven that corrugated trays expand shelf life of fruit and vegetables with up to three days.

Protecting the environment

Corrugated packaging cares for the environment too: it's 100% natural, 100% renewable, 100% biodegradable and 100% recyclable. Used trays are baled, and can be sent to a local recycling facility or paper mill. More than that, corrugated itself is made of 88% recycled materials. CFQ trays' stackability optimises truck space and transportation, saving energy and costs while reducing CO₂ emissions and waste.
National packaging organisations – from Benelux (CBA), France (COF) Germany (VDW), Italy (Bestack), Spain (AFCO) and UK (CPI) have each implemented in collaboration with FEFCO – a local control system to ensure their members meet CFQ’s strict technical specifications and you can be sure all the CFQ trays carrying your fruits and vegetables are of the highest standard.

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