

Elevate Tomorrow's Corrugated Board Industry FEFCO 2025 Technical Seminar, Rome

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EDITORIAL



On behalf of the FEFCO Cybersecurity Committee, I am proud to announce a significant milestone in cybersecurity for the corrugated board industry: the

launch of the first FEFCO Cybersecurity Handbook, accompanied by a set of practical tools.

This initiative fortifies our industry's resilience against cyber threats, working alongside evolving European regulations, meeting insurance standards and addressing growing customer expectations. In an increasingly digital world, cybersecurity is as critical as product quality. Our industry, like many others, faces growing cyber risks that can compromise data, disrupt operations and erode trust. With technology driving efficiency, proactive security measures are essential.

Our Cybersecurity Handbook and tools were developed through the collaboration of corrugated board producers with key suppliers. As such, the handbook reflects our collective commitment to protect the industry against cybersecurity risks, both in IT and manufacturing assets. It equips businesses with relevant protection strategies, fostering innovation and trust across the supply chain. The materials have further been validated by EY.

As I recently stated, *"Our handbook raises awareness of cyber risks in manufacturing, and provides a structured yet flexible approach to security, supporting both protection and innovation."* I urge all companies to adopt and share these materials to strengthen cybersecurity across our sector.

This resource extends beyond Europe, as FEFCO is sharing it with global sister organisations to help the entire corrugated industry combat cyber threats. Further discussions will take place at the FEFCO Technical Seminar (8-10 October 2025, in Rome) and at a dedicated workshop in early 2026, providing deeper insights into robust security measures.

Looking ahead, the FEFCO Cybersecurity Committee will continue advancing industry protection with elements such as:

- cyber-attack reporting systems
- a sector-wide threat intelligence platform
- industry posture assessments and benchmarking
- ongoing updates to the handbook and tools.

I encourage all industry stakeholders to leverage this resource. Together, we can strengthen our sector, drive innovation and ensure a more secure future for the corrugated board industry.

Hans Christian Hansen

*Cybersecurity Committee Chairman, FEFCO
DS Smith, an International Paper Company*

CYBERSECURITY IN THE CORRUGATED PACKAGING INDUSTRY

A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR A SAFER DIGITAL FUTURE

In an industry that's built on precision, reliability and timely delivery, one thing we can no longer afford to overlook is cybersecurity. As corrugated packaging plants become more digitised and interconnected, the risk of cyber attacks grows alongside the opportunity. That's why FEFCO's newly released *Cybersecurity Handbook for the Corrugated Sector* couldn't be more timely.

This isn't just another technical manual or policy document. It's a practical, industry-specific guide to building cyber resilience across the entire value chain - from machinery manufacturers and software vendors to plant operators and logistics teams.

A sector-specific resource, built by the sector

Developed collaboratively by corrugated producers, machine builders, software suppliers and cybersecurity experts, the handbook reflects the real-world challenges faced by companies in our sector. As the chairman's foreword puts it, "the industry cannot ignore the increased risk of cyber attack on our manufacturing assets" and this handbook is the first concrete step towards tackling that risk head-on.

At its core, the document aligns with internationally recognised standards like NIST 2.0, ISO/IEC 27001 and ISA/IEC 62443, but it's tailored to the practical realities of our factories, where production lines run continuously and equipment life cycles span decades.



What's inside?

The handbook starts with an introduction to today's cyber threats, especially in relation to operational technology - the systems that run our corrugators, converters, palletisers and internal logistics. It then guides readers through practical frameworks, reference architectures, and step-by-step tools to assess and improve their current posture.



Key sections include:

- **Understanding your cyber risks:** An overview of how interconnected machinery, cloud-based ERP systems and supply chain dependencies expose plants to vulnerabilities.
- **Legal and regulatory context:** Explains key EU directives like NIS2 and the Cyber Resilience Act, and how they apply (or soon will) to machinery manufacturers and digitally-enabled production processes.
- **Cyber Security Framework:** Based on NIST 2.0, this section breaks security down into six digestible functions: Govern, Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond and Recover.
- **Maturity model:** A practical tool to evaluate how well your organisation performs across policy, processes, communication and monitoring, on a simple four-level scale.
- **Annexes with checklists and templates:** Including a Supplier Declaration of Conformity and guidance on crafting interconnection security agreements.

The message throughout is clear: this isn't about achieving perfection overnight, but about taking concrete, manageable steps towards better security.

Why it matters

Cyber threats are not just an IT problem. In our industry, an attack could bring a factory to a standstill, damaging customer relationships, disrupting supply chains, and even causing safety issues. Whether it's ransomware freezing a production scheduler or a vulnerability



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in a converting line's control system, the risks are real.

Moreover, customers are becoming increasingly discerning. Many large buyers now expect suppliers to meet certain security standards, and cyber clauses in contracts are becoming the norm. Being able to demonstrate compliance with a recognised framework is not just a shield against threats, it's a competitive advantage.

How to use it in your business

Start with a self-assessment using the NIST 2.0 checklist provided in Annex I. This gives you a snapshot of where you stand and where improvements are needed.

From there, you can:

- **Set clear goals** using the maturity scale - aim for a Level 2 baseline as a first milestone.
- **Engage your suppliers** using the declaration templates to align expectations and responsibilities.
- **Build awareness internally** by involving both IT and OT staff in the review process.
- **Plan for improvement** by identifying gaps, setting a budget and tracking progress.

The framework is designed to be cyclical: assess, improve, reassess. It encourages continuous improvement without overwhelming smaller teams.

A sector-wide effort

One of the handbook's strengths is its collaborative spirit. Developed under the guidance of FEFCO, it brought together representatives from leading manufacturers, software providers and consultancies. The resulting advice is grounded, sensible and specific to our daily operations and not just lifted from abstract cyber theory.

This makes it not only a strategic tool for leadership, but also a practical guide for plant managers, engineers and anyone responsible for equipment procurement or digital systems.

Final thoughts

The corrugated industry has always been good at adapting, whether it's new sustainability targets or advances in machinery design. Cyber security is just the next challenge on the list, and this handbook offers a sensible, sector-relevant path forward.

In today's landscape, where cyber threats are a matter of when, not if, even small, proactive steps taken now can make a real difference.

Use this handbook to get the conversation started at your next operations meeting. It's not just about protecting data; it's about protecting uptime, reputation and trust.



The handbook is available for download under the Technical information section of the FEFCO website:
www.fefco.org/technical-documents/documents-overview

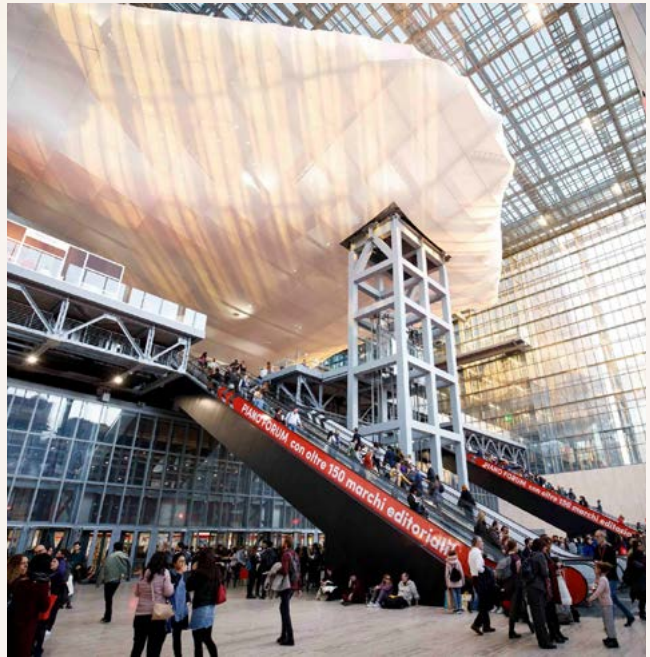
THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE FEFCO TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2025. JOIN US IN ROME!

FEFCO is delighted to welcome its members to the 2025 Technical Seminar, taking place for the first time in Rome from 8 to 10 October 2025. The Rome Convention Centre "La Nuvola" will be the stunning venue for this must-attend event.

The Technical Seminar offers a unique opportunity to connect with industry leaders, discover cutting-edge innovations, and engage in high-level discussions with key decision-makers in the corrugated industry.

Running under the theme **Elevate Tomorrow's Corrugated Board Industry**, the FEFCO Operations & Innovation Committee has put together a programme that promises to deliver exclusive insights and practical value. A unique combination that you won't find anywhere else.

We urge FEFCO members to register and be part of the conversation shaping the future of the corrugated industry!



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue

Rome Convention Centre "La Nuvola" (RCC)
Address: Viale Asia, 40/44, 00144 Roma RM, Italy

Event web site

www.fefco.org/fefco-technical-seminar-2025
All you need in one place - Check here for updates.

Registration

More than 700 members have already registered. Don't miss this chance to meet your peers.

Hotel: Book early – Jubilee Year in Rome!

Important: hotels are expected to book up fast, reserve your accommodation early to secure your stay for the Seminar!

FEFCO has partnered with Kuoni Tumlare Congress, the official accommodation agency, to provide a seamless booking experience. The dedicated platform offers a wide selection of hotels at special rates near the venue and in the city centre.

Exhibition

- The latest floor plan and exhibitors list are available on the event web page: www.fefco.org/fefco-technical-seminar-2025/exhibition-and-exhibitors.
- Already 167 stands booked by 104 companies.
- FEFCO will release an updated floor plan in May, including additional stands to accommodate exhibitors currently on the waiting list.

Spotlight Deadlines

To date, 45 members reserved a time slot for a spotlight presentation. Only 15 slots are left.

- 30 April – Submit registration form to FEFCO
- 31 May – Submit draft presentation or outline to FEFCO
- 30 June – Feedback provided by the Operations and Innovation Committee
- 31 July – Submit final presentation to FEFCO
- 31 August – Deadline for presentation title and any presenter name changes.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 08 OCTOBER	
8:00	Registration opening
8:30	Welcome coffee and exhibition visit
10:00	Welcome address Nina Iversen, FEFCO President
10:10	Session 1: Adaptation driven by changing environment and regulation Navigating EU Regulations: Impacts on the Corrugated industry Laura Mazzei - FEFCO E-Fulfillment: Right-Sizing, Void Reduction & Fanfold Solutions for Corrugated Packaging From Design to Responsibility: EPR and recyclability in the EU Filipe Vieira de Castro - Circpack by Veolia Current Research activities within Recycling Anna Sjöstedt - RISE Henkel's perspective on sustainability Sebastian Schauten - Henkel Questions and Answers
12:00	Spotlights Session 1
13:00	Lunch break and exhibition visit
14:30	Spotlights Session 2
15:30	Coffee break and exhibition visit
16:30	Spotlights Session 3
19:00	Welcome Reception sponsored by FOSBER
DAY 2 - THURSDAY 09 OCTOBER	
9:00	Opening
9:05	Session 2: Advanced technologies Generative and applied AI Robotics in the corrugated sector Industrialized machine learning "Treatise on the world of corrugated cardboard" for onboarding and induction of new talents GIFCO Use of packaging in distribution centers Digital converting Digital Twin for machine and software developments Remote system: assistance/training Questions and Answers
11:15	Coffee break and exhibition visit
12:00	Spotlights Session 4
13:00	Lunch break and exhibition visit
14:15	Spotlights Session 5

15:15	Session 3: Innovation on Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation FEFCO 2025 Life Cycle Assessment Michael Sturges - RISE Decarbonising the European Containerboard Industry - Roadmap to Net Zero by 2050 Paul van Bezouw - CCB Energy monitoring system: data collection on FBDC, Inline & Foldergluers machines Allegra Alessi - Bobst New trends on corrugators concerning energy Electrification on thermal energy / steam Questions and Answers
16:50	Coffee break and exhibition visit
17:30	Spotlights Session 6
DAY 2 - FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER	
9:00	Opening
9:05	Welcome coffee and exhibition visit
10:05	Session 4: Challenges and opportunities for the corrugated industry High Level Panel Discussion Strategic Synergies: Navigating Mergers & Acquisitions in the Corrugated Industry Saverio Mayer - Smurfit Westrock, President & CEO MEA & APAC Susana Alejandro - Saica, President & CEO Markus Gaertner - Mondi, CEO Corrugated Tim Nicholls, or Stefano Rossi - DS Smith / International Paper FEFCO Cybersecurity Handbook Hans Christian Hansen - DS Smith, an IP company Implementing PPWR: Challenges and Implications for the Corrugated Industry Willen van Veen - Indufed Panel discussion: Integrating Health & Safety with Machine Suppliers Barrier coatings and status of bio solutions for corrugated packaging
12:15	Award ceremony and conference closing
13:00	Lunch break and exhibition visit
14:00	End of the Technical Seminar

Event Sponsor





College of Commissioners

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EU AFFAIRS UPDATE

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

The countdown has begun. The new Regulation on packaging and packaging waste was published on 22 January 2025 in the EU official journal and comes into force on 12 August 2026. It repeals the existing Directive on packaging and packaging waste and introduces stricter, sustainability-oriented obligations.

Unlike the previous regulation, the PPWR will be directly enforceable in all EU Member States, thereby fostering the harmonisation of packaging-related legislation across the EU.

FEFCO is committed to representing the voice of the industry in the upcoming secondary legislation phase. We are closely following developments, including technical specifications in recycling criteria, assessment and harmonised labelling.

EU deforestation regulation

On 23 December 2024, the European Union published Regulation 2024/3234, which officially delayed the entry into force of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) until 30 December 2025. No additional revisions beyond the postponement were made.

To help companies navigate these

evolving requirements, FEFCO is preparing a guidance document focused on building effective compliance procedures. This guide will explore essential topics such as company obligations, due diligence requirements and potential compliance scenarios for the corrugated sector.

Omnibus Package

The European Commission introduced the Omnibus Package in February 2025 to reduce regulatory burdens and give companies additional time to prepare for compliance on sustainability rules. On 3 April 2025, the European Parliament voted to approve the changes, having used the fast-track procedure.

The final steps to bring the Directive into force are the Council's formal approval and the publication of the Directive in the Official Journal. According to the current text of the proposal, Member States must incorporate the "Stop-the-Clock" Directive into national law by 31 December 2025 at the latest.

For companies that currently fall within the scope of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive and that have to report as of 2026 or 2027, the European Commission proposes that this requirement be deferred by two years, until 2028. Large companies with more

than 250 employees will be required to report on their social and environmental measures for the first time in 2028 for the previous financial year, while small and medium-sized enterprises will have to provide this information one year later.

Similarly, the new due diligence rules require companies to mitigate their negative impact on people and the planet. Member states will have an extra year – until 26 July 2027 – to incorporate the rules into national legislation.

New Commission work programme 2025

The European Commission has officially launched its 2025 work programme, outlining a path to strengthen competitiveness and economic resilience across the European Union.

Central to this ambition is the promotion of the circular economy, positioned as a key pillar of the EU's industrial strategy.

FEFCO welcomes these new initiatives and stands ready to contribute to the Commission's work. The corrugated sector is already a frontrunner in the circular economy. It is essential that decision-makers provide clear pathways to enable simplification and predictability for companies in the corrugated sector, which are crucial for planning, investment and smooth operations.



CLICK HERE

to watch FEFCO's
new campaign video



The circular solution for Europe.

FEFCO 2025 CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

FEFCO has unveiled a dynamic new video campaign that champions the role of corrugated cardboard in shaping a sustainable, resilient and circular European economy. With a blend of striking visuals and hard-hitting facts, the video delivers a compelling narrative about the industry's wide-reaching impact, both economically and environmentally.

It shows that corrugated cardboard is more than just packaging, it is an essential enabler of Europe's circular economy. The video drives home this message by showcasing the industry's closed-loop recycling system. It explains how used corrugated boxes are turned into a vital secondary raw material, essential for producing new corrugated board products and packaging. This cycle happens continuously, keeping materials in use, significantly reducing waste and minimising environmental impact. A truly circular process.

It also shines a spotlight on the sector's economic footprint. The corrugated industry provides thousands of local, non-outsourceable jobs throughout Europe,

supporting communities, fostering regional economies and reinforcing supply chain independence. These are jobs that can't be relocated, adding a layer of economic resilience that's more important than ever in today's shifting global landscape.

Beyond the economy, the video reminds viewers of the unsung heroism of corrugated packaging in protecting billions of products every year. From food and pharmaceuticals to electronics and e-commerce, corrugated boxes play a quiet but essential role in ensuring products arrive safely, efficiently and with minimal environmental impact.

The video and the three short snippets have already been viewed almost 800k times across channels times. You can find them in the [media section](#) of the FEFCO website.

The shorter clips are tailored for different audiences, each focusing on one key theme:

- The Circular Solution for Europe
- The Circular Solution for Business
- The Circular Solution for the Environment

We also encourage you to explore the "Who else" campaign on FEFCO's [Circular by Nature web page](#).

Since the launch of the campaign in December 2024, FEFCO has kept the momentum going by introducing fresh content, including timely social media posts for Valentine's Day and Global

Recycling Day, a carousel on 'Designed for Recycling', and a curated compilation of blogs and smart design highlights. New ones are coming for Europe Day, World Environment Day and also for the FEFCO Cybersecurity handbook. These new assets offer shareable, easy-to-digest insights that reinforce the sustainability and innovation behind corrugated solutions.

In terms of social media updates, FEFCO has expanded its presence with a new Bluesky account, created in response to shifting trust in platform X (formerly Twitter). While X remains a relevant tool for reaching key audiences, Bluesky offers a promising new space for industry dialogue. Follow, subscribe and help amplify the message.



Lastly, don't miss the latest edition of [Unboxing Insights](#), FEFCO's monthly LinkedIn newsletter. With over 11,000 subscribers and growing, it's your go-to source for FEFCO and industry news, policy updates and inspiring sustainability stories.

We count on your support to follow and share FEFCO's messages on the different social media channels. Let's keep the conversation going because corrugated is more than a box. It's a solution.

FEFCO ACTIVITIES

New Sympathiser members

A big welcome to our new members who joined FEFCO in 2025!

Amtech Software

amtechsoftware.com

USA

APR Solutions SRL

aprsolutionssrl.com

Italy

factory360 GmbH

factory360.world

Germany

George M. Martin Company

geomartin.com

USA

Ikarton srl

ikarton.it

Italy

Laserclean b.v.

laserclean.nl

Netherlands

NEU-JKF Delta NEU

neu-jkf.com

France

Para S.r.l.

parasrl.com

Italy

Warak Consulting SLU

warak.com

Spain

FEFCO publishes updated life cycle inventory data for corrugated packaging

FEFCO, in collaboration with CEPI ContainerBoard (CCB), has been collecting and publishing life cycle inventory (LCI) data for the corrugated industry for over 25 years. This data provides essential information for measuring the sector's environmental performance and supporting fact-based communication.

Historically updated every three years, FEFCO has now increased the frequency of this exercise to every two years allowing for more up-to-date insights. We're pleased to share the latest LCI results, covering the production year 2022.

As always, the process follows a rigorous methodology: data collection, expert validation and independent peer review ensure the results are robust and reliable. The 2022 data set captures a significant share of the industry's production across Europe. For semi-chemical fluting and kraftliner, the figures represent over 90% of the total annual production of corrugated base papers from primary fibres. For testliner (including white top) and recycled fluting (wellenstoff), the data covers around 62% of total annual output from recovered paper. Corrugated board production data accounts for 56% of the European market.

This comprehensive dataset enables FEFCO to support the industry in demonstrating its environmental credentials and commitment to continuous improvement.

Looking ahead, the next life cycle assessment (LCA) update, based on 2024 data, is already underway. Questionnaires for the 2025 study have been sent out, and we encourage all stakeholders to participate fully to ensure the most accurate and representative results.

You can read more about our [corrugated board life cycle studies](#).



FEFCO Events

FEFCO Technical Seminar

8-10 October 2025

Roma Convention Centre (RCC)

fefco.org/fefco-technical-seminar-2025

Save the date!

FEFCO Summit 2026

27-29 May 2026 - Madrid, Spain

Corrugated global event

ICCA Global Summit

19 - 22 May 2025

Osaka, Japan

iccanet.org/global-summit



Other Events

Labelexpo Europe 2025

Fira Grand Via, Barcelona

16 - 19 September 2025

labelexpo-europe.com/

FESPA Global Print Expo 2025

Messe Berlin

06 - 09 May 2025

fespaglobalprintexpo.com/

Print4All 2025

Fiera Milano, Italy

27 - 30 May 2025

print4all.it/en

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