

## FEFCO Code of Designs & PPWR Terminology Alignment

This one-pager aims to facilitate a shared interpretation between industry and stakeholders on how the [FEFCO Code](#), a catalogue for corrugated board packaging designs, is relevant with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). The objective is to avoid scope drift caused by catalogue labels (e.g., “tray”) and to ensure consistent and enforceable implementation.

The FEFCO Code is the internationally applied and commonly used system for corrugated board boxes design. It was originally developed in the late 1960s and has been updated to reflect new technologies and market developments (including retail and e-commerce design series). The FEFCO code is widely recognized and in 2025 it was requested by ISO to become an ISO standard.

Because the FEFCO terminology is widely embedded in commercial practice, introducing alternative meanings or deviating terms risk inconsistent interpretation and unintended consequences in implementation guidance.

In alignment with industry consensus, the term “**Cardboard Box**” means: “any sales, grouped or transport packaging (including e-commerce packaging) which is made of cardboard. The packaging might use ancillaries, integrated and separate components, to ensure the right level of protection and functionality for the articles it contains.” This definition should serve as a practical reference point when identifying relevant packaging formats.

### Key Principles

- **Sales, Transport, and Grouped Packaging:**

Each FEFCO code can be used for sales, transport, or grouped packaging and / or even a combination of two or three of them.

PPWR classification should be driven by the Regulation’s functional concepts and the packaging unit’s role in the supply chain, not by design-catalogue nomenclature. Therefore, examples listed under “trays” should exclude items that are clearly not transport packaging.

- **All FEFCO Codes (formats) are Boxes:**

Every FEFCO code represents a packaging format that, when filled, functions as a “box”. The use of specific terms (e.g., *tray*, *wrap*, *fanfolds*, *fitments*, *sheets*, *rolls*, etc.) in the FEFCO code book is for technical precision, but all formats are considered boxes.

- **Terminology Alignment:**

FEFCO uses construction-specific terms (e.g., “tray”, “wrap”) to enable precise technical specification and procurement. For PPWR purposes, however, corrugated designs should be classified based on their regulatory function and use case; accordingly, corrugated FEFCO designs used as packaging units are to be treated as cardboard boxes, irrespective of the construction label.

Otherwise, it would create construction and format confusion, where it may lead to unintended consequences, increase material usage to change format and create systemic inefficiencies.

For further guidance, please contact the European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers (<https://www.fefco.org>): Juliette Guérin, Technical and Sustainability Director, [juliette.guerin@fefco.org](mailto:juliette.guerin@fefco.org)