



# 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.



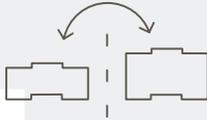
Optimised shelf, storage and truck space

# Safe and efficient! CFQ accredited trays



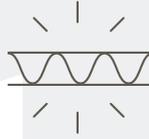
## Simplicity for your supply chain:

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.



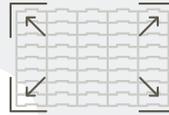
## Cross-border compatibility:

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.



## Consistent high performance:

The strength and durability of any tray carrying the CFQ stamp has been rigorously tested to ensure it is fit for purpose while optimising handling and transportation.



## 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.

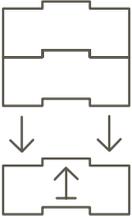
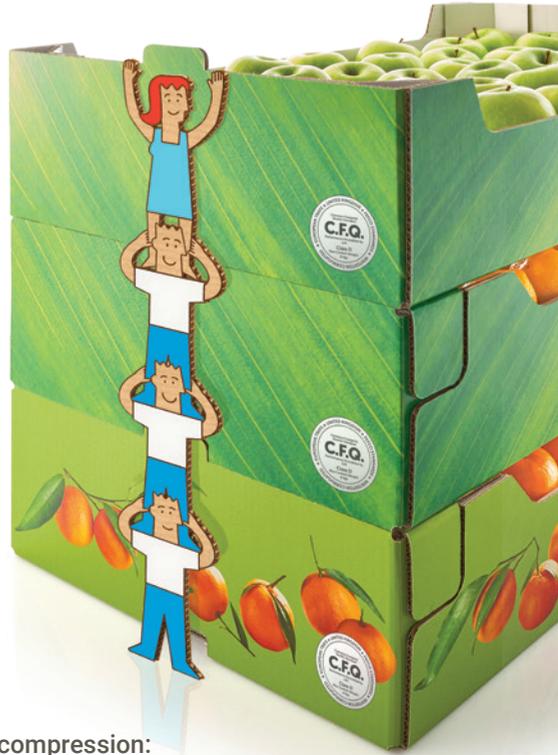


## Assured quality:

Use of the CFQ stamp is only granted to corrugated manufacturers that have been audited to ensure they meet CFQ's strict technical specifications.

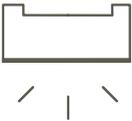
# CFQ: Safe storage and transport

**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:



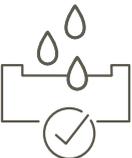
## Resistance to vertical compression:

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:

Performance Accredited  
CPI  
**Class D**  
Maximum Content Weight  
8 Kgs



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



is for exports over shorter distances, for instance from Italy to Germany



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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – saving energy, cost and the environment; it allows retailers to **state a clear requirement that fulfils supply chain needs**.

## 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.

## 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.



# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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

FRANCE



BENELUX



GERMANY



FEFCO  
COMMON FOOTPRINT  
QUALITY STANDARD



UK



ITALY



SPAIN



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