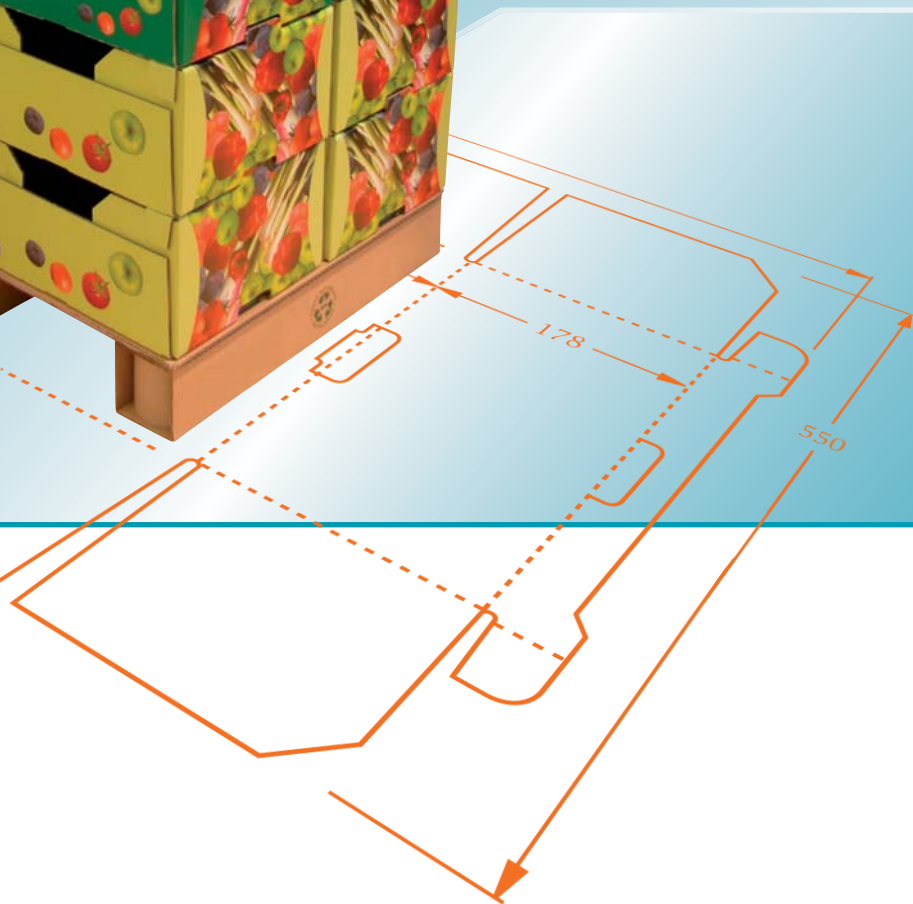




# The FEFCO Common Footprint

... a big step for the retail supply chain





## What are the essentials of efficient fruit and vegetable logistics?

The ideal supply chain for fruit and vegetables will bring the product from the producer to the shopper in perfect condition, using the most cost-effective method available.

### Space efficiency scores

Corrugated packaging is ideal for this task, because every pack is an ideal fit for the goods it will hold. The height of the packaging can vary according to the produce: melons need higher trays than tomatoes, raspberries lower ones than potatoes. Additionally, the construction and choice of papers for corrugated packaging is always adapted to suit the product being transported in order to optimize packaging. Lettuce or spinach for example is transported in lighter boxes than cauliflower and oranges. These two aspects lead to a perfect combination of space optimisation and the lowest possible weight of packaging materials.

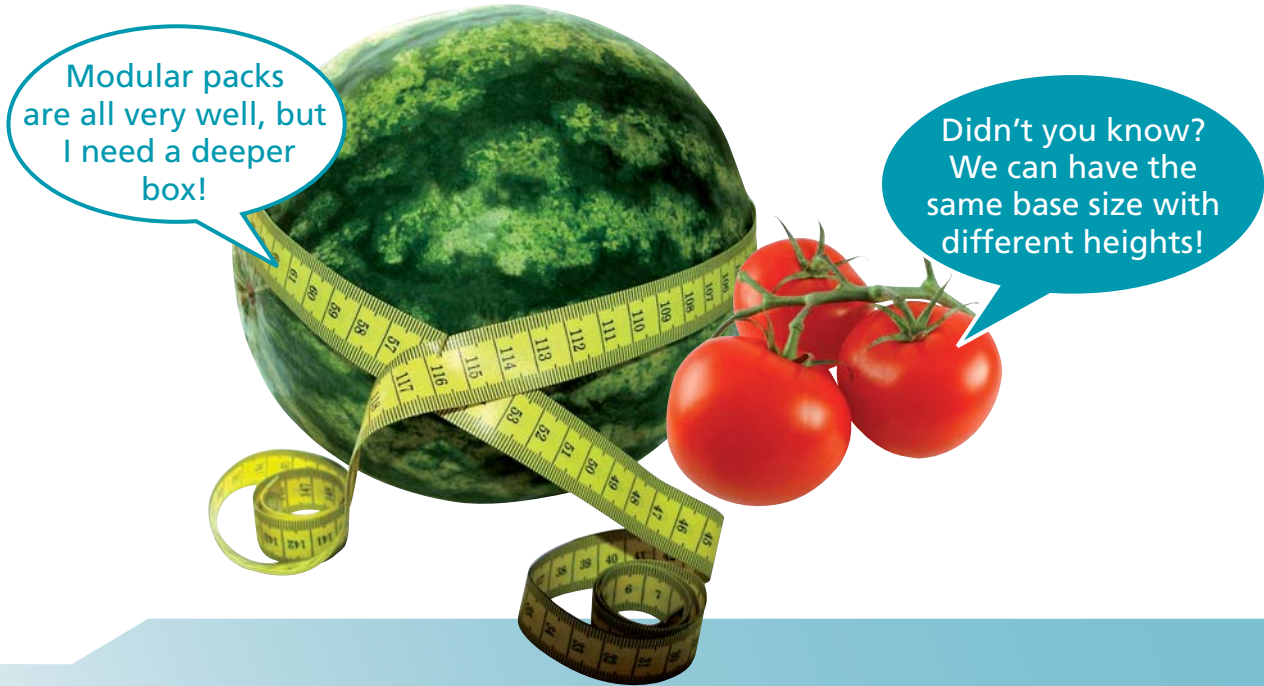
### Fuel savings guaranteed!

This ability of corrugated to optimise the use of transit space and packaging weight is unrivalled. The best is made of every precious litre of road fuel, guaranteeing savings on every load and fewer necessary transports – an additional benefit to the environment!



A Ceres Logistics study commissioned by the Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI) and published in 2007 showed that for example standard large corrugated trays (600 x 400mm) outperform fixed height plastic trays in terms of space efficiency: utilisation of corrugated packaging is 91 to 98 %, in contrast to 66 to 81.5 % with plastics.

Source:  
Study of the comparative costs of corrugated cases and reusable plastic containers, 2007



## What do we mean by Common Footprint?

### Europe-wide standard

The Common Footprint (CF) is a Europe-wide standard that guarantees safe and efficient stacking of all fruit and vegetable trays. The Common Footprint stamp (CF stamp) clearly marks trays that adhere to this FEFCO standard: it is printed on the sides of the boxes.

The use of the CF stamp is confined to producers whose trays meet the strict technical specifications defined by FEFCO. These specifications make sure that trays have identical base sizes and that all will fit onto the common pallet or half pallet without wasting precious space.

### Stable stacks

The CF stamp shows when stacking is safe and efficient: the fixed base size guarantees stackability and efficient use of the pallet footprint. Interlocking tabs and matching receptacles at the sides of the boxes give added stability – and the height can be chosen to suit the product.

Right through the supply chain, Common Footprint trays from many different producers and countries can be stacked safely and quickly, whilst the ability to vary the height of the tray makes the most of pallet height.





## Why should I be using Common Footprint packaging?

### Secure stacking guaranteed

Wherever they are made across Europe, CF stamped corrugated board trays are guaranteed to fit the common pallet sizes, and to stack safely, avoiding gaps and pallet overlap. This way, corrugated packaging is making the most of pallet size and height from grower to retailer.

### Savings along the supply chain

Standardised bases and variable heights make the best of every millimetre of space, so that more fruit and vegetables can be transported on one pallet and in one lorry, using less fuel. Common Footprint trays also save space in distribution centres and help the retailers get the produce on display in the shop in perfect condition.





## Why use Common Footprint packaging?

- ✓ Standardized trays
- ✓ Variable heights
- ✓ Stable mixed loads
- ✓ Best use of space
- ✓ Road fuel optimised
- ✓ Environmental impact reduced

Whichever way you look at it –  
Common Footprint is bound to save you money.

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