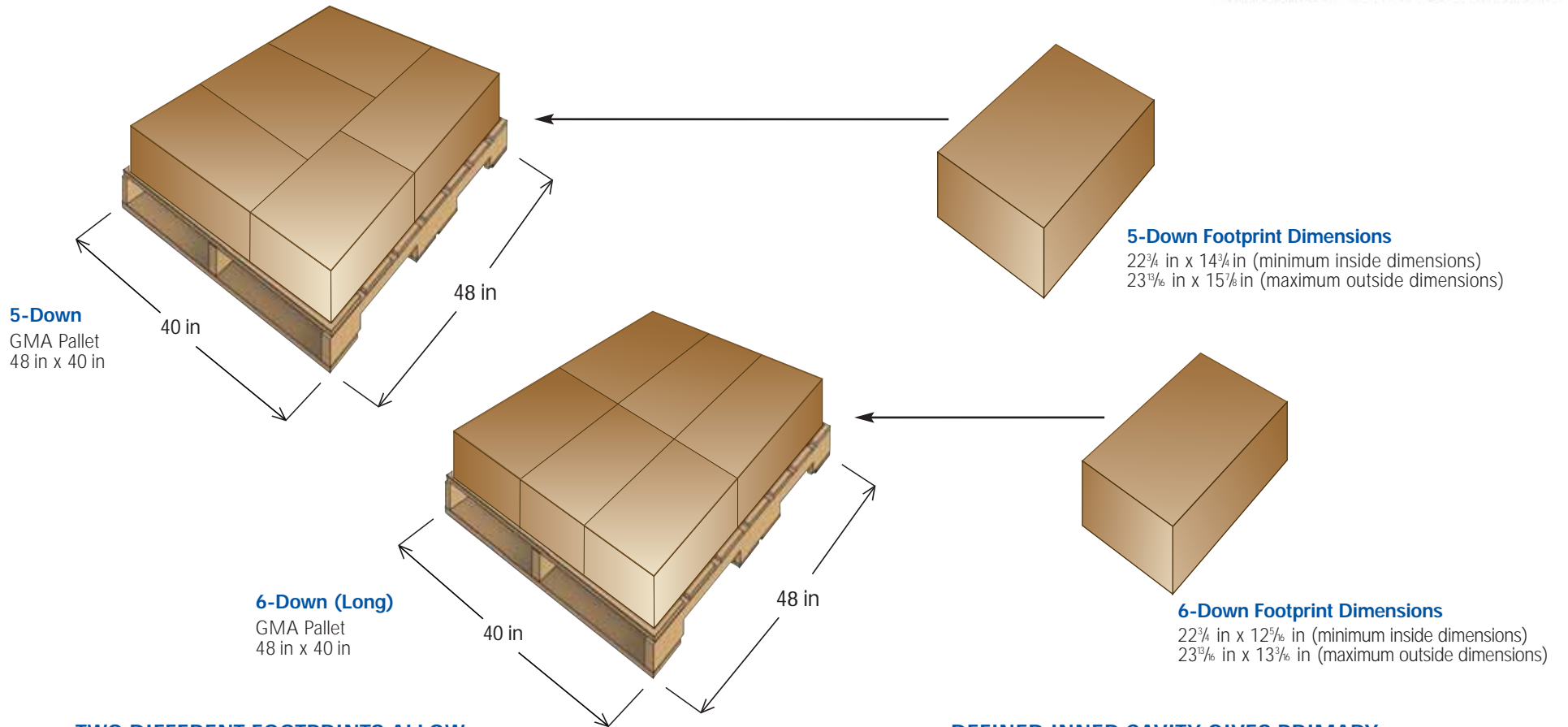


Corrugated Modular Systems for Case-Ready Meat

Technical Specifications

CORRUGATED
IT MAKES THE MOST SENSE



TWO DIFFERENT FOOTPRINTS ALLOW FOR MAXIMUM SHIPPING DENSITY

DEFINED INNER CAVITY GIVES PRIMARY PACKAGE PROVIDERS DESIGN TARGET

DETAILS

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



The benefits of the new corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat depend upon attention to details. The systems' specifications establish voluntary uniform transport packaging footprints, while leaving room for innovation and flexibility in package design. The systems' footprints and dimensional specifications are designed to maximize the benefits of modularity. Here are all the essential details:

Inside dimensions.

Inside dimensions are set as minimums only and are intended to preclude and prevent any portion of the transport package (e.g., minor flaps, tabs, etc.) from incursion into the dimensionally specified internal dimensions. (Figure 1)

Outside dimensions.

Outside dimensions are set as maximums only and are intended to preclude any part or portion of the transport or primary package (as shipped) from extending outside the dimensionally specified external footprint. (Figure 2)

Container top.

The container top is not allowed to be more than 80 percent open, as positioned for storage and distribution.

Compression strength.

The corrugated industry's modular systems do not include minimum compression strength values (a principal element of stacking strength), which should be appropriately determined by container suppliers and their customers in order to perform adequately throughout the entire distribution system.

Inside dimensions			
	Minimum Length (in)	Minimum Width (in)	Depth (in)
5-Down	22 3/4	14 3/4	Unrestricted
6-Down	22 3/4	12 5/16	Unrestricted

Figure 1

Outside dimensions			
	Maximum Length (in)	Maximum Width (in)	Depth (in)
5-Down	23 13/16	15 7/8	Unrestricted
6-Down	23 13/16	13 3/16	Unrestricted

Figure 2

Ergonomics.

Access or hand holes are optional.

Depths.

Variable depths are allowed to optimize shipping density and product protection. The container purchaser should specify container depths.

Nesting.

Each container must include appropriate geometry or features to prevent a container above (of identical compliant footprint) from nesting into a container below. Containers must not include any features that would preclude the stacking of complying corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat containers from different corrugated suppliers.

Other features.

All other container features and performance attributes are a matter for commercial negotiation between the container manufacturer and the purchaser.

Container markings.

Containers meeting all the requirements of the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat may be self-certified by the container manufacturer, and, if so certified, will display the appropriate marking as shown below.



When using the certification marking, the manufacturer must comply with these guidelines:

1. The certification marking must be printed on an outside surface of the container.
2. The marking must be at least 2 inches in size.
3. The marking must be of a contrasting color to the area surrounding the marking.
4. The container manufacturer's name and location (plant or corporate) must also appear on the outside of the container.

All corrugated manufacturers may use the certification markings on complying containers without obtaining permission from the Fibre Box Association (FBA).

Compliance and enforcement.

FBA will use reasonable efforts to educate all North American corrugated container manufacturers about the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat and the importance of using a certification marking only on containers manufactured in accordance with these modular systems.

Anyone who sees containers with the certification marking that do not appear to comply with the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat should notify the container manufacturer. An example of any container thought to be non-compliant should also be sent to FBA.

Use of the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat is voluntary. Misuse of the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat or the above-referenced marking requirements is prohibited. FBA reserves the right to take all actions, including legal action, to maintain the integrity of the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat.

Corrugated modular systems standards are subject to change.

The technical specifications for the corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat may be updated from time to time. The technical specifications, in their most current form, are available on the Fibre Box Association's website (www.fibrebox.org) or by contacting the Fibre Box Association at 847.364.9600 (USA).

Box manufacturers and their customers are encouraged to employ good container design and manufacturing processes, to provide appropriate container strength and product protection.



See this mark? It means your job just got easier.

The corrugated modular systems for Case-Ready Meat marking signifies that:

- The containers may be stacked (according to footprint) on any Grocery Manufacturers' Association (GMA) 48 in x 40 in pallet without overhang.
- The containers may be stacked in stable mixed loads with other producers' goods that are also packaged in the same footprint containers, regardless of the origin of the package or products.
- The container has been designed so that nesting will be prevented, even with partially open-top containers in mixed loads.

ARE WE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE?

This glossary of terms will help you when ordering corrugated modular system containers for Case-Ready Meat.

5-Down: A container size that will allow up to 5 identical containers per layer to fit a GMA 48 in x 40 in pallet without overhang.

6-Down: A container size that will allow up to 6 identical containers per layer to fit a GMA 48 in x 40 in pallet without overhang.

Case-Ready: Pre-cut and pre-packaged fresh meat, poultry or seafood product, ready for a retailer display case.

Columnar Stacking: Containers of the same footprint aligned vertically in a pallet stack without rotation in the horizontal plane in relation to each other.

Compression Strength: Vertical compressive strength of a container; property that relates to the ability of a container to support weight (static) stacked upon it.

Cube: The degree of utilization of available space inside a container, within a pallet load's maximum dimensions or within a shipping vehicle.

Depth: The vertical dimension of a container as measured at a side along a line perpendicular to the bottom, up to the top horizontal plane of the container.

Footprint: The outermost length and width dimensions of the container.

Inside Dimensions (ID): The distances inside a container between the closest inner surfaces, as measured in all three directions.

Linear Measurement Units: mm = millimeters, cm = centimeters, in = inches.

Mixed Loads: Different products packaged in the same footprint containers on the same unit load.

Modular: Standardization and compatibility of container size to create "building block"-type containers (e.g., 5-Down or 6-Down).

Modular System: A corrugated industry voluntary compatibility initiative that facilitates efficient stacking and transport of Case-Ready Meat containers with the same footprint from differing producers.

Nesting: A situation in which one container or tray slips, tilts or telescopes (wholly or partially) into the container or tray immediately below it. Nesting may be the result of container misalignment or lack of structure to support the container above. It can result in damaged goods and contribute to the instability of a pallet load of containers.

Outside Dimensions (OD): The distances outside a container between the outermost surfaces, as measured in all three directions.

Pallet: A portable platform for handling, storing or moving materials or packaging. The standard meat distribution pallet dimensions (length x width) are 48 in x 40 in (GMA Pallet).

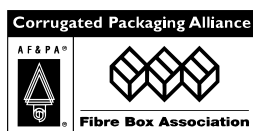
Primary Packaging: The package that contains, and is in direct contact with, cuts of meat, poultry or seafood.

Shrink: Reduction in quantity or value of saleable product due to spoilage, age, damage or other reasons.

Stacking Strength: The maximum vertical load that a container can safely carry through its intended distribution system.

Transport Container: In Case-Ready Meat applications, a shipping container/box is the secondary packaging container used to ship primary packages.

Unit Load: The grouping of containers on a pallet, or occasionally on a slip sheet.



For details, ask your corrugated supplier or call the Fibre Box Association (FBA). FBA is a non-profit industry organization representing and serving the U.S. corrugated manufacturing industry. Its member companies produce over 90 percent of corrugated packaging manufactured in the United States. FBA also has members in Canada and Mexico.

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