



ACCREDITATIONS

THE FLEXIBILITY OF CARTONS ALLOWS THEIR CONSTRUCTION DESIGNS TO BE CHANGED TO INCLUDE BESPOKE FEATURES WHILST MANUFACTURING PROCESSES CAN ALSO BE ADAPTED TO MEET MARKET NEEDS.

Packaging specifiers should be aware of the level of specialisation which carton converters can bring to different end use markets.

Environment – brand owners can assure their customers that their products have been produced with consideration for the environment. Packaging is an integral part of the product and therefore the same standards must also apply to the carton. Cartonboard offers unrivalled sustainability but the processes to convert it can also be controlled to conform to ISO 14001. This will ensure best use of energy and no waste outputs that could pollute drainage or contaminate recycling.

Hygiene – is an essential requirement for all food manufacturers that their packaging fully protects food throughout the supply chain. The minimum hygiene standard for producing food packaging is BRC/IOP whilst ECMA's GMP standard highlights those companies meeting the industry's best practice targets.

Security – suppliers of drugs and other healthcare products have an overriding requirement to ensure their customers receive exactly the medication they need. For the carton producer this means additional layers of quality control to guarantee the printed image and processing disciplines that control the use of graphic files. The Pharmaceutical Code of Practice – PS9000 provides that assurance.

Quality – The accreditation ISO 9001 does not in itself ensure that customers will be happy with the standard of the finished product. It is intended to reveal what standards the manufacturer applies and it is for the customer to satisfy themselves that these standards are adequate to ensure the quality level they need.





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Ethical Audits – All consumers would like to be sure that the price they pay for goods has not been held artificially low by imports from overseas where child labour and other inadequate working conditions may exist. However such risks are irrelevant in the UK where employment law ensures that employees are treated with respect. Members of BPIF Cartons often receive requests to pay unnecessary fees for Ethical Audits. These audits largely focus on issues which are adequately covered by UK employment law - all our members conform and agree to this legislation. The value of these audits is questionable often leading to conflict over contracted working hours as they do not take into account separately negotiated local working agreements and practices.

Forestry – A key benefit of cartonboard is that it is renewable. Crucial to this principle is that sustainable forestry management is practiced. FSC and PEFC accreditations guarantee that cartons carrying these logos have been produced from forests applying their published, and audited, practices. BPIF Cartons recognise both accreditations equally – details of each can be found on their websites:

Forestry Stewardship Council - www.fsc.org.uk
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification - www.pefc.org.uk