ECMA: The International Network of Folding Carton Organisations

ECMA, the European Carton Makers Association, is an international network for carton converters, national carton associations and suppliers to the carton industry. ECMA provides the European folding carton industry with a dynamic business network.

With its seat in The Hague, The Netherlands, and an office in Brussels, ECMA represents around 500 carton producers in nearly all countries in the European Economic Area. ECMA members account for around 70% of the total folding carton market volume in Europe, and a current workforce of about 45,000 people.

The voice of the industry
ECMA is the voice of the industry, and advocates the interest of the industry on issues concerning food safety, sustainability and European legislation and guidelines.

Government Relations
ECMA actively promotes the carton industry at the European Commission and across National Governments, actively participating in consultations and workshops that concern carton products. Information concerning future planned legislative and regulatory changes is circulated amongst members.

Networking platform
ECMA offers several platforms to share experiences and information and organises the annual ECMA Congress and seminars around specific ‘hot issues’. The ECMA Congress is the ultimate networking event for the folding carton industry where converters and industry suppliers meet to share the latest trends and developments within the folding carton industry supply chain.

Information exchange and benchmarking
ECMA offers special industry platforms and expertise networks for both SME and multinational companies with a special focus on benchmarking, pharmaceutical packaging producers, tobacco packaging producers and food safety experts.

B2B opportunities
ECMA offers the best business-to-business opportunities for suppliers to the folding carton industry. Suppliers are actively involved within ECMA and have many opportunities to meet directly the decision makers from converter members.

Industry Guidelines
ECMA has produced Industry Guidelines like the ECMA Food Safety GMP and the ECMA Compliance Seal, the ECMA Code and the Braille standard.
ECMA Food Safety GMP Guide
Consumer health and safety is a top priority for the folding carton industry. ECMA has developed the ECMA Food Safety GMP Guide which can be downloaded at the ECMA website. This guidance document is a management tool for the minimization of migration, organoleptic changes and contamination related to cartonboard packaging. It also gives guidance on compliance with the Good Manufacturing Regulation EC 2023/2006. The ECMA Food Safety GMP is relevant to all companies that manufacture and use cartons intended to come into direct or indirect contact with food.

ECMA Sales Toolkit
ECMA exists to support its members and to offer advice and help. For this purpose ECMA has developed a special ‘ECMA Sales Toolkit’ to encourage healthy business conditions for the folding carton industry and provides all available industry information and tools to your company’s sales staff: ECMA Sales Support Tools, ECMA Fact Sheets, and ECMA Headlines.

How to join ECMA?
ECMA offers different kind of memberships to parties involved in the folding carton industry.

Carton makers: companies and groups of companies in the wider geographic area of Europe, manufacturing and selling carton board packaging (‘Active members’).

National associations of carton makers representing the folding carton industry in individual European countries (‘Collective members’).

Direct suppliers of machines, consumables, ancillary supplies, ERP and MIS, research and other services to the folding carton industry (‘Supplier members’).

Carton makers in European countries where no national association exists and who have chosen not to join ECMA as direct company members (‘Corresponding members’).

Carton makers outside Europe (‘Overseas members’).

Interested third parties - universities, institutes, media (‘Affiliated members’).

Interested in joining ECMA as a member? Please go to https://www.ecma.org/about-ecma/how-to-join-ecma/ to learn more about the membership fees and to submit the online application form.

ECMA Food Safety GMP Checklist
Food safety experts have developed a checklist with open questions on food safety aspects requiring specific attention. The Checklist is reserved for the members of ECMA.

Business Intelligence
To make sure all members have access to high level business intelligence, ECMA produces the European Carton Prospects report. The report offers insight into the economic and business prospects for different regions in Europe, key factors influencing carton demand and end use market prospects per market segment.

Statistics based on the EUWID reports on the movement of raw materials prices for carton board (GC and GD), pulp, and wastepaper are offered to the national associations.

Promotion
ECMA promotes folding cartons together with Pro Carton by organising the annual European Carton Excellence Award.
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THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF FOLDING CARTON ORGANISATIONS

The Voice of the Folding Carton Industry
Converters, National Associations and Suppliers

Government Relations
European Commission & National Government

Shared Experience and Information
Congress & Seminars
Industry Platforms
B2B Opportunities
Industry Statistics / Benchmarking
Sustainability

Industry Guidelines
ECMA Food Safety GMP / ECMA Food Safety Seal
ECMA Code of Folding Carton Design Styles
Braille Guidelines

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European Carton Excellence Award
Studies & Reports