



Returnable transit containers prove their green credentials



Environmental assessment ticks all the right boxes

LINPAC Allibert is the first organisation in the transit packaging and supply chain solution sector to have the full life cycle carbon footprint of a specific product determined and independently verified by a recognised certification body.

The initial analysis was carried out by Sustain Ltd, the carbon reduction company, under Europe's most authoritative product carbon footprinting specification **PAS 2050***.

The carbon footprint of the **Maxinest®** distribution tray was determined at 26 kgCO₂e in total (or 0.0082 kgCO₂e per litre, per trip) based on each crate performing 92 return trips on a 20 day cycle over five years.

The findings take into account the full life cycle of the trays including raw material production, manufacturing, customer use (including transport and crate washing) and disposal or recycling at the end of its working life.

Independent verification by LRQA, a member of the Lloyd's Register Group and global leader in independent climate change validation, verification, training and certification, confirms the findings of the assessment and the methodology used and is the first to be carried out by LRQA against this standard.

**PAS (Publicly Available Specification) 2050: 2008 Assessment of the Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Goods and Services introduced and endorsed in the UK by the Carbon Trust and its partners.*



Paul Smith, LRQA's climate change manager, Mike James, managing director of LRQA, Danilo Olynyk, commercial director at LINPAC Allibert and Michael Hill, from Sustain Ltd celebrate LINPAC Allibert's industry first

MAXInest 



Maxinest® is the UK's leading, largest and most diverse range of RTP (Returnable Transit Packaging) for food and grocery distribution.



XLXS® folding trays were found to provide an even lower carbon footprint.

How can this benefit me?

The research proves that LINPAC Allibert plastic RTP has the potential to deliver significant environmental savings for every customer.

During the consultation process, Sustain developed a software toolkit to calculate the footprint figure. By adjusting a number of parameters within this model LINPAC Allibert can calculate the life cycle emissions (kg of CO₂e) arising from the end user's application, giving you an accurate carbon saving comparison against cardboard.

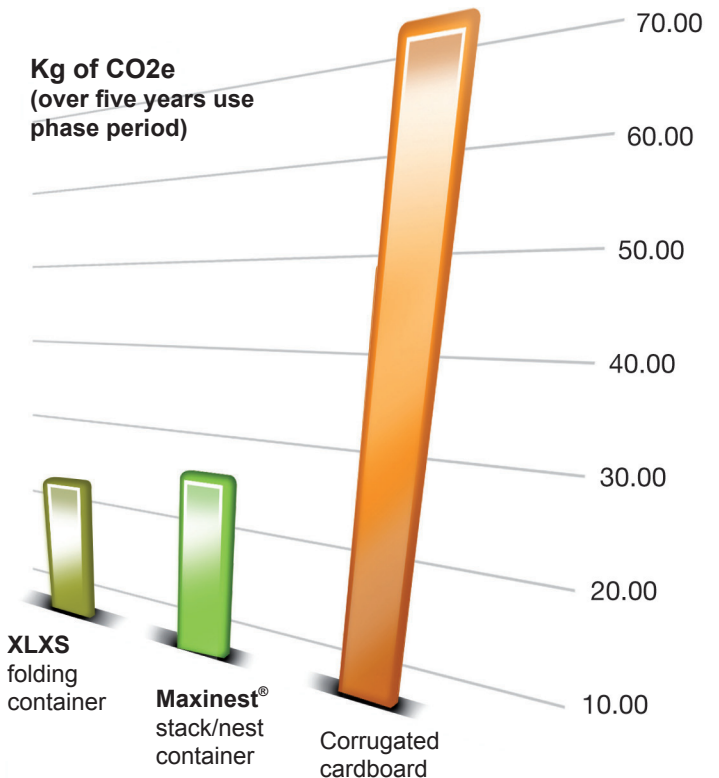
Returnable transit containers vs. cardboard

LINPAC Allibert plastic Returnable Transit Packaging (RTP) is more carbon efficient than single-trip cardboard containers after just 20 trips

Based on an average plastic crate lifecycle of 92 return trips over five years, Maxinest's PCF (Product Carbon Footprint) is 26 KgCO₂e per unit and XLXS has an even smaller PCF at 23 KgCO₂e kg. Using the same criteria, cardboard's PCF however is 71 KgCO₂e per unit, making the PCF of LINPAC Allibert RTP 68% less than cardboard.

The performances of **Maxinest**[®] and **XLXS**[®] were compared to a standard cardboard box FEFCO (code 0411), 600 x 400 x 180mm, weighing 0.654 kg, used for a single trip and then collected and disposed of/ recycled using typical waste scenarios. The findings took into account all the raw materials, transport and energy use involved in its manufacture, usage and disposal.

LINPAC Allibert plastic RTP still came out ahead even though the research included the whole lifecycle of a plastic crate from raw material extraction, manufacture and transport through the supply chain to the essential mechanical washing and final disposal.



How does reducing carbon footprint save costs?

The reusable, robust and recyclable nature of LINPAC Allibert plastic trays, crates and containers provides a host of financial benefits. Replacing disposable cardboard packaging with plastic RTP will often pay for itself after just 12 trips and, with a usable life of at least 92 trips, generates significant ongoing financial savings for our customers.

After every trip cardboard must be disposed of at additional cost in accordance with package waste legislation. The robust nature of plastic RTP ensures that your products arrive in prime condition.

Free from tape or staples, plastic RTP is quick and easy to open, providing faster handling times and less risk of operator injuries. To deter theft, many models can be fitted with tamper-evident security seals.

Although adopting plastic RTP could involve an up-front capital outlay, our leasing packages allow customers to benefit from RTP funded out of the savings gained. It's worth noting too, that as part of our environmental commitment to customers, we can recycle all plastic RTP that's reached the end of its useful life, reprocessing the plastic in our own facilities to make new RTP over and over again.