



**ALDI Outer Case
Packaging Guidelines**
The Golden Rules

v8.4 March 2023

ALDI OUTER CASE PACKAGING GUIDELINES - THE GOLDEN RULES

This document will provide an overview of the outer packaging requirements for ALDI to help you deliver packaging that is:

- **Functional** and protects the product
- **Compatible** within automated warehouse systems
- **Efficient** and **optimised** for our shelves
- **Quick** and **easy** to merchandise
- **Consistent** in structural design
- **Consistent** in colour and print

Deviation from these standards will result in a non conformance, unless the deviation is approved prior to delivery by the relevant ALDI Buying Director.

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Structural Considerations

Before commencing work on any outer case design and production, it is advisable you discuss and confirm the following with your Buying Director:

- Single or mixed case
- Quantity of product
- Orientation of product
- Merchandising position;
(upper/middle/lower shelf, over-freezer tops or tills)

Please refer to any **Category Specific Structural Guidelines** that may be available as these may conflict/supersede some of the information given in this section.

Material specification with regards to outer and inner liner will vary depending on your product tier:

- Core
- Premium
- Health & Beauty/Baby

Please check with your Buying Team & Smurfit Kappa (aldi@smurfitkappa.co.uk) for further advice.

Golden Rules Checklist

- No perforations.
- SRP must be structurally sound, it should be able to be lifted from the sides and not bow
- No shrink wrap
- No tape
- Removable lid (if required)
- Good product visibility
- Good product accessibility
- Material & Design fit for purpose and compatible within automated warehouse systems
- Easy to flatten & recycle

Material Specifications

- If Core product tier:
White uncoated outer liner/brown inner liner
- If Premium product tier:
White coated outer liner/brown inner liner
- If Health & Beauty/Baby product tier:
White coated outer liner/white inner liner

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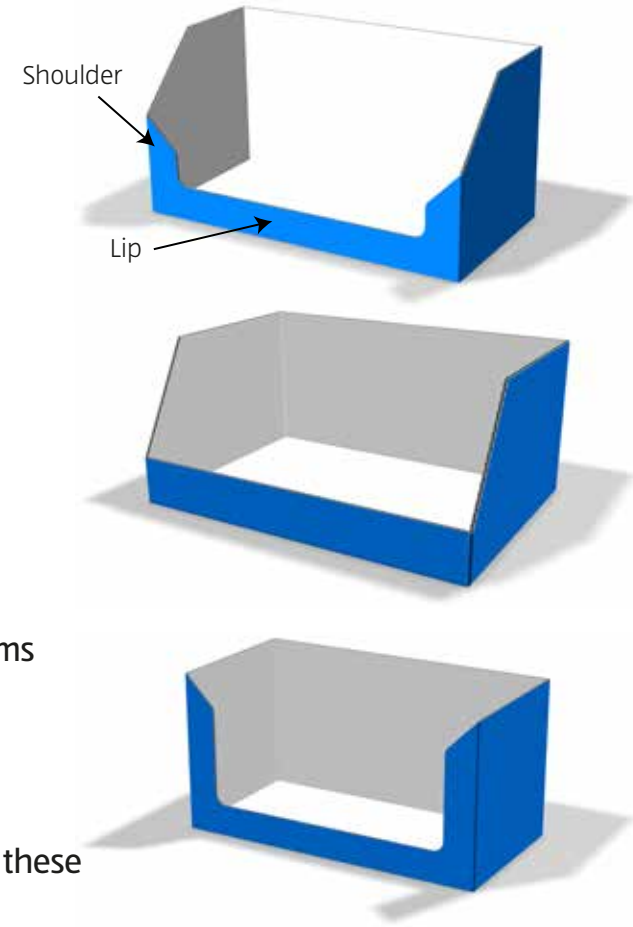
Base

- Case should have a robust structural integrity that does not bend under lateral and rotational pressure
- There should be no/minimal space between units within the case to ensure that the case is as compact as possible
- Case should be able to be manually lifted through compression of case walls, without any risk of product falling through the case base
- No perforations
- No panels that require removing in-store
- Lip heights between 30-40mm*
- Shoulder width between 20-50mm*
- Shoulder height 2/3 of product* if primary pack is stood up
- Full height shoulder only permitted if required by primary pack
- Primary pack orientation must ensure visibility & accessibility
- Material & design fit for purpose & compatible within automated warehouse systems
- Packaging should not deform during transport
- Avoid any case protrusions to minimise case measurement discrepancies
- Cylindrical products should be in quadrilateral packaging where possible

Please refer to any **Category Specific Structural Guidelines** that may be available as these may conflict/supersede some of the information given in this section.

Please check with your Buying Team & Smurfit Kappa (aldi@smurfitkappa.co.uk) for further advice.

*Please Note - these dimensions are driven by the primary pack and as such there may be exceptions to these rules.



Examples only. Other styles are available.

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Lids

The main purpose of the lid is to:

- Protect primary product through the supply chain
- Provide stacking strength in-store (if required)
- Provide strong flat layers to support delayering vacuum and lateral compression.

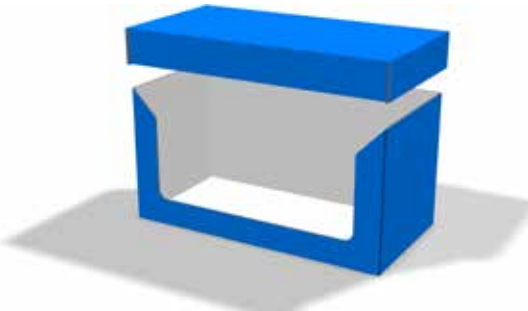
The rigid base must adequately secure the lid in transit, using friction to hold the lid and minimise chance of disruption or removal during automated processes.

Lids can be:

- Plain brown if removed in-store
- Printed to match the base if required in-store for stacking

If you do not believe your product requires a lid, please review the information on Pages 6 & 7.

Please check with your Buying Team & Smurfit Kappa (aldi@smurfitkappa.co.uk) for further advice.



Examples only. Other styles are available.

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No Lids?

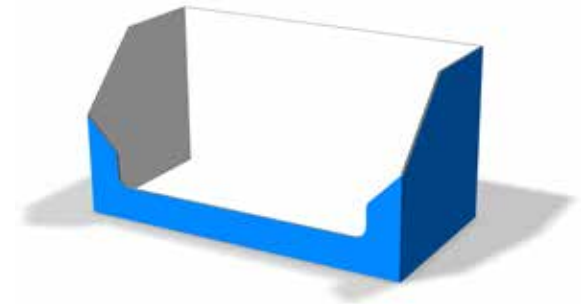
In line with **ALDI's Packaging Pledge** to reduce all packaging by 50% by 2025 (**Pledge 4**), all Business Partners should review if their outer packaging requires a lid. If your primary product has adequate structural integrity, the outer case may not require a lid.

Removing the lid can help to reduce cost & material usage as well as reducing packing & merchandising time.

Before removing the lid component, you must consider:

- How will the product travel from Business Partners to ALDI (single product pallets)?
- How will the product travel within the ALDI supply chain (mixed product pallets)?
- Is the primary product held in place by the outer case when handling?
- How will the product be delayered and rebuilt onto a pallet within an automated warehouse system?

Please discuss any intention to remove lids with your Buying Team and trial as necessary.



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Lidless Designs

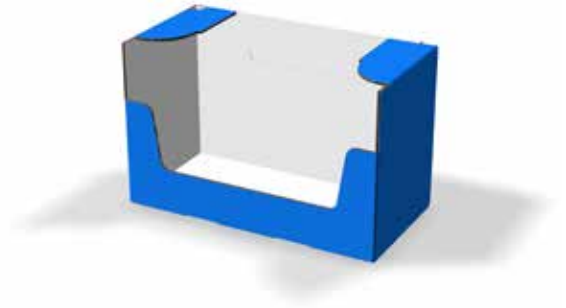
In line with **ALDI's Packaging Pledge** to reduce all packaging by 50% by 2025 (**Pledge 4**), all Business Partners should review if their outer packaging requires a lid. There are a number of base designs available that do not require the use of a lid.

Shelf Stacker® is an ALDI approved design by Smurfit Kappa which facilitates the removal of the lid component whilst retaining the ability to be stacked on both the pallet & shelf and remaining easy to merchandise and shop in-store.

Other lidless designs are also available, but it is important you consider:

- How will the product travel from Business Partners to ALDI (single product pallets)?
- How will the product travel within the ALDI supply chain (mixed product pallets)?
- How visible & accessible is the product once the outer case has been merchandised on shelf?
- Is the primary product held in place by the outer case when handling?
- How will the product be delayed and rebuilt onto a pallet within an automated warehouse system?

Please discuss any intention to move to a lidless design with your Buying Team & Smurfit Kappa (aldi@smurfitkappa.co.uk).



 Smurfit Kappa | Shelf Stacker®

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Shelf Optimisation

Cases should optimise shelf length as shown opposite.

ALDI shelves are:

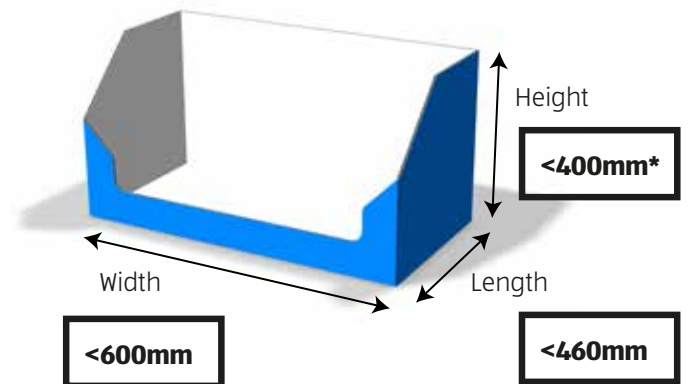
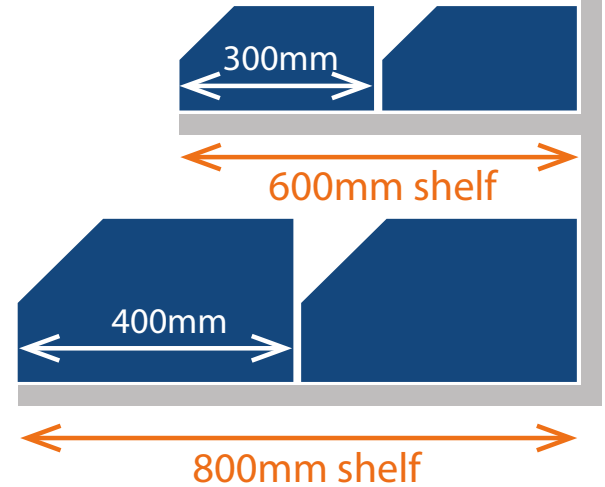
- 600mm middle and upper
- 800mm base
- 380mm over-freezer tops

Automated warehouse systems have the following case dimension limits which should be considered, as outlined by Automation Vendors for future automated projects:

- Maximum case dimension of 460 x 600 x 400 mm (height is flexible based on centre of gravity)
- Length to width ratio should not be greater than 3 due to risk of toppling
- Height to width/length ratio should not be greater than 1.7 (exception for low centre of gravity products, which can go up to a ratio of 2.2) due to risk of toppling
- Maximum weight of a single case is 25kg

You must also consider pallet optimisation (see next page).

If your case is not optimising the shelf length, please check with your Buying Team & Smurfit Kappa (aldi@smurfitkappa.co.uk) for further advice.



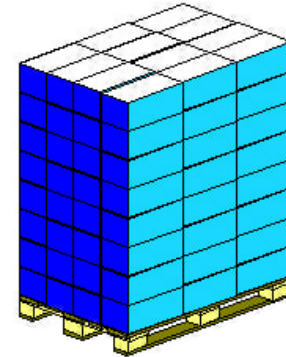
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Pallet Optimisation

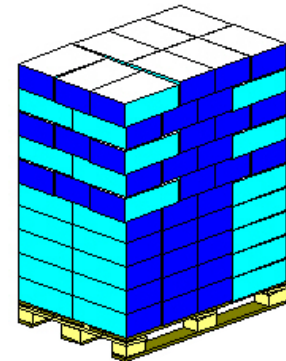
As well as optimising cases for the shelf, you must also consider the palletisation of your product:

- Your Cubic Pallet Fill must be 90% or over
- Fully utilise the pallet footprint (overhang/ underhang of products should be no more than 50mm from pallet edge)
- Utilise the maximum height limitation of 1.8m(subject to safe stacking & load stability)
- Do not use glue, plastic straps, adhesive wrap, or tape to contain cases on the pallets
- Avoid overly tight stretch-wrap
- Layer patterns must be closed wherever possible, with gaps kept to a minimum
- All layers must be of identical height and consistent across pallets
- Maximum layer weight should be <250kg
- Pallet weight should be between 250kg and 1000kg (EUR pallets) or 1250kg (UK STD)
- Stretch wrap should not encroach over the pallet fork openings
- Barcode must be clearly identifiable, labelled onto two adjacent sides of the pallet (one long-face, one short-face) and positioned per SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Codes) standards
- Pallets should be of good quality and with no damaged or missing runners

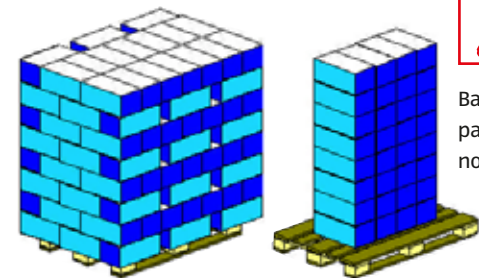
You must also consider slipsheet specification as part of pallet optimisation (see next page)



Good pallet plan with no overhang



Good pallet plan with no overhang



Bad pallet plan not optimised

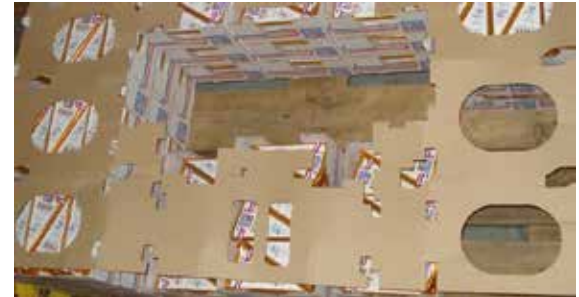
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Slipsheet Specifications

The necessity of slipsheets should be reviewed by all Business Partners. If slipsheets are to be used, they must adhere to the following specifications to allow for the delayering process within automated warehouses.

- Multiple slipsheets per layer are not permitted
- No holes or gaps in the slipsheet
- No overhang of the slipsheet outside of the pallet footprint
- Slipsheets should not be folded in any way
- The weight of the products must not deform/mark the slipsheet
- Slipsheet must be solid card (>1mm) or corrugated paper (>2mm). No other material is permitted
- Slipsheet should slide easily from the layer without friction or catching
- No glue or adhesives in the slipsheet layer
- Slipsheets should not be utilised as trays or lids

For further detailed information, please refer to ALDI Goods Receiving Guidelines as covered in SOC's.



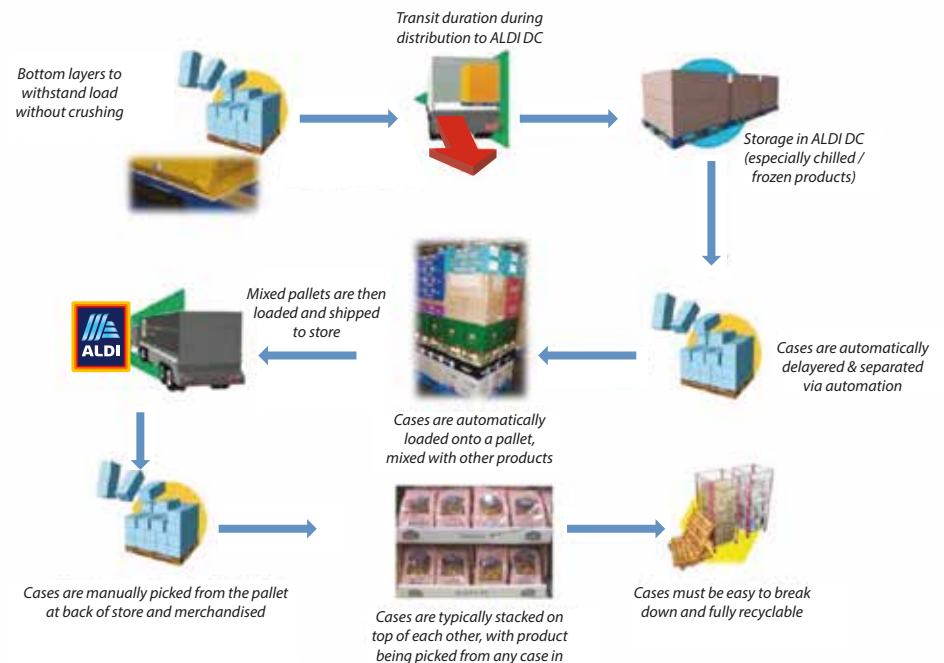
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Supply Chain

The following points in the supply chain must be considered:

- Shipping full pallets into the ALDI DC, ensuring the bottom cases do not crush
- Storage in the ALDI DC with the ability to withstand different temperature regimes
- Automated or manual handling of the case **both** at the DC and in-store
- Shipping from the DC to store on a mixed pallet with other cases
- In-store customer behaviour whereby product could be picked from any case in a stack

For further detailed information, please refer to ALDI Goods Receiving Guidelines.



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Print Considerations

Print quality and colour consistency is vital on outer cases.
Failure to comply may result in rejection of stock.

Please refer to any **Category Specific Print Guidelines** that may be available as these may conflict/supersede some of the information given in this section.

Please check with your Buying Team & Smurfit Kappa (aldi@smurfitkappa.co.uk) for further advice.

Golden Rules Checklist

- If Core product tier:
Printing onto white uncoated outer liner using digital spectrophotometers to maintain colour within dE2.5

- If Premium/Health & Beauty/Baby product tier:
Printing onto white coated outer liner using digital spectrophotometers to maintain colour within dE2

- Using .cxf files to ascertain colour information digitally

- Measure colour under a D50 light source with an observer angle of 2° using the dECMC equation

- Maintain print registration to a maximum of 0.5mm movement

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Freezer Transit Cases

- Brown inner and outer liners
- No staples
- No shrink wrap
- Black text only
- Pass stress test on full pallets
- Maximise pallet configuration with no overhang
- Each print face carries the same printed information as agreed with your ALDI Buying Director
- Emphasis should be given to the product title above all other information
- All text should appear in Myriad Bold in black
- Products put in box face down to improve decanting in-store
- Enclosed boxes only (no open top)





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Please check any **Category Specific Structural & Print Guidelines** for more information in addition to **The Golden Rules** document.

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Category Specific Guidelines

Below is a breakdown of the category specific types of packaging and whether these will need to be reviewed in addition to the overall Golden Rules specification for both Chill and Ambient:

Chill:	
Bacon & Gammon	Food to Go
Bakery	Fresh Meat
Cheese	Pizza & Pasta
Cooked Meat & Paté	Ready Meals
Delicatessen	Yoghurts & Desserts
Fish	

Ambient:	
Biscuits & Crackers	No additional review required
Cakes	No additional review required
Cereals	Review lid specification
Chocolate & Confectionary	Review front of case
Cleaning & Detergents	Merchandised on a pallet display, not to be delayed
Crisps, Nuts & Snacks	Review lids & case rigidity
Eggs	Review case rigidity
Home Baking & Whole Foods	No additional review required
Pet Food	No additional review required (exception for bagged products)
Seasonal	No additional review required (note: case-by case basis)