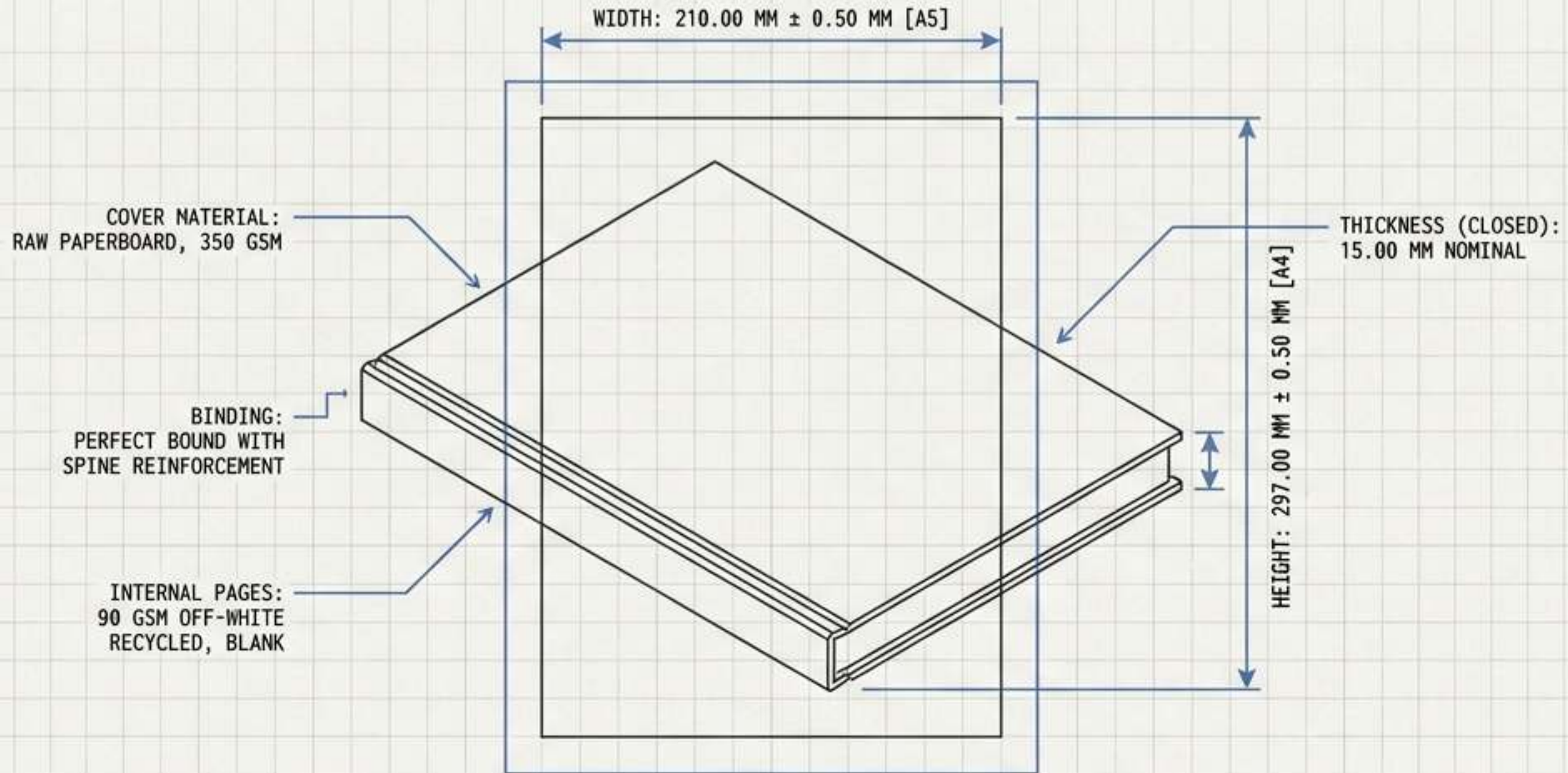


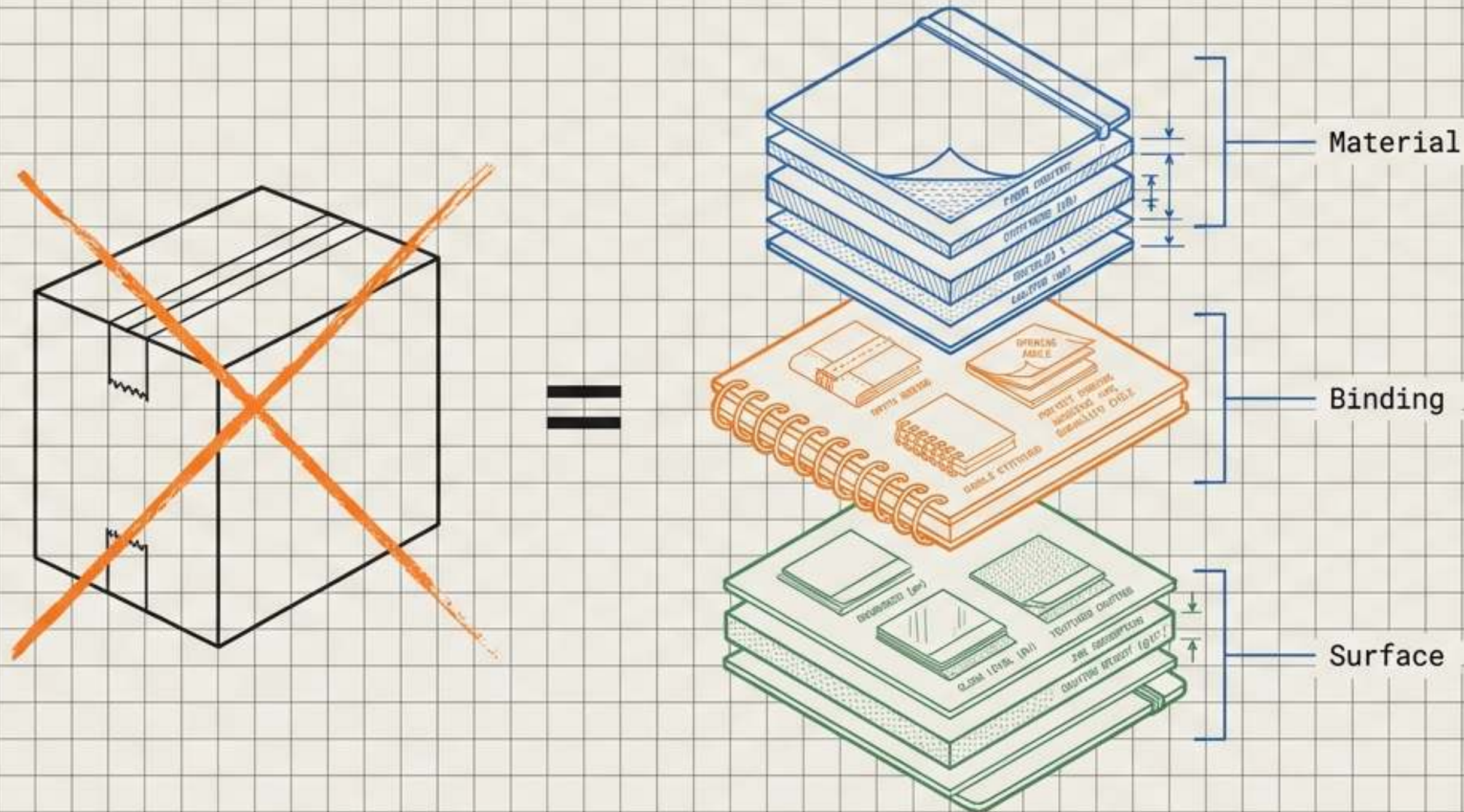


Specifying the Paperboard Notebook

An architectural blueprint for translating product concepts into exact manufacturing RFQs.

Doc Ref: 761-CPN // Status: Master Guidelines // Application: Procurement & Sourcing

Paperboard is a category, not a specification.



The term paperboard does not inherently define stiffness, fiber content, recycled content, surface texture, or binding method.

Each variable must be explicitly stated or proposed by the supplier for approval.

Final technical and commercial commitments require quotation, artwork, and material review.

Do not assume supplier capabilities.

Defining the Procurement Boundaries



In-Scope / Paperboard-Based

- + Direct-printed board
- + Printed paper wrapped over board
- + Natural fiber board
- + Laminated board
- + Coated board

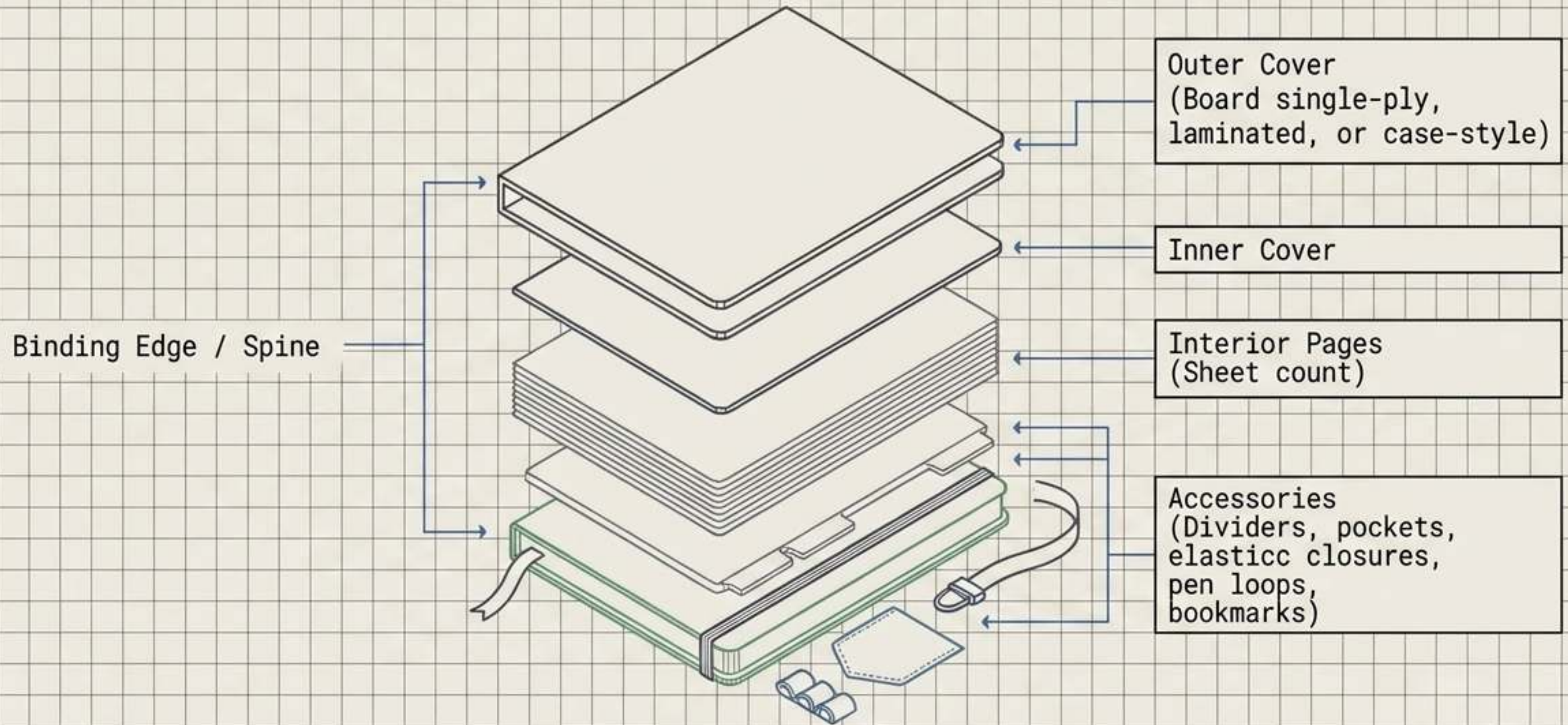
Goal orientations: Economical printed cover, rigid wrapped-board presentation, recyclable mono-material



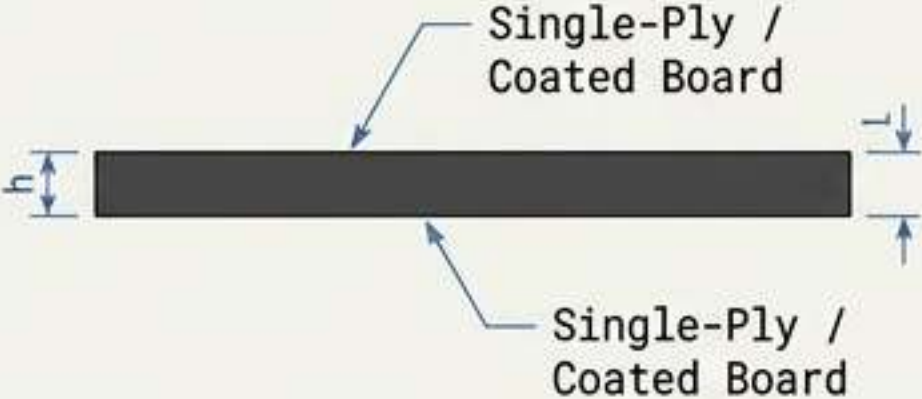
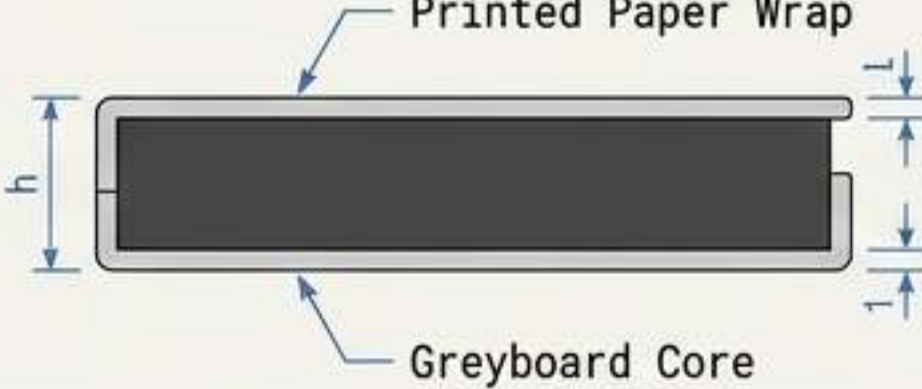
Out-of-Scope / Alternative Constructions

- Flexible paper covers
- Fabric-wrapped cases
- Genuine/synthetic leather
- Solid wood covers
- Plastic covers
- Writing pads intended for sheet removal

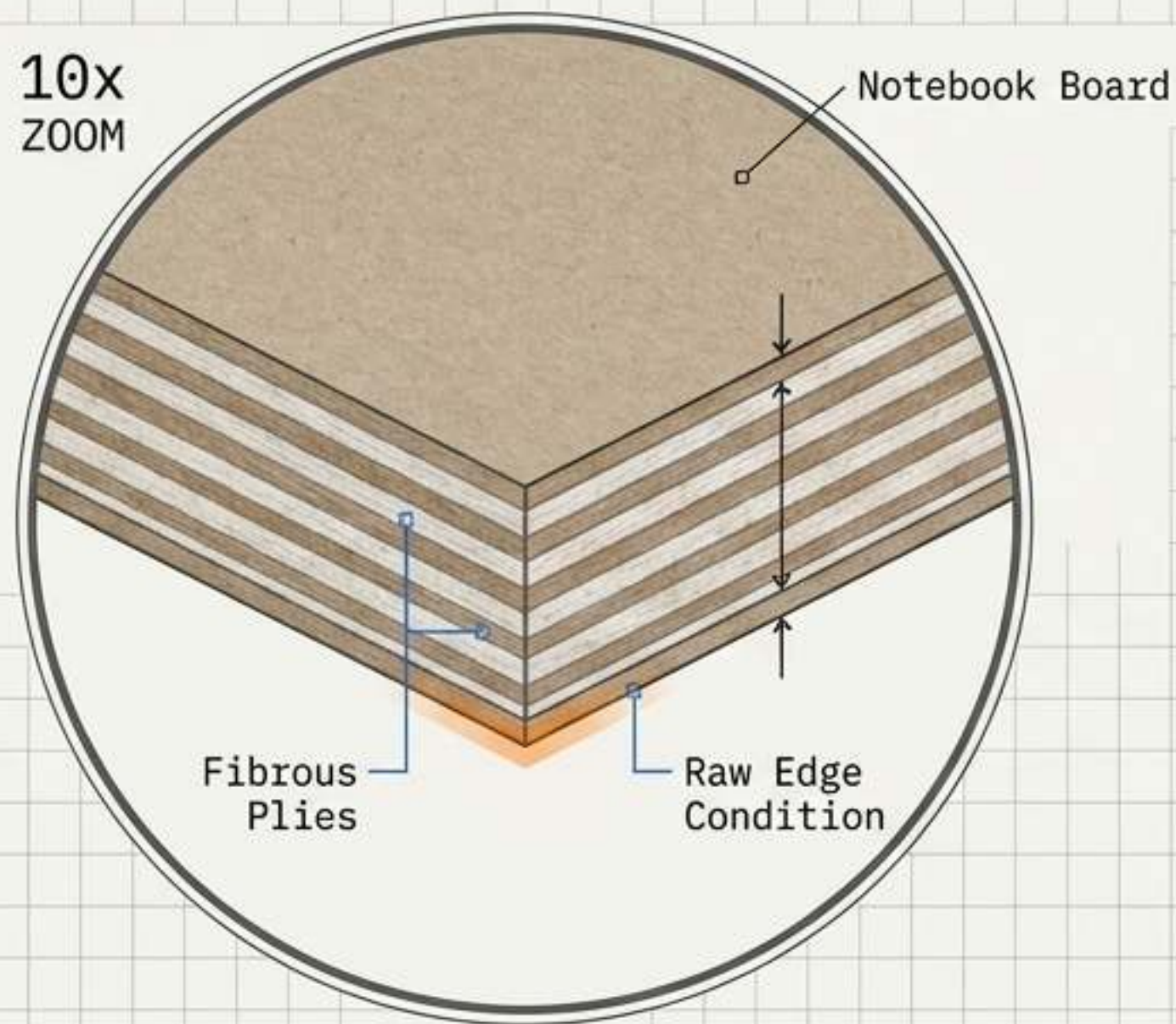
Structural Deconstruction of the Notebook



Cover Construction Matrix

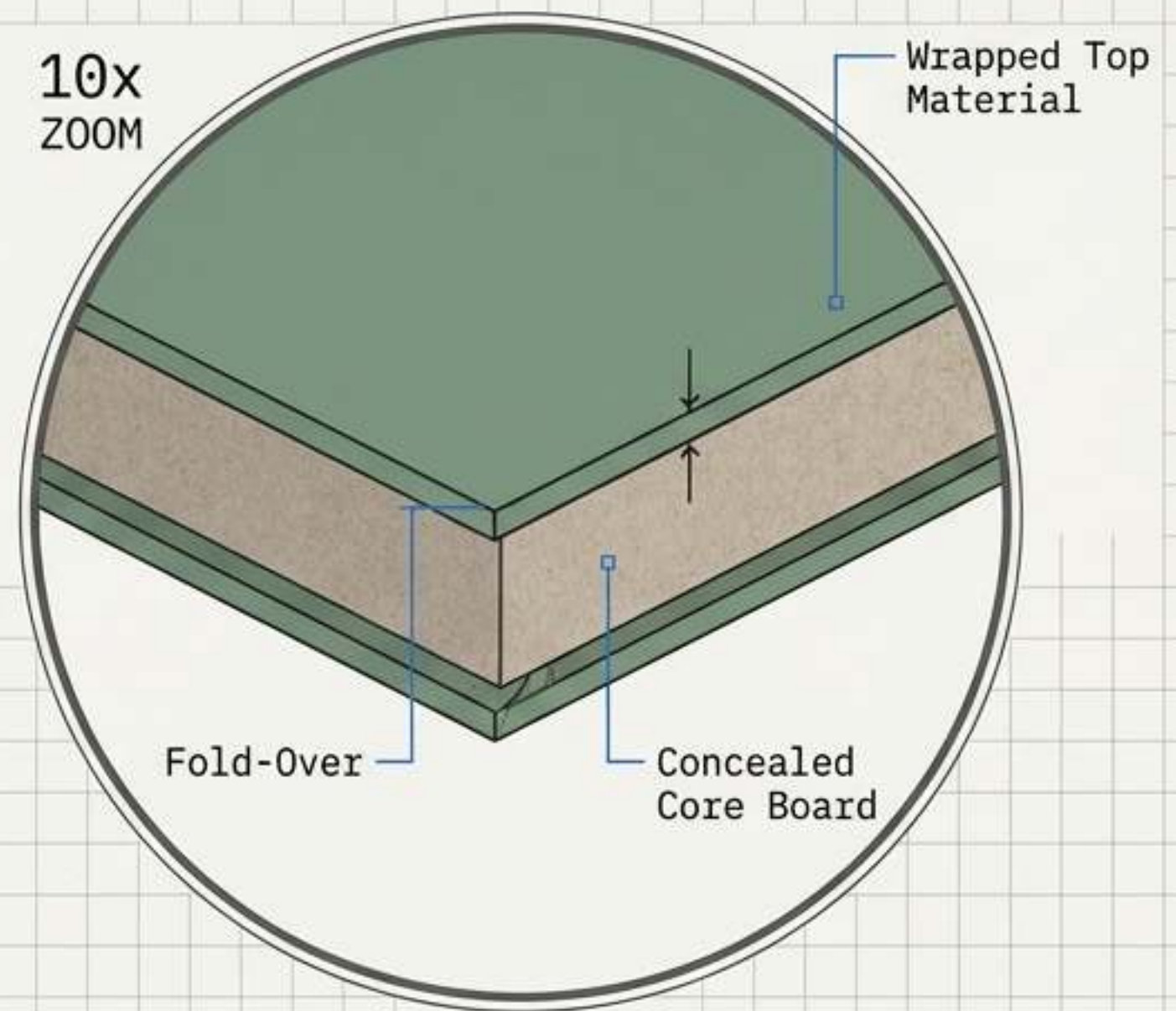
Direct-Print	Wrapped-Board	Natural Fiber
		
		
Best for economical, high-volume production. Ink is applied directly to a single-ply or coated board.	Best for rigid, premium presentations. Printed paper is glued and wrapped around a stiff, interior greyboard.	Best for raw, tactile aesthetics. Exposed kraft or natural board. (Note: Does not automatically equal sustainability; requires verification).

Defining the Edge Condition



Exposed Edge

Raw board plies visible. Common in direct-print or natural fiber books. Economical, but edges are susceptible to moisture and scuffing.



Wrapped Edge

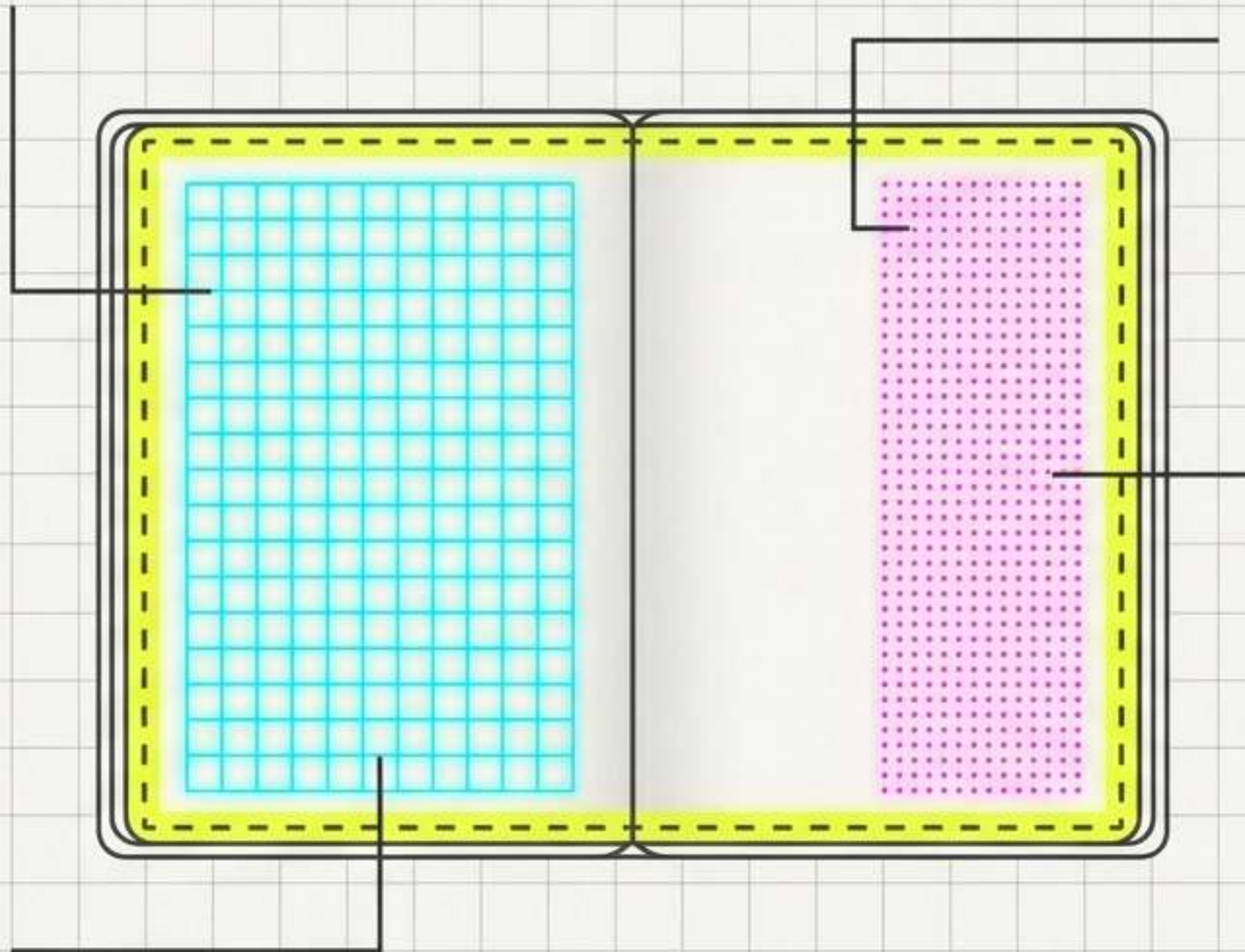
Top material conceals the core board. Standard in casebound books. Offers higher durability and a finished, premium presentation.

Aligning Binding Construction with User Behavior

Binding Type	User Behavior		
	Lies Flat entirely	Folds Back 360°	Page Detachment
Spiral/Wire	✓	✓	✓
Sewn/Casebound	✓	✗	✗
Glued	⚠	✗	⚠ (if scored/perforated)

Rule: Always state opening behavior explicitly in the RFQ. Do not assume a glued spine will lie flat.

Specifying Interior Architecture



The interior cannot be left to default supplier stock.

- [] Exact sheet/page count
- [] Paper appearance & weight profile
- [] Ruling style (lined, grid, dots, blank areas)
- [] Custom pagination requirements

The Structural Impact of Surface Finishes



Recyclability



Scuff Resistance



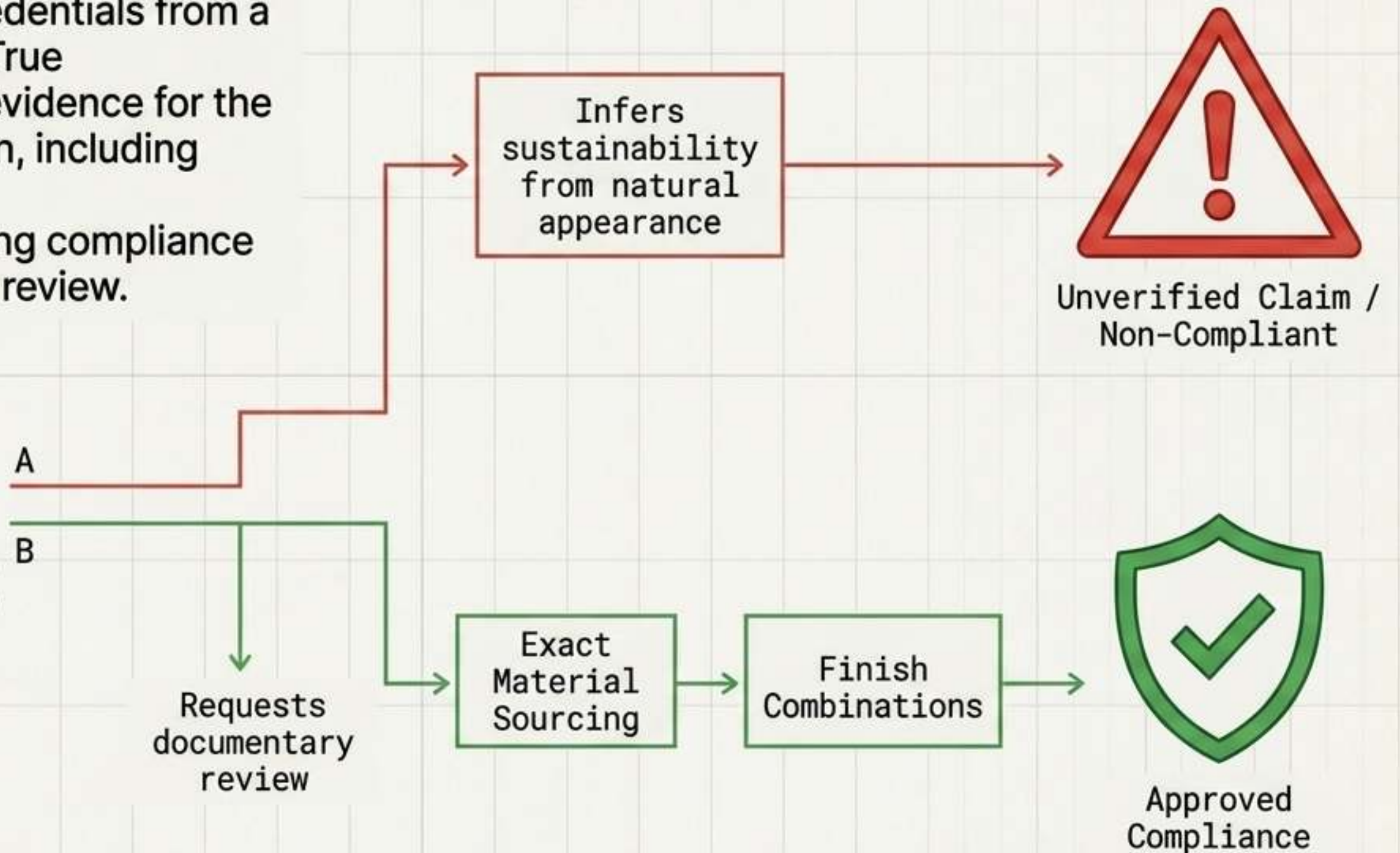
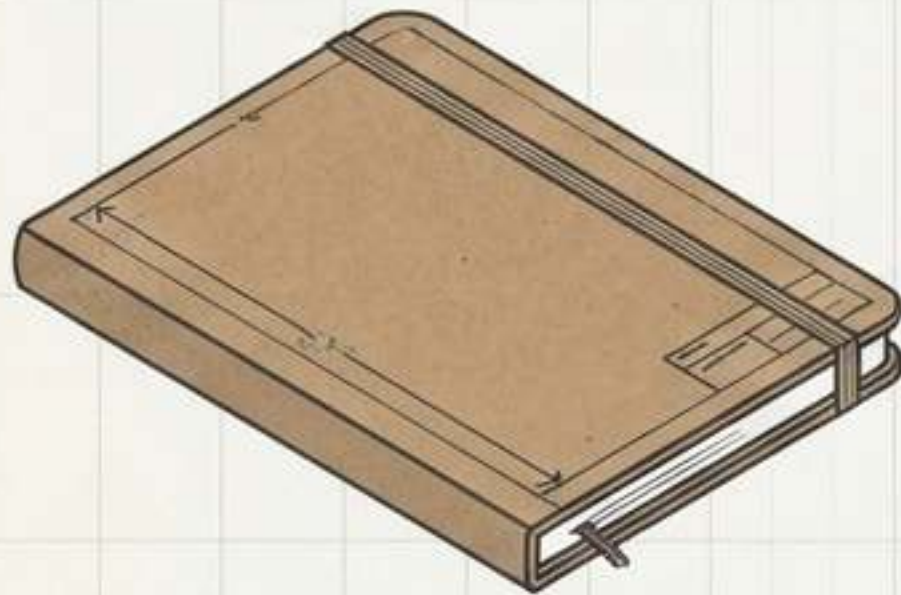
Fold Performance

- Finishes (lamination, varnish, foil, spot effects, emboss/deboss) fundamentally alter product behavior.
- Lamination increases fold performance and scuff resistance but can void recyclability claims.
- Critical surface, paper, board, and binding performance requires physical sample and testing review.

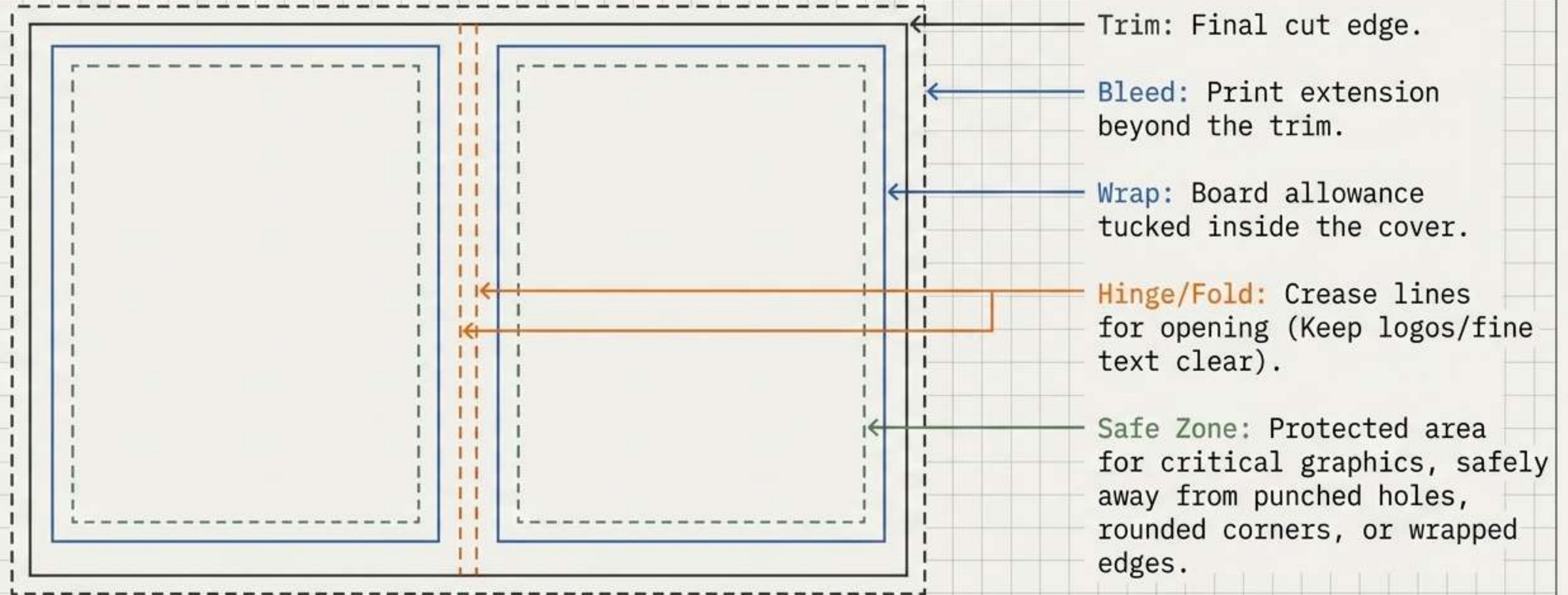
The False Sustainability Trap

Never infer environmental credentials from a natural or kraft appearance. True sustainability claims require evidence for the complete quoted construction, including finishes.

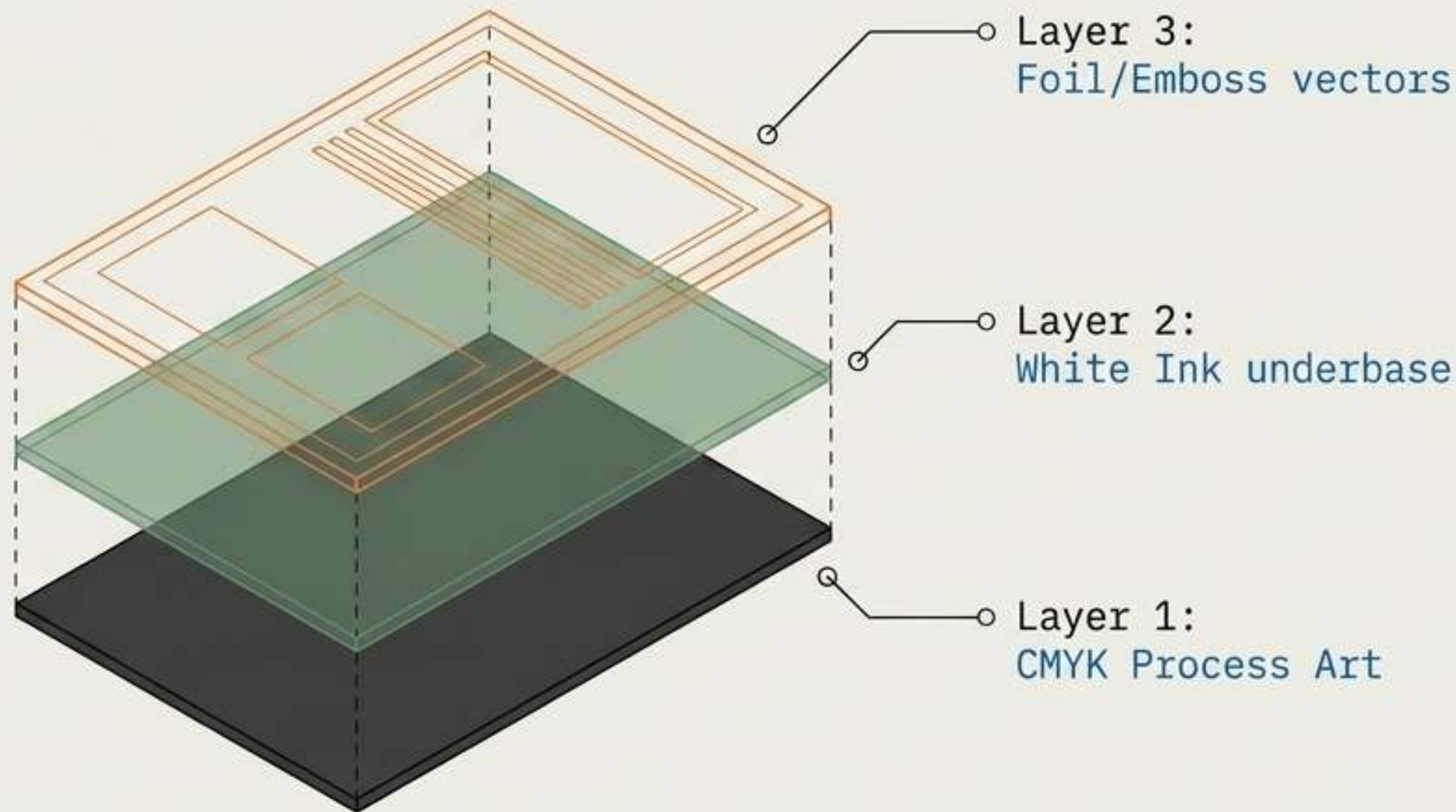
Recycled-content and sourcing compliance demands strict documentary review.



Translating the Product into a Functional Dieline



Artwork Layer Separation & Proofing Protocols



Industrial Design Dossier

Requirement:

Provide separate artwork for outer covers, inner covers, spines, interiors, dividers, and inserts.

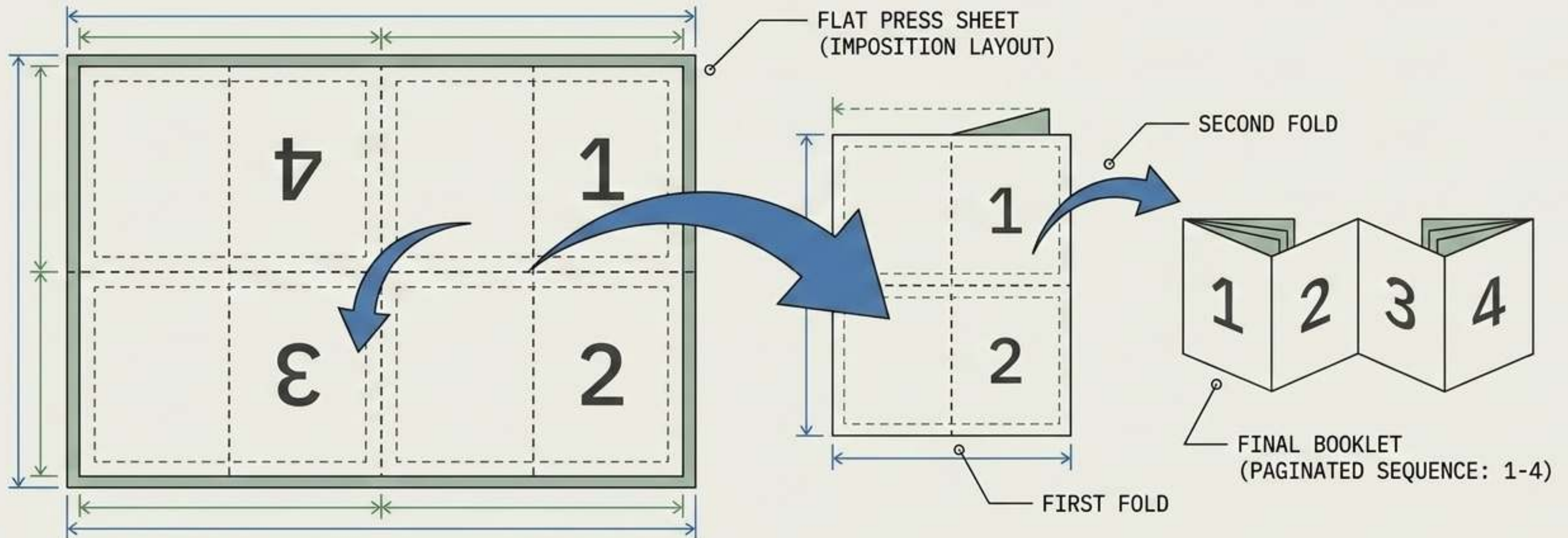
Separation:

Foil, emboss, deboss, spot coating, cut, crease, and white-ink layers must be separated from standard process artwork.

Proofing:

Require a digital proof for content/sequence. Demand a physical sample when board feel, wrap alignment, fold cracking, or color is critical.

The Geometry of the Pagination Map



Concept:

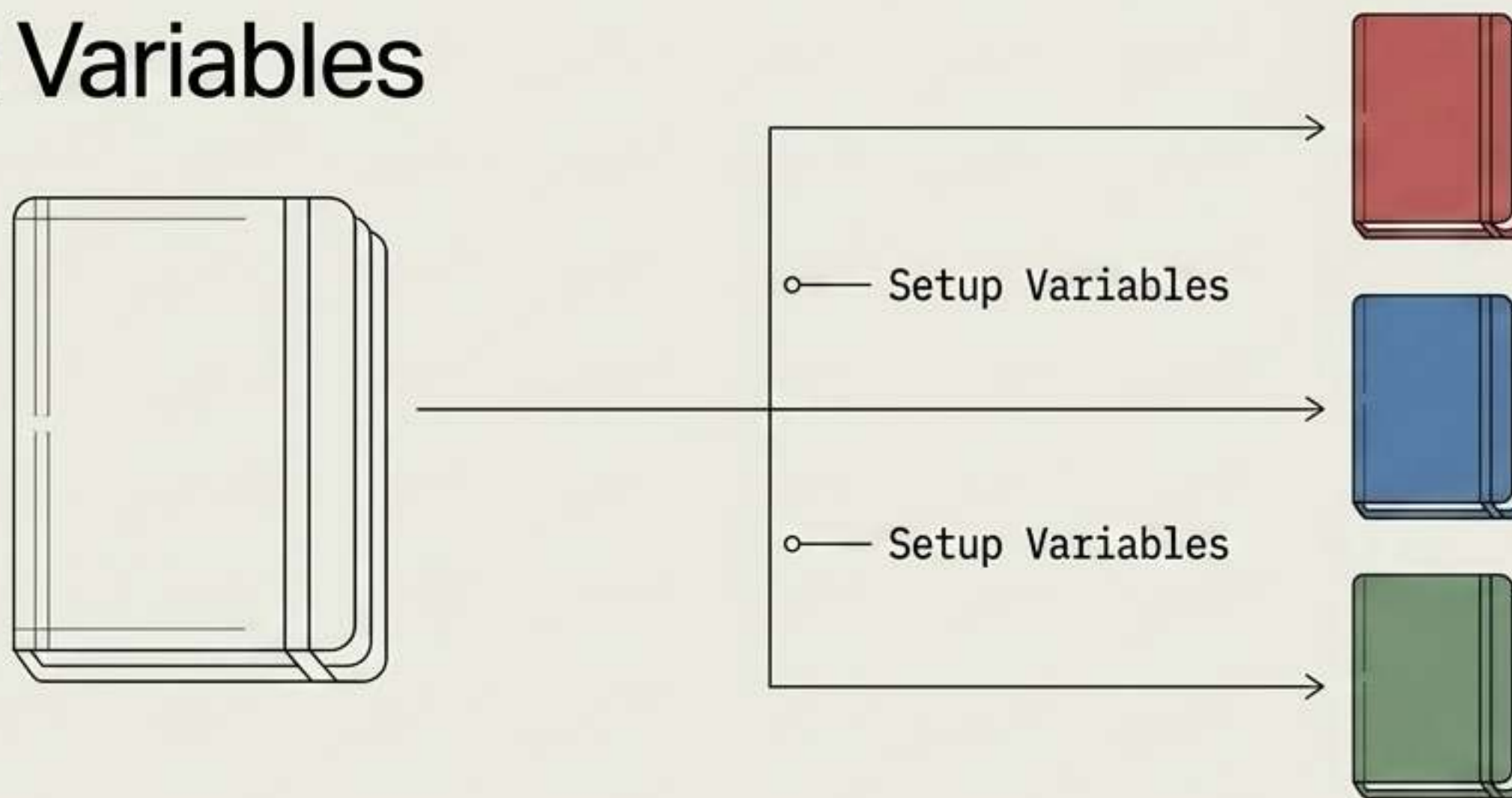
Books are not printed page-by-page; they are printed on large sheets and folded.

Action:

Buyers must create a comprehensive pagination map identifying the exact sequence of every printed and blank page to ensure the press layout matches the intended final sequence.

Version Matrices and Quotation

Quotation Variables

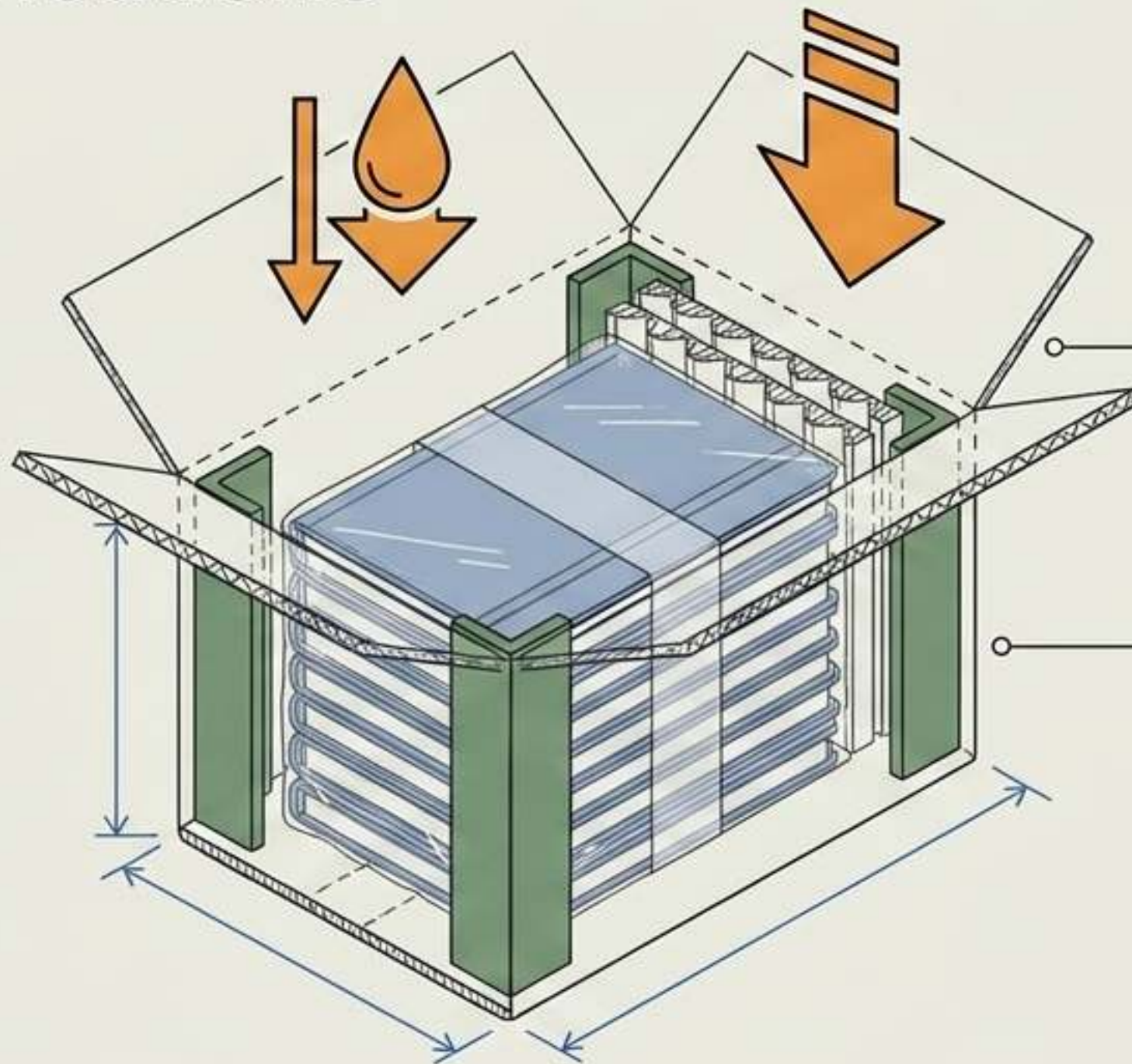


State quantities explicitly by format, cover version, interior version, binding, and accessory combination.

Supplier Questions

Ask the manufacturer exactly how changes in board format, print setup, wrapping, finishing, and version changes will affect the quotation. Define if different versions must be mixed in cartons or kept separate.

Logistical Protection & Packing Specifications



Itemized Specs

Specify individual wrapping, belly bands, labels, barcodes, retail inserts, set packing, and carton marks.

Protection Protocol

Explicitly ask the supplier how corners, covers, spines, and surface finishes will be safeguarded from denting, rubbing, moisture, or blocking (sticking together) during transport to the final destination.

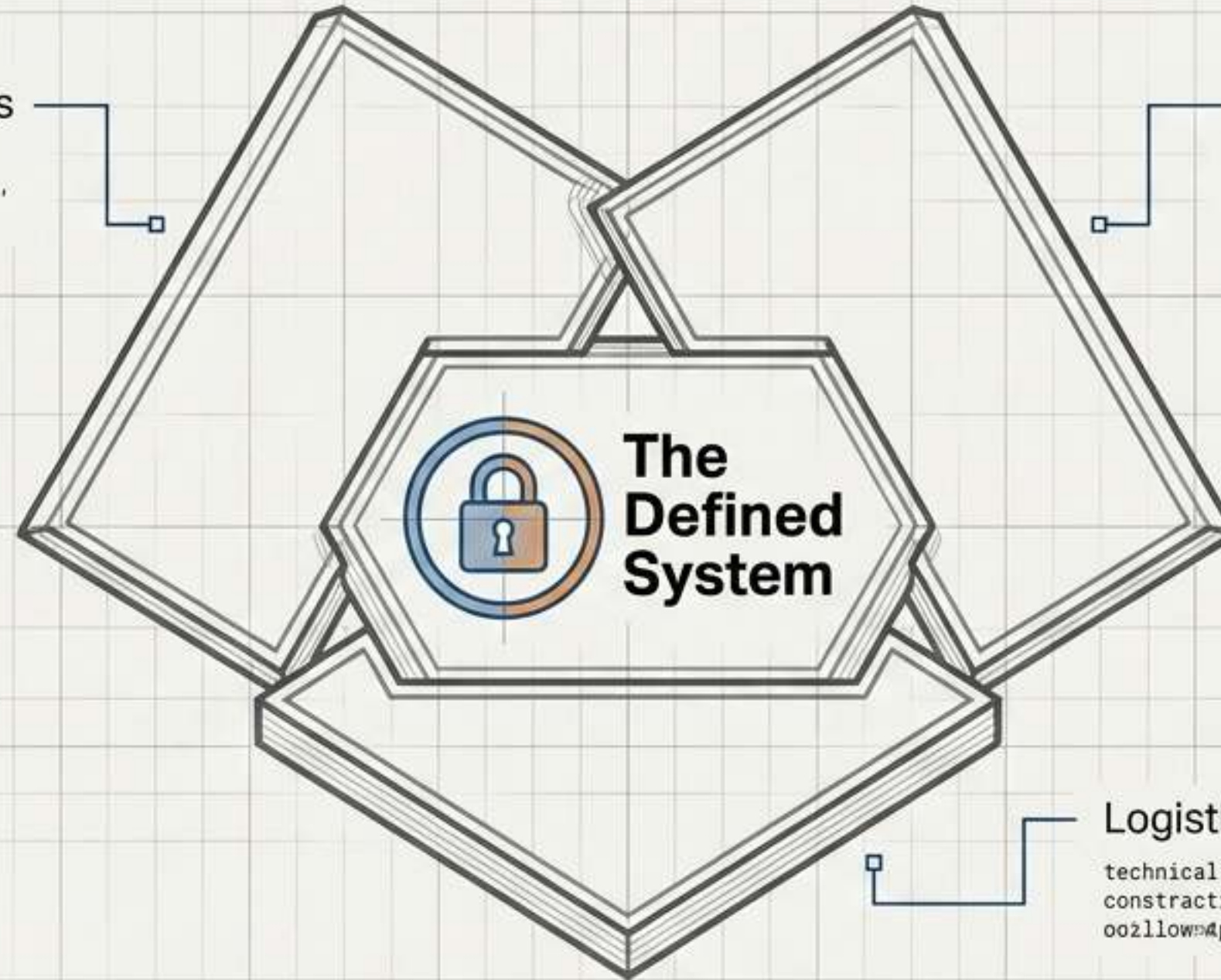
Synthesis: The Defined Cover-and-Binding System

Material/Binding Specs

monospaced technical texts
Material/Specs, apparatus, boards,
Binding Specs, and conflicts

High-Fidelity Artwork/Dielines

monospaced technical texts:
Fidelity/Dielines, high-data-Fidelity
Artwork and detowins core/rection



Logistical/Packing Defenses

technical technica notes:
constructio, Logistical/Packing, staff,
oo2llow perfect material choice.

Paperboard notebooks cannot be sourced by cover appearance alone. Board construction, edge conditions, finishing layers, pagination, and opening behavior must form a reviewable, locked system. A failure in artwork preparation or carton packing negates the perfect material choice.

THE 8-STEP RFQ EXECUTION CHECKLIST

- [] 1. State format, orientation, quantity, destination, and delivery need.
- [] 2. Define direct-print, wrapped-board, natural-board, or other cover route.
- [] 3. Request identification of board, surface treatment, and binding construction.
- [] 4. Specify sheet/page count, interior paper, ruling, and pagination.
- [] 5. Supply reviewed-dieline artwork and a complete pagination map.
- [] 6. Identify finishes, accessories, opening behavior, and critical claims.
- [] 7. Request board, print, binding samples and required testing review.
- [] 8. Define individual packing, version splits, labels, and carton protection.