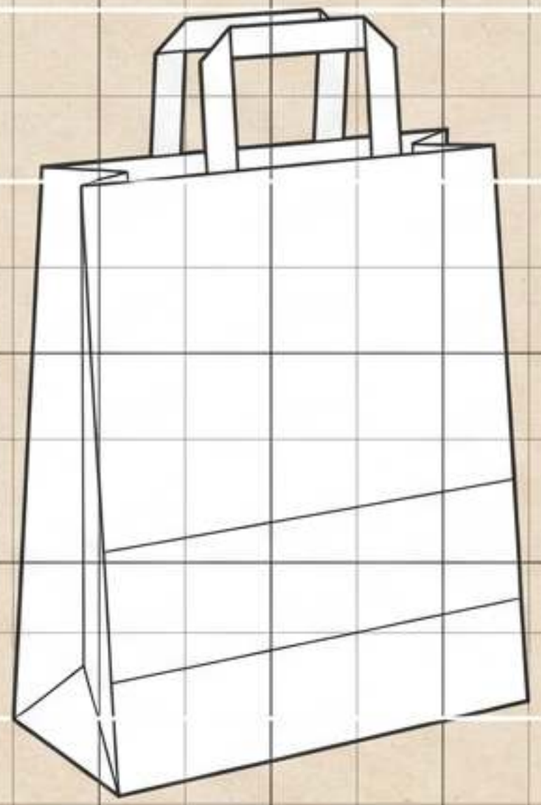
STATUS: PENDING VALIDATION



Specifying and Validating Custom Kraft Takeout Bags

Formal Reference: ZPCPB0003

ZIGPAC

Identify the operational drivers for an outer carry bag

SKU: ZPCPB0003

Independent Café



- Establish a recognizable logo
- Maintain a manageable inventory footprint

Multi-Location Operator



- Consistent dimensions across locations
- Repeatable print approvals
- Documented material specifications for reorders

The handoff dictates the requirements: Counter pickup, customer carryout, or third-party delivery each introduce different handling and exposure constraints.

ZIGPAC

Separate confirmed identity from pending specifications

Confirmed Base Identity

- **Material**: Brown kraft paper base
- **Style**: Flat handles

TAG: REQUIRES QUOTATION & SAMPLING

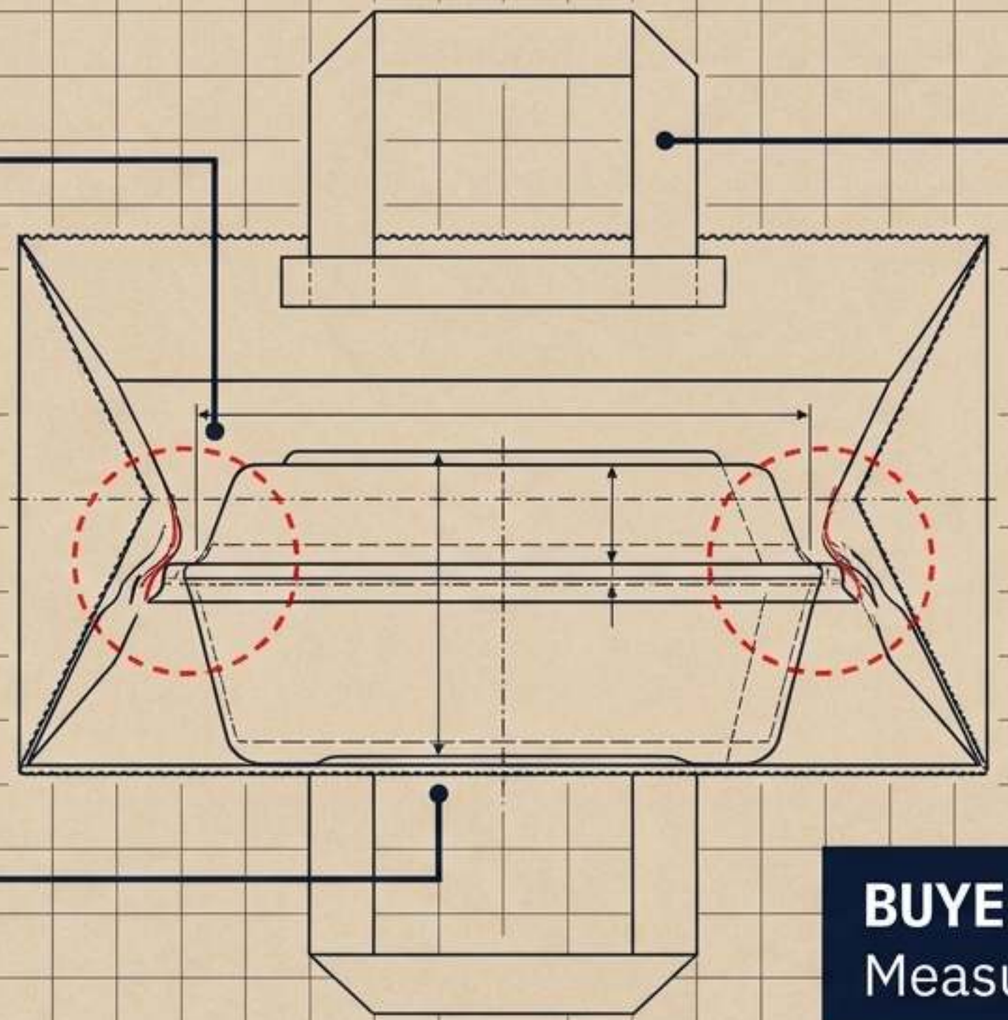
- **Dimensions**: Record Width x Gusset Depth x Height (mm)
- **Paper Weight**: Record g/m² separately from finished unit weight (g/bag)
- **Load & Fit**: Test the actual packed arrangement
- **Printing**: Approve process, colors, and physical proof
- **Commercial Terms**: MOQ, price, and production time

ZIGPAC

Nominal bag measurements do not guarantee unobstructed packing space

1 Measure the outside dimensions of the closed container, explicitly including projecting lids.

2 Leave closure and handle access requirements visible in the sample brief.

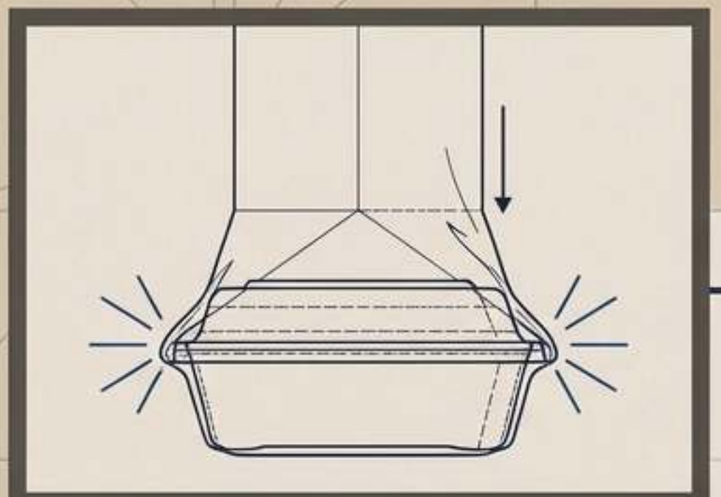


3 A container may fit perfectly at the bottom while making the opening awkward to fold or handles difficult to grasp.

BUYER ACTION REQUIRED:
Measure internal usable space

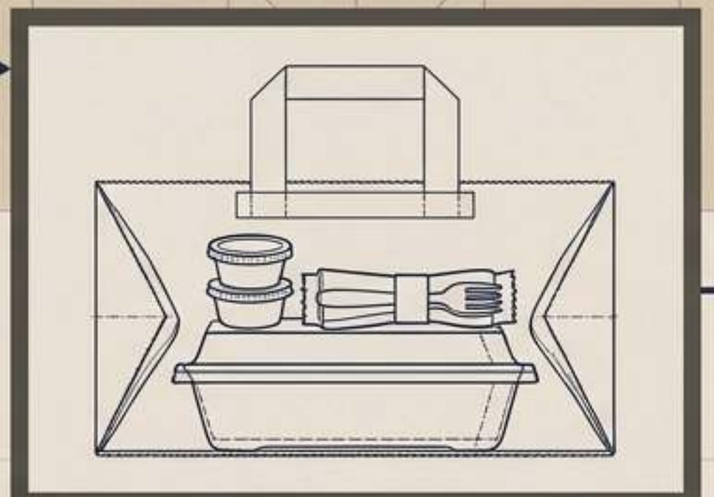
ZIGPAC

Solve the physical packing problem before printing the logo



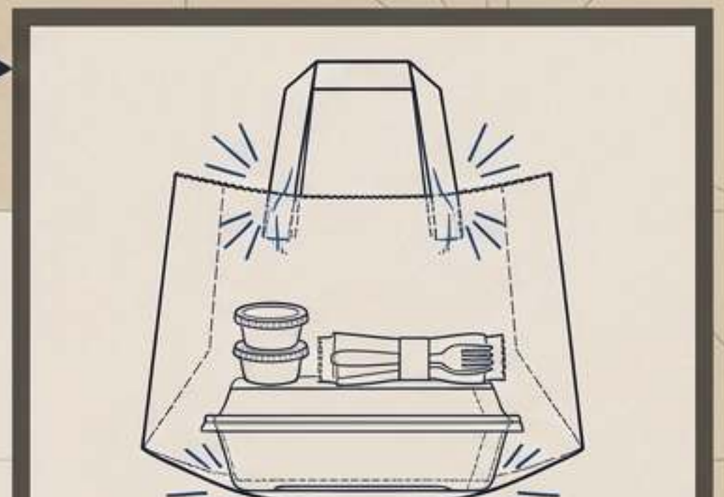
Insertion

Slows packing speed and **risks tearing** the upper gusset.



Loading

Reproduce the complete **order arrangement**, not just the primary container.



Carrying

A strained handle turns a completed order into a replacement meal.

Have the **actual person** who packs orders evaluate **insertion, removal**, and **carrying**—not just someone reviewing a photograph.

ZIGPAC

Inspect handle attachment and force transfer



Check bonding and reinforcement patches on both faces and inside the bag.

Evaluate how physical force transfers into the bag wall when lifted under full load.

Note: Flat handles distinguish this format from twisted-handle shoppers, but do not inherently establish greater strength.

CAUTION: No buckle or mechanical back fastener is established for this product reference. Construction remains subject to approval.

ZIGPAC

Align surface treatments with actual food-exposure risks

Uncoated Kraft Outer Bag	Nonfluorinated / Water-based Barrier	PE-Lined Construction	
Packaged orders with no requirement for the bag itself to contain oil.	A specific **grease- resistance requirement.**	An identified **heavy moisture or grease exposure.**	Changing a coating changes cost, testing requirements, and and environmental wording.
Do not assume resistance to leakage or condensation.	Availability, composition, **food-contact basis**, and actual-use performance need confirmation.	Review complete structure and disposal route. Paper content does not establish compostability.	

Distinguish laboratory metrics from finished-bag performance

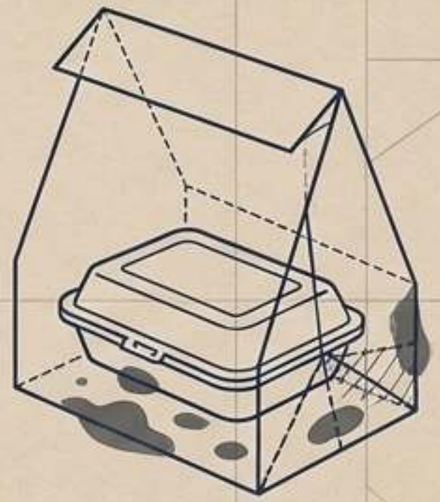
Laboratory Metrics



The TAPPI T 559 kit test describes surface repellency primarily developed for fluorochemical treatments. Its suitability for nonfluorinated treatments requires specific evaluation.

WARNING: This is NOT a universal finished-bag approval or generic food-safety certificate.

Real-World Performance



Smithers' grease-testing guidance explicitly treats laboratory results as performance guidance only.

DIRECTIVE: Not a substitute for prototype testing with actual product oils or greases.

ZIGPAC

Define the regulatory basis for food-contact materials

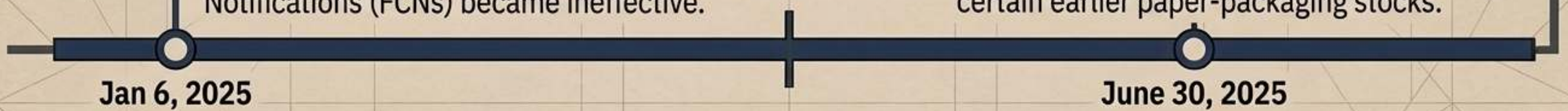
A generic "food grade" description is insufficient. Ask for the applicable basis for paper, ink, adhesive, and coating under intended use conditions.

CFR Breakdown

FDA 21 CFR 176.170 addresses paper components for aqueous and fatty foods.	FDA 21 CFR 176.180 directs specified dry-food applications.

Jan 6, 2025: 35 relevant Food Contact Notifications (FCNs) became ineffective.

June 30, 2025: FDA compliance date for certain earlier paper-packaging stocks.



CAUTION: This timeline concerns specific grease-proofing uses, not proof that the bag is inherently PFAS-free. Do not equate “no intentionally added PFAS” with zero detectable contamination.

ZIGPAC

Environmental claims require destination-specific substantiation

Recyclability

- Concerns the complete item and available collection systems.
- Recycled-content claims require written substantiation.

Compostability

Under FTC Green Guides, requires reliable evidence and qualifications about disposal conditions.

Polymer-Coated Rule: Compost Manufacturing Alliance (CMA) guidance points to ASTM D6868 for coated and multilayer structures.

CRITICAL WARNING: Do not infer finished-bag compostability from the paper alone or a generic “water-based” coating description.

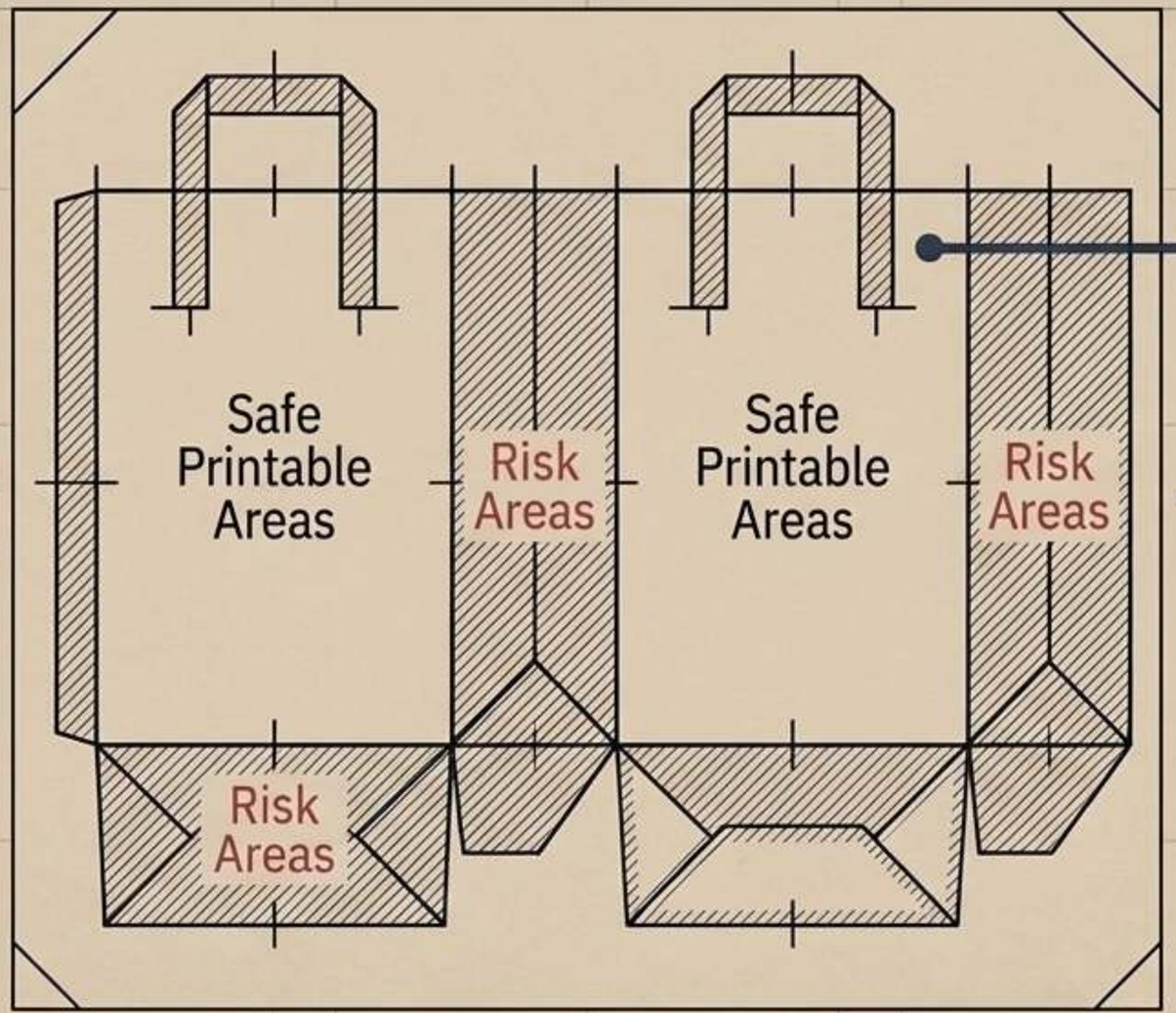
Confirm whether local programs accept the bag in its expected food-soiled condition before printing disposal instructions.

ZIGPAC

Map artwork directly to the physical bag schematic

Identify front and back panels, gussets, folds, and handle attachment areas.

Keep essential information clear of folds and attachment areas based on the confirmed drawing.



Do not assume every visible surface can be printed in the same way.

Remove unsupported food-safety, certification, and environmental claims before proof approval.

ZIGPAC

The brown kraft canvas alters ink contrast and visibility

KRAFT PRINT SIMULATION

Pale colors and fine reversed lettering lose contrast against an uncoated brown substrate.

Evaluate the logo at normal viewing distance under counter lighting; inspect smaller text for absolute clarity.

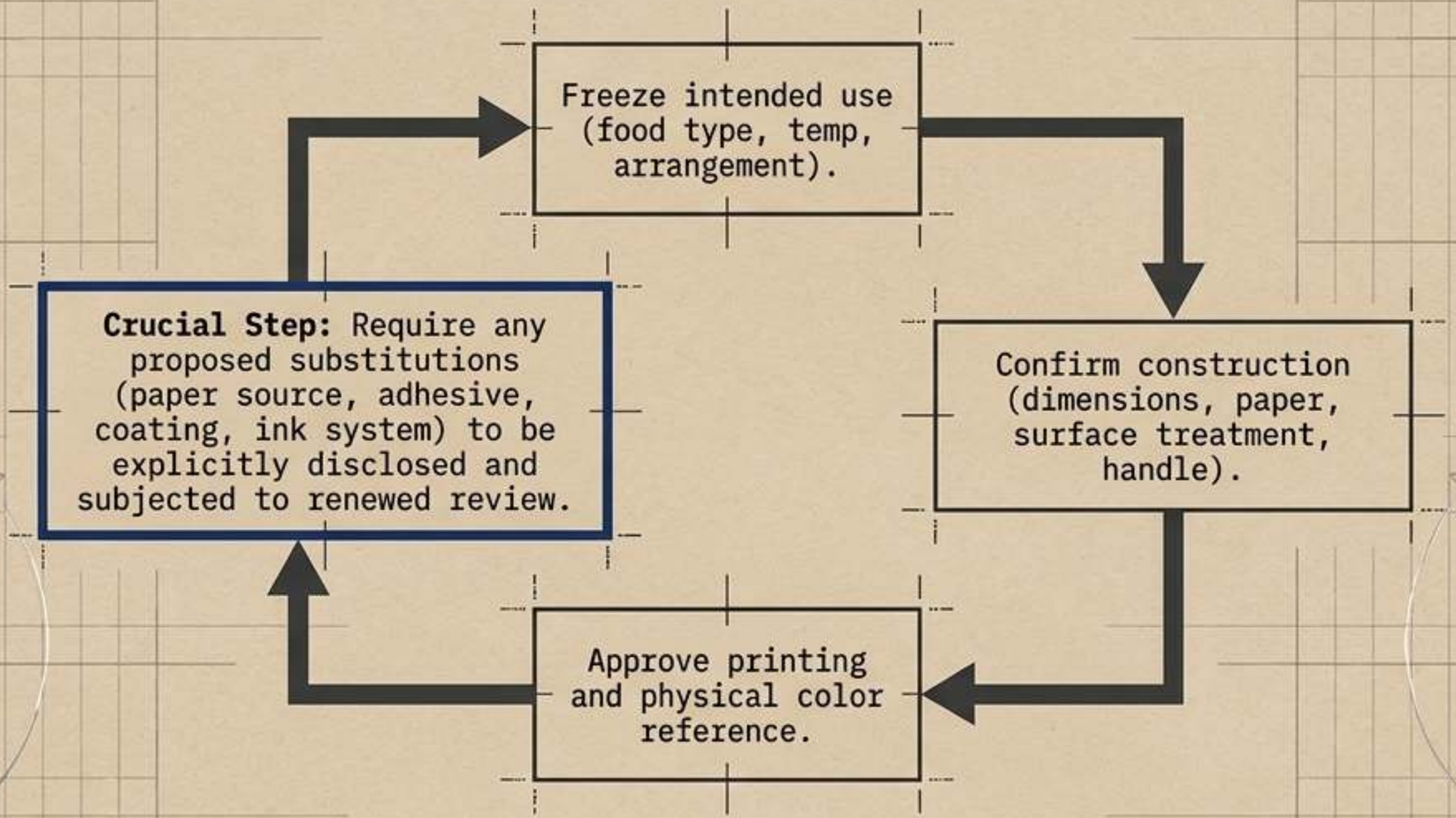
A digital screen proof only establishes placement. It does not establish the final appearance of ink on kraft.

REQUIRES VALIDATION: Approve measurements and color appearance on a physical sample.

ZIGPAC

Tie bulk production approval to a locked physical specification

THE RISK: An artwork change can conceal a material change, or a cheaper revised quote can describe a bag that no longer matches the tested prototype.



ZIGPAC

Standardized sample inspection protocol

What to Check	What to Observe	What to Record (Monospace font)
Opening/Forming	Observe stuck panels, tearing during opening, incomplete bottoms.	`Record: Defect location.`
Container Fit	Observe lid interference, unstable placement, difficult insertion.	`Record: Packed arrangement.`
Carry Handling	Observe handle lifting, attachment separation, side-seam damage.	`Record: Actual packed mass in kg.`
Exposure	Observe condensation, oil marking, softening, leakage at folds.	`Record: Contents, temp in °C, elapsed time in minutes.`
Print/Cleanliness	Observe color mismatch, rubbing, objectionable odor.	`Record: Deviation from physical proof.`

Inspect the bag again when lifted, not only while stationary. Include expected wait times and the journey afterward.

ZIGPAC

Compare equivalent specifications before comparing unit prices

Route 1: Stock bag + stamp/label
Useful for evaluating branding/demand before committing to inventory.

TRADE-OFF: Different finish from direct printing.

Route 2: Custom-printed flat-handle bag
Useful when packed order and artwork are completely stable.

TRADE-OFF: MOQ, setup charges, production schedule require product-specific quoting.

Route 3: Alternative handle / reinforced structure
Necessary if the flat-handle sample fails handling tests.

TRADE-OFF: Requires a new cost and performance baseline.

Route 4: Protective inner packaging
Necessary if oil, sauces, or condensation need control before reaching the outer bag.

TRADE-OFF: Additional components and packing steps.

ZIGPAC

Establish strict receiving criteria to maintain repeat consistency

The Quotation Split

Ensure the quote separates sample preparation, production time after approval, and transportation time.

Receiving Inspection

Inspect incoming cartons for moisture. Check individual bags for stuck panels, open seams, print differences, and missing handles.

Do not rely on whether stock “looks usable” during a quiet shift.

Reordering Loop

Retain the approved bag, artwork version, and material spec as the gold standard.

Record complaints by failure type and specific packed configuration.

If problems cluster around one specific menu item, reassess that physical arrangement before simply reordering the same specification.

ZIGPAC

The ZPCPB0003 Quotation Master Blueprint

- [ ] Validated internal dimensions (W × D × H in mm) covering all projecting lids.
- [ ] Verified total packed weight (in kg) tested with actual menu items.
- [ ] Specified base material (Brown kraft g/m^2) and defined surface treatment (Uncoated vs Nonfluorinated vs PE-Lined).
- [ ] Confirmed applicable food-contact basis (e.g., 21 CFR 176.170/180) documented by supplier.
- [ ] Approved artwork flat-pattern with unsupported environmental claims removed.
- [ ] Required delivery destination, carton quantity, and storage requirements outlined.

Capacity comes from the packed sample, not the product name.
Build the quote around your actual takeaway order.

ZIGPAC