

## **The National Archives Board Specifications**

The National Archives defines [three broad categories](#) of board depending on the context of use. The corresponding box board specifications to these three categories cannot be considered global, as they have been determined taking into account the particular context of use within The National Archives. These specifications may vary for other institutions and change from time to time as we acquire new knowledge of materials science.

### **Permanent and Durable**

100% fully bleached chemical pulp

pH 7.5 – 9.5

Kappa number should not exceed 5, or else less than 1% lignin content

alkaline reserve between 2 and 5%

neutral internal size

less than 0.0008% reducible sulphur

neutral pH EVA polymer adhesive without plasticizers

no optical brighteners

no plasticizers

no metal particles, waxes, residual bleach, or other components that could lead to degradation when in immediate contact with the board

### **Permanent**

Kappa number should not exceed 5, or else less than 1% lignin content

100% bleached chemical and/or mechanical pulp

pH 7.5 – 9.5\*

alkaline reserve between 2 and 5%

neutral sizing

less than 0.0008% reducible sulphur\*

neutral pH EVA polymer adhesive

no optical brighteners

no plasticizers

no metal particles, waxes, residual bleach, or other components that could lead to degradation when in immediate contact with the board

### **Durable**

100% chemical and/or mechanical pulp.

\* Board used for the construction of boxes intended for the permanent storage of photographs should have a pH of 6.5-7.5, have less than 0.0008% reducible sulphur, contain no alkaline reserve and pass the Photographic Activity Test (PAT).