

# Basis Weight

The weight of a specified area of paper or paperboard is defined as the "basis weight". There are a number of weights and areas used for specifying basis weight. Examples include pounds per 1,000 square feet ( $\text{lb}/1000\text{ft}^2$ , sometimes referred to as  $\text{lb}/\text{MSF}$ ) which is usually used for unbleached boards. Pounds per 3,000 square feet ( $\text{lb}/3000\text{ft}^2$ , sometimes referred to as  $\text{lb}/3\text{MSF}$ ), is the weight of a ream (500 sheets) of paper or paperboard of size 24 inches by 36 inches (2 feet x 3 feet). The metric measure of weight, "grammage", is expressed as grams per square meter ( $\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ , sometimes referred to as  $\text{gsm}$ ). When the basis weight of a combined board product is reported, the weight is that of the entire product, including all components. We determine basis weight according to TAPPI Test Method T410.

