

# Status of Open Shelf-Life Dating Regulations for Selected Countries and International Food Labeling Organizations, 1978

Country/ organization	Code or open date <sup>a</sup>	Type of date	Date display	
			Day/month/year	Month/year only
<b>BRITISH COMMONWEALTH</b>				
United Kingdom	<i>Code</i>	Open date recommended for short life, 6 months only	≤ 3 months	> 3 months
Ireland	<i>Code or open</i>	No guidelines		
India	<i>Code or open</i>	No guidelines	--	For code
Australia	<i>Code or open</i>	Open date recommended for short life, < 90 days	≤ 3 months	
New Zealand	<i>Code and open</i>	Required for some products	≥ 3 months	> 3 months
<b>EUROPEAN</b>				
Netherlands	<i>Open</i>	Determined for each product by Commodity Board	--	
		Recommended for short-life, cold-stored products		
Switzerland	<i>Code or open</i>	Recommended for most milk, meat products; frequently more than one date used voluntarily	--	
Sweden	<i>Open</i>	Required for short-life, cold-stored products	--	
Germany	<i>Code and open</i>	For milk products and others with shelf life < 1 year		
Yugoslavia	<i>Code</i>	<i>Open pack date required</i>		
U S S R	<i>Code</i>	Required only on secondary container	Pack or use-by	
<b>ASIATIC</b>				
Japan	<i>Code in Arabic or Latin</i>	Open date recommended for some milk, meat, and fish products	--	
Thailand	<i>Code</i>	Open date voluntary, used for some products	--	
Iraq	--	Will conform to Codex Alimentarius--on exports	--	Day/month required if code
Israel	<i>Code or open</i>			
<b>LATIN AMERICAN</b>				
Mexico	<i>Code or open</i>		Use-by	For code
Costa Rica	<i>Code or pack date</i>	Under consideration		For code
Venezuela	<i>Code or open</i>		Use-by	
Argentina	<i>Code or lot no.</i>	No requirements for open dating	--	
Brazil	<i>Code or lot no.</i>	No requirements for open dating	--	
<b>AFRICAN AND OTHERS</b>				
Philippines		No specific requirements or guidelines		
Egypt		Inspect all exports for conformance with importing country regulations		
Nigeria		Conform to requirements of importing countries to extent local facilities allow	--	

<sup>a</sup>Bold italic type indicates mandatory requirements

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Libya	<i>Code or open</i>	Conform to requirements of importing countries to extent local facilities allow			
<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>					
Codex Alimentarius	<i>Code or open</i>	Open dating required for baby food	Best-if-used-by		
European Economic Community	<i>Open</i>	Open dating required for all products	--	< year	> year
Central American Economic Community	<i>Code or open</i>		Pack		

<sup>a</sup>Bold italic type indicates *mandatory* requirements  
SOURCE: OTA Survey