

Ordering and Storing Product

Proper Product Storage

FDA Requirements – Labeling, Dates, and Shelf Lives

- There is no universally accepted system used for food dating in the U.S.
- Except for infant formula and some baby foods, product dating is not generally required by the FDA.
 - Baby food and formula **SHOULD NOT** be distributed after the expiration date.
 - USDA products **MUST** be distributed by the BIUB date.
- Specific donor use by dates will be included in the product description on inventory.
- Food product dates:
 1. “Sell by” dates tell the store how long to display the product.
 2. “Best if used by (or before)” dates are recommended for best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
 3. “Use by” dates are the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality as determined by the manufacturer.
 4. Closed or coded dates are packing numbers for use by the manufacturer. These appear as a series of letters and/or numbers which are not meant for the consumer to interpret.

