NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER · AUGUST 23, 1991

GUIDELINES FOR OPEN-DATE MARKING OF PREPACKAGED FOODS

BFAD FDA REGULATION NO. 001 s.1982, August 23, 1991

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): https://batas.org/library/0540c94ff7fa/

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 16 s. 1979, the following shall serve as the guidelines for the implementation of the Open-Date Marking Regulation:

1. Open-Date marking means legibly indicating a date on food labels/packages for the purpose of informing the consumer about the expected quality of the product at a given period of time provided that it has been properly stored. This does not mean, however, that date marking guarantees either the acceptability or the safety of the product.

2. Types of Date-Marking

2.1

Consume Before date ("use-by" Date of Expiration Date") is the date which signifies the end of the estimated shelf-life of the product under a stated storage condition, beyond which the quality of the product is significantly impaired. After this date the food should not be regarded as marketable.

2.2

Best before date (or "Best Use-by" Date) is the date which signifies the end of the period, under a stated storage condition, beyond which certain quality attributes of the product will be expected to deteriorate. However, after this date the product may still be satisfactory for human consumption and shall remain marketable.

3. The type of date marking to be indicated shall be prescribed in the guidelines for specific products.

4. Date Marking Format

4.1

The "Consume before" date and "Best before" date shall be declared by the day, month and year in uncoded numerical sequence that can easily be understood by the consumer. The following suggested format may be used:

Day

Month

Year

01

06

83

15

07

Turn this case into an audio lecture - facts, issues, ruling and doctrine - at batas.org

84

30

10

82

05

May

83

12

Aug

84

5. Presentation of Date Marking on Food Packages

5.1

Date Marking shall be indicated on food packages using indelible ink or embossed on cans or any other acceptable manner.

5.2

Date Marking shall appear in a conspicuous place such as in the front panel of the label or in top of packages like boxes, bottles or cans.

5.3

When embossed on the bottom end of cans the front panel of the label shall bear a statement indicating the location of the "date".

6. Guidelines for Mandatory Open-Date marking of specific food products will be issued from time to time by the Food and Drug Administration, as may be necessary in a separate FDA Regulation and shall be considered as an integral part of Administrative Order No. 16 s. 1979. Final date of full implementation for the product concerned shall be stated in said FDA Regulation.

Adopted: 23 Aug. 1991

(SGD.) CATALINA C. SANCHEZ
Acting Administrator

(SGD.) J. C. AZURIN
Minister of Health

Re-issued: 7 Oct. 1991

(SGD.) QUINTIN L. KINTANAR, M.D., PH.D..
Director
Assistant Secretary for Standards and Regulation

Bar review courses, mock exams and a study planner that keeps you on pace - batas.org

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at https://batas.org

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.