

هيئة التقييس لدول مجلس التعاون لدول الخليج العربية
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**Expiration dates for food products - Part 2 :
Voluntary expiration dates**

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Expiration dates for food products - Part 2 : Voluntary expiration dates

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Foreword

GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) is a regional Organization which consists of the National Standards Bodies of GCC member States. One of GSO main functions is to issue Gulf Standards /Technical regulations through specialized technical committees (TCs).

GSO through the technical program of committee TC No.:(TC05) " Gulf technical committee for standards of food and agriculture products " has updated the GSO Standard No. 150/2007 " Expiry Periods of food products " to two parts: part 1 " " Expiry Periods of food products- Mandatory expiry periods: and part 2 " Expiry Periods of food products- Guiding expiry periods", This Standard is concerned with : Part 2: Guiding expiration periods The Draft Standard has been prepared by (State of Qatar) . This standard has been prepared after review the Arabic, foreigner, International standards and related complied references.

This Standard will cancel any technical requirements contradict with it in other food products Standards.

This standard has been approved as a Gulf Standard by GSO Technical Council in its meeting No.(30), held on 2-3/11/1434h(8-9/9/2013). The approved Standard will replace and supersede the mandatory periods in GSO Standards No. (150).

Expiry periods of food products – Part 2: Guiding expiry periods

1. SCOPE:

This Gulf Standard is concerned with guiding expiry periods for food products.

2. COMPLEMENTARY REFERENCES:

- 2.1 GSO 9 “Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods”.
- 2.2 GSO food product Gulf Standards mentioned in this Standard .
- 2.3 GSO Food packaging Standards.

3. DEFINITIONS:

- 3.1 Expiry period: A period during which the product retains its specific properties and remains permissible, acceptable and fit for human consumption under the set packaging, transportation and storage conditions.
- 3.2 Foodstuff: Any substance whether processed, semi-processed or unprocessed, which is intended for direct human consumption or used in manufacturing, preparing or treating of food stuff. It does not include tobacco and tobacco products or any substances used only as drugs.
- 3.3 Expiry date: The date designating the end of the expiration period under the set packaging, transportation and storage conditions.
- 3.4 Production date: The date on which the food becomes an end product suitable for packaging.
- 3.5 Date of packaging:
The date on which a foodstuff has been packed in the immediate container in which it will be eventually sold.
- 3.6 Best before
The date signifying the end of period beyond which a product, under any given storage conditions, retain certain qualities for which is processing; and, so, never marketable thereafter.

4. REQUIREMENTS:

- 4.1 Without prejudice to what is stated in GSO Standard (item 2.1) “Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods” and to the Gulf standards for each food product, the production and expiration dates shall be declared on the label of the package in an un-coded manner as follows:

- [Day-Month-Year] for food products having an expiration period less than 3 months .
- [Month-Year or Day/ Month/ Year] for food products having an expiration period exceeding 3 months .

The use of any of the following statements for expressing the expiration date is permissible, it is mandatory to mention the production date:

- Expiry date;

- Use by:.....(date);
 - Fit for:.....from the date of production;
 - Use before:(date);
 - Sell by:.....(date),(for food products having an expiration period exceeding 3 months).
 - Best before....
- 4.2 in case of writing production and expiration dates in month and year only, the expiry period shall be calculated from the beginning of the month which the product start to the end of the registered expiry month, its prefer not import any food stuffs terminated more than half of its expiry which declared on the container, calculated when arrived to entry port.
- 4.3 Dates shall be engraved or in relief, printed or stamped by irremovable ink directly on all packages or on their original label by the producer only.
- Statements intended to appear on the label shall be marked in a clearly visible and easily legible manner to the consumer, it shall not obscure any information required on the label.
- Adding stickers for production and expiry dates is not permissible. There shall be not more than one date of production or of expiry on the same package, both dates shall not be subject to deletion, change or deceit.
- 4.4 This Gulf Standard includes the guiding expiry periods for the following food products:**
- 4.4.1** Frozen food products: To be stored at a temperature not exceeds -18°C:

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Beef, buffalo, mutton and goat meat	Suitable containers	12 months From slaughtering and freezing ate	
Processed meat and poultry (poultry Giblets, liver, burger, sausages and ground)	Suitable container	12 months from slaughtering and freezing date	
Whole poultry	Plastic containers	12 months	

Edible organs and offal's: kidneys, heart, tongue, tripe, poultry liver and Giblets.	Suitable containers	6 months	
Brain, testis	Suitable containers	4 months	
Liver	Suitable containers	12 months	
Pigeons and quails	Suitable containers	9 months	from slaughtering date
Kabbah and Kofftah	Suitable containers	9 months	
Whole eggs	Suitable containers	12 months	
Egg whites and egg yolks	Suitable containers	9 months	
Fish and Shell-Fish Products			
Gutted and Ungutted smoked fish.	Suitable plastic containers	9 months	
Dried fish	Suitable containers	12 months	
Processed fish products such as fish fingers and fish fillets.... etc.	Suitable containers	12 months	
Lean fish	Plastic or carton containers	12 months	Fish species with oil content in edible part less than 5%
Fatty fish	Plastic or carton containers	6 months	Fish species with oil content in edible part more than 5%
Shrimp and shellfish	Plastic or carton containers	9 months	

Milk and Milk Products			
Ice cream , milk ices and water ices	Suitable containers	12 months	
Frozen yoghurt	Suitable containers	18 months	
Salted butter	Suitable containers	12 months	
Unsalted butter	Suitable containers	18 months	
Margarine	Plastic or carton sheets	12 months	
Chesses	Suitable containers	12 months	
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products			
Fruits and fruit past	Suitable containers	24 months	
Fruit juices	Suitable containers	18 months	
Fried potato chips	Plastic containers	18 months	
Leafy vegetables	Suitable containers	12 months	
Other vegetables	Suitable containers	18 months	
Concentrated fruit juices	Suitable containers	24 months	
Fungi such as (mushroom)	Suitable containers	12 months	
Cereals, Pulses and Nuts and Their Products			
Dough	Suitable containers	12 moths	
Cake	Suitable containers	12 months	
Bread	Suitable containers	3 months	
Fruit muffins such as apple	Suitable	18 months	

muffins	containers		
Muffins with cream	Suitable containers	6 months	

4.4.2 Chilled food products: To be stored at a temperature from 0° C – 5° C :

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Cured or cooked Processed poultry and beef meat packed in natural or synthetic wraps such as luncheon, salami, mortadella, Frankfurters etc.	Suitable containers	6 months	
Dry salted fish	Suitable containers	12 months	
Milk and Milk Products			
Processed cheese	Other nonmetallic containers	18 months	
Hard cheese	Suitable containers	12 months	
Other products			
Royal jelly	Suitable containers	60 days	

4.4.3 Food products to be stored at suitable temperature in well-ventilated stores (Not exceed 25° C):

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Canned meat	Sterilized Metallic containers	24 months	
Dried meat	Suitable containers	6 months	
Spicy salted meat such as basterma, salami.	Without wrapping such as basterma, and in suitable containers for other products	6 months	If basterma is sliced, it shall be packed in suitable containers and kept refrigerated at 0 o C to 5 o C
Canned meat with vegetable	Hermetically sealed Metal cans	24 months	
Whole egg powder, egg white powder and egg yolk powder	Suitable tightly sealed Moisture proof containers	12 months	
Fish and Shell-Fish Products			
Canned fish and shellfish	Sterilized Metallic containers	24 months	
Sterilized metallic containers	Suitable containers other than metal cans	12 months	
Salted fish in brine solution	Suitable containers	12 months	
Milk and Milk Products			
Skimmed dried milk	Metallic containers packed under inert gas or under vacuum	24 months	
	Moisture-tight containers	18 months	
Full cream dried milk	Metallic Containers packed under inert gas or under vacuum	18 months	
	Moisture-tight sealed plastic or carton containers	12 months	

Evaporated milk	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Carton containers lined with aluminum	6 months	
Sweetened condensed milk	Metallic containers	12 months	Packed under aseptic conditions
	Tightly sealed Carton containers lined with aluminum foil	6 months	
Flavored sterilized mil	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Other containers	6 months ⁶	
Whipping cream powder	Suitable tightly sealed moisture proof containers	18 months	
Whey powder	Suitable tightly sealed moisture proof containers	24 months	
Cheeses packed in brine solution such as Aldumiaty, lakkawy, Alnabolsy etc.	Suitable tightly sealed moisture proof containers	12 months	
Canned butter	Hermetically sealed metal cans	12 months	
Natural Ghee	Tightly-sealed suitable containers	12 months	It is not permissible to package in PVC containers
Processed cheese	Metallic containers	18 months	
	Suitable containers	12 months	
Ice cream powder	Suitable tightly sealed, moisture proof containers	18 months	
Skimmed sterilized whipping similar cream (UHT)	Tightly sealed Carton containers lined with aluminum foil	10 months	
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products			
Canned vegetables and canned fruits	Metallic or glass containers	24 months	
Dried fruit juices	Suitable containers	18 months	

Jam, Jellies and Marmalades	Metallic or glass containers	24 months	
	Tightly sealed plastic or aluminum foil containers	12 months	
Packed whole dates	Suitable containers	12 months	
Fried potato chips and corn puffs	Plastic bags	6 months	
	Aluminum foils bags or nitrogen atmosphere in carton lined with tin foils containers or in metallic containers	9 months	
Dried fruits such as figs, raisins, prunes, apricots, etc	Carton or plastic containers	12 months	
Hot sauces all types	Glass containers	24 months	Mentioned on the label the statement(Subjected to commercial sterilization)
Pickles	Tightly sealed Glass or plastic containers	18 months	Store at 1-5° C
	Metallic containers lined with plastic or glass containers	24 months	Mentioned on the label the statement(Subjected to commercial sterilization)
	Plastic containers or plastic bags in well sealed tins cans	12 months	
Spiced tomato sauce	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Glass containers	18 months	
Hot sauce	Suitable containers	24 months	
Concentrated fruits or vegetable juices	Metallic containers	24 months	
Date- grape debs	Tightly sealed suitable containers	18 months	
	Normal containers	12 months	
Sterilized Fruit nectar or mixed fruit nectar	Metallic containers	24 months	
	Glass containers	12 months	
Sterilized Fruit juices and drinks	Suitable containers	12 months	

Tomato sauce (tomato paste), tomato pulp, ketchup and peeled tomato	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Glass containers	18 months	
	Plastic or carton containers lined with aluminum foil	12 months	Packed under aseptic conditions
Table olive preserved in brine solution or by sterilization and heat treated	Tightly-sealed glass containers	18 months	
	Tightly-sealed metal or plastic containers	12 months	
Mustard salad	Tightly-sealed metal, glass or plastic containers	12 months	
Fungi such as Mushroom	Hermetically sealed metal containers	18 months	
	Tightly sealed glass containers	24 months	
Dried apricot past (Kamaruldin)	Wrapped in plastic or cellophane	12 months	
Fried fruit chips such as apples, pears, each with different flavors	Metal cans or Carton containers lined with aluminum foil, packed under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas such as nitrogen	9 months	
	Plastic bags	6 months	
Canned fruit pulp and canned concentrated fruit and vegetable juices	Tightly sealed metal or plastic containers	15 months	The statement "For manufacturing purposes, not for direct consumption" shall be declared on the label
Stuffed grape leaves	Metallic/ glass containers	12 months	
Grape leaves in brine solution	Suitable containers	18 months	
Processed and dried vegetables	Bags from aluminum foils or packed under vacuum or in		

	nitrogen atmosphere in carton bags lined with tin or metallic containers	15 months	
Processed vegetables (substitute of luncheon, salami, mortadella, frankfurters)	Suitable containers	6 months	
Vegetable fats, Oils and Their Products			
Vegetable oil and hydrogenated vegetable oils and their derivatives such as palm olein and styrene	Plastic containers	12 months	It is not permissible to package in PVC containers
	Glass containers		
Vegetable oils	Metallic or dark glass containers	18 months	
Vegetable or animal ghee	Metallic containers	18 months	
Cereals, Pulses and Nuts and Their Products			
Product	Type of Packaging	Storage at normal atmosphere	Storage at refrigerated (+1 to +4) °c
Normal bread	Suitable containers	2 days	7 days
croissant cake	Suitable containers	2 days	7 days
Cake , flat cake , sponge cake, chocolate cake , fruit cake	Suitable containers	2 days	7 days
Pound cake , baked rolls	Suitable containers	3 days	7 days
Cheese cake	Suitable containers	Not store	3 days
Ready cake	Suitable containers	14 days	30 days
Stuffed cake with cream	Suitable containers	Not store	2 days
Doughnut cake	Suitable containers	2 days	2 days
Ground roasted coffee	Packed in metallic or aluminum foils containers under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas	18 months	
Instant coffee	Metallic or glass or aluminum Foils or from special paper containers	24 months	
Sweetened or salted	Carton		

biscuits	containers or wrapped in special paper or cellophane or aluminum foils	12 months	
	Metallic cans	12 months	
Oat	Tightly-sealed metal cans	24 months	
Stuffed or covered biscuits	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Carton, plastic, cellophane or aluminum foil containers	12 months	
Oat flakes	Tightly-sealed metal cans	24 months	
	Other containers	12 months	
Cake mixes	Paper containers or aluminum foils	18 months	
Cake, croissant ,dough baked ,processed and automatically wrapped	Suitable containers	6 months	
Cake with cream	Suitable containers	6 months	
Pulses powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	12 months	
Crushed pulses	Suitable containers	24 months	
Wheat brain	Suitable containers	12 months	
Noddels	Suitable containers	9 months	
Canned pulses such as chick pea, chick pea ,chick pea with tehen and fowl medames Etc	Tightly-sealed glass containers	24 months	
	Hermetically sealed metal containers	18 months	
	Carton containers lined with aluminum foil	12 months	

Shelled roasted nuts, salted or sweetened	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags, packed under vacuum or in nitrogen atmosphere	18 months	
	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags	12 months	
	Sacks or cloths	6 months	
Shelled roasted nuts coated with a layer of hard candy	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags	18 months	
	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags	12 months	
Flour	Cloth bags	6 months	Temperature not exceeding 21oC in well ventilated stores far from moisture and contamination sources
	Packed in paper or plastic bags	12 months	
Pulses powder such as chick pea powder dried ground falafel	Suitable moisture proof containers	12 months	
Peanut butter	Tightly-sealed glass or plastic containers	12 months	
Starch, all types	Carton or plastic containers	24 months	
Breakfast cereals such as corn, wheat, rice flakes, etc	Carton containers or aluminum foils	12 months	
Unwholesome semolina	Suitable containers	12 months	
Whole semolina	Suitable containers	6 months	
Ground roasted coffee with cardamun	Packed in metal or aluminum foil containers under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas such as nitrogen	18 months	
	Aluminum foils or special moisture proof paper containers	12 months	
	Carton or plastic containers	24 months	

Water and Beverages			
Malt beverage	Hermetically sealed metal cans	12 months	
	Hermetically sealed metal cans	9 months	
Natural concentrated fruit drinks (squash)	Suitable containers	24 months	
Artificial, concentrated fruit drinks	Suitable containers	18 months	
Artificial drinks with natural or artificial flavors	Plastic or carton containers lined with aluminum foil	9 months	Packed under aseptic conditions
	Tightly-sealed metal or glass containers	12 months	
Carbonated beverages and non carbonated energy drinks	metal containers	9 months	
	Glass containers	12 months	
	Plastic containers	6 months	
Non-carbonated beverages	Tightly-sealed plastic bottles	6 months	
Rose water, flower water	Tightly-sealed glass containers	12 months	
Carbonated natural mineral water	Tightly-sealed glass containers	24 months	
	Tightly-sealed plastic Containers	12 months	
Non-Carbonated natural mineral water	Tightly-sealed glass containers	24 months	
	Tightly-sealed plastic Containers	12 months	
Bottled drinking water	Suitable containers	12 months	
Iced tea	Suitable containers	12 months	
Other Different Products			
Pressed Dried baker's yeast-un-activated	Pressed Dried baker's yeast-un-activated	18 months	
Non-Pressed Dried baker's yeast-un-activated	Suitable containers	12 months	
Baking powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	24 months	
Custard powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Capatchino powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Cream caramel powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Muhallabia powder	Suitable moisture	18 months	

	proof containers		
Dumpling powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Vanilla powder	Suitable moisture proof, air-tight containers	24 months	
Food colors and Flavors powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	24 months	
Food colors and Flavors liquid	Plastic containers	12 months	
Vinegar	Plastic containers	6 months	
Chewing gum	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Coffee mate	Tightly-sealed Suitable containers	18 months	
All types of tea packed in bags	Suitable containers	18 months	
Soya milk	Carton containers lined with aluminum foil	18 months	
Nutritive drinks powder such as that containing sugars, milk solids, flour, malt, cacao powder, calcium carbonate, bicarbonate, Different flavors	Tightly-sealed metal or aluminum foil containers, packed under vacuum	18 months	
	Other moisture proof containers	12 months	
Artificial beverage powder	Suitable containers	18 months	
Cocoa powder	Metallic, glass or aluminum foils containers packed under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas	24 months	
	Other containers such as paper or plastic	12 months	
Jelly powder	Carton or plastic containers	18 months	
Plain hard candy	Suitable containers	24 months	
Enriched fortified	Suitable containers	12 months	

hard candy			
Soup powders	Carton plastic or aluminum foils containers	18 months	
Soup, partially dehydrated in cubic form, etc.	Carton plastic or aluminum foils containers	12 months	
Brown sugar	Carton or plastic bags	18 months	
Halawa Teheniah	Metallic or Plastic containers	12 months	
	Wrapped in paper or aluminum foils	6 months	
Concentrated cane syrup	Tightly-sealed containers	18 months	
	Suitable containers	12 months	
Soft candy	Suitable containers	12 months	
Iodized salt	Suitable containers	6 months	
Snack foods	Suitable containers	12 months for baked and roasted 6 months for other products	
Basbossa powder	Suitable containers	9 months	
Mayonnaise	Metal or glass containers	12 months	
All types of chocolate	Packed in carton, aluminum foils or plastic containers	16 months	Provided that the nuts content not exceeding 5% from product weight
Raw chocolate (unprocessed)	Suitable containers	24 months	
Green tea	Suitable containers	18 months	
Royal jelly	Suitable containers	12 months	Frozen at -18° C
		24 months	For dry product or in a capsule form at 25° C
		12 months	For powder
Wax bees	Suitable containers	24 months	

- 4.5 Food products exempted from indication of expiration date, but the production date, packaging date or harvesting date should be written:
- Fresh fruits and vegetables, including potatoes which have not been peeled, cut or similarly treated;
 - Bakers' ware or pastry which are normally consumed within 24 hours from their manufacture ;
 - Vinegar packed in glass containers.
 - Non- fortified edible salt;
 - Solid sugars
 - Chewing gum.
 - Honey
 - Dry and dried legumes, uncooked and un-canned such as peas, kidney bean, chick peas, broad beans, Egyptian beans, lentils, etc;
 - Dried vegetables; medical plants and herbs, anise, chamomile, clove, saffron, ... etc;
 - Loose tea.
 - Dry cereals (rice- barley- oats- corn...etc.)-
 - Liquid and dried glucose.

ANNEX

Manufacturers producing food products shall specify the actual expiry period for their product, as regards the optional expiry period mentioned in this Standard, the authority side shall have the right to order the scientific justify for the declared periods on the products, if it's necessary.

Products that are not included among this Standard shall be specified by consultation with the authority side depending on scientific bases for determining the expiry periods and obtaining its consent.

Any kind of the food packages conforming to Gulf standards may be used, provided that they are free from any damage (cut, destroyed).

The expiry period for processed or repackaged products from materials of limited expiry period without being subjected to any thermal procession shall not exceed the remaining expiry period of the materials from which they are prepared.