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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

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Morocco

Post: Rabat

Food Labeling - Shelf Life

Report Categories:

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

FAIRS Subject Report

Beverages

Retail Foods

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Food Processing Ingredients

Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional

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Report Highlights:

This report is the unofficial translation of Law 17-88 along with its implementing measures: Decree 2-95-908 and Order 440-01, all of which concern shelf life and maximum storage temperatures. These measures have not been notified to the WTO.

Law No. 17-88 relating to the indication of shelf life on preserved packaged products and packaged beverages, intended for human or animal consumption promulgated by the Dahir N. 1-88-179 of Rabii I 22, 1414 (September 10, 1993);

(BO No- 4227 of November 3, 1993, page 619)

Considering the constitution, in particular Article 26 thereof,

DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Is promulgated and will be published in the Official Gazette, following the present Dahir, the Law No. 17-88 relating to the indication of the shelf life on preserved packaged products and packaged beverages, intended for human or animal consumption, adopted by the House of Representatives on Chaoual 29, 1408 (June 14, 1988).

Law No. 17-88 relating to the indication of the shelf life on preserved packaged products and packaged beverages, intended for human or animal consumption

First Article

The preserved packaged products and the perishable packaged beverages, intended for the human or animal consumption must indicate their date of production and expiration date.

Article 2

The period of shelf life shall be carried out on the products referred to in Article 1 by showing the date of production and the shelf life by:

- The day and the month for the products whose shelf life exceeds three (3) months;
- The month and the year for the products whose shelf life is greater than three (3) months without exceeding eighteen (18) months;
- As regards products whose shelf life is longer than eighteen (18) months, the indication of the shelf life which must be apparent on the packaging, the canning or bottle and by legible figures following the production and the expiry dates.

The list of products mentioned above is laid down by Decree, which will determine, if necessary, the special conditions of the product preservation.

Article 3

The sale or exposure to the sale of products whose shelf life expired is prohibited.

Article 4

Any violation of the provisions of this Law is liable to a fine of 12 to 5,000 dirhams, without prejudice to more serious convictions provided for by specific legislation.

Article 5

Infringements of the provisions of the present Law and the texts adopted for its application are sought in accordance with the provisions of the [Law N. 13-83](#) relating to the fraud prevention on the goods promulgated by the Dahir N. 1-83-108 of Moharrem 9, 1405 (October 5, 1984).

Article 6

The procedures of application of the provisions of this law are laid down by Decree.

Article 7

This law comes into force from the date of its publication in the Official Bulletin.

Done in Rabat, on Rabii I 22, 1414 (September 10, 1993)

For countersigning, The Prime Minister

Mohammed KARIM-LAMRANI

Decree [No. 2-95-908 of Moharrem 18, 1420 \(May 5, 1999\)](#) adapted in implementation of the [Law No. 17-88](#) relating to the indication of the period of validity on the preserved packaged products and the packaged beverages, intended for human or animal consumption.

(BO No- 4692 of May 20, 1999, page 293)

THE PRIME MINISTER,

Considering the [Law No. 17-88](#) relating to the indication of the period of validity on preserved packaged products, and packaged beverages, intended for human or animal consumption promulgated by the Dahir N. 1-88-179 of Rabii I 22, 1414 (September 10, 1993);

Considering the [Law N. 13-83](#) relating to the fraud prevention on the goods promulgated by the Dahir N. 1-83-108 of Moharrem 9, 1405 (October 5, 1984);

After examination by the Council of Ministers held on Moharrem 2, 1420 (April 19, 1999),

Order

FIRST ARTICLE: In accordance with the provisions of article 1 of the abovementioned [Law No. 17-88](#), the preserved packaged products, and the packaged beverages, perishable, intended for the human or animal consumption, must bear the indication of their date of production and that of their expiry.

For the purposes of this Decree, the following terms mean:

- 1- Preserved:** Perishable foods of animal or vegetable origin, whose preservation is ensured by the combined use of the two following techniques:
 - Packaging in a container, which is impervious to liquids, gases and microorganisms at any temperature below 55 ° C.
 - Treatment by heat or any other mode authorized by the regulations in force. The purpose of this treatment must be to destroy or totally inhibit, for one part, the enzymes and the other part, microorganisms and their toxins, the presence or proliferation of which may alter the foodstuff in question or make it unfit for human consumption.
- 2- Packaged:** Any foodstuff as long as it is prepackaged.
- 3- Foodstuff:** Any foodstuff product or drink intended for human or animal consumption.
- 4- Pre-packaged foodstuff:** The sale unit constituted by a foodstuff and the packaging in which it was packaged prior to its presentation for sale, whether or not this package covers it wholly or in part, but in such a way that the contents can not be modified without the packaging being opened or modified.

ARTICLE 2: The list of products referred to in the second paragraph of Article 2 of [Law No. 17-88](#) referred to above is fixed in Annex I of this Decree. For these products, the period of validity and, if applicable, the special conditions of conservation, in particular the temperature to be respected, according to which it has been determined are fixed by Joint Order of the Minister of Agriculture and the minister(s) concerned.

For pre-packaged foods not listed in the list of products mentioned above, the date to which these products retain their specific properties under the appropriate conditions is the responsibility of the packer.

ARTICLE 3: The special conditions of preservation must be stated by labeling on the products according to the procedures, which will be specified by Joint Decree of the Minister of Agriculture and the minister(s) concerned.

ARTICLE 4: The expiration date is expressed on the label in the form:

a) For the products, appearing on the list referred to in Annex I of this Decree:

« **best before ...** » Followed by the date indicated in accordance with Article 5 below.

It may also be expressed by the reference « **to consume until the date appearing...** » followed by the place where it appears on the packaging.

b) For products, not appearing on the list referred to in Annex I to this Decree:

« **to be consumed preferably before...** » followed by the date indicated in accordance with Article 5 below.

It may also be expressed by the reference « **to consume preferably before the date appearing...** » followed by the place where it appears on the packaging.

The non-perishable prepackaged foodstuffs listed in Annex II to this Decree are exempted from the indication of the expiry date.

ARTICLE 5:

The expiry date mentioned above and the date of production provided for in the First Article of the abovementioned [Law No. 17-88](#) must be indicated on the packaging and expressed, apparently, in perfectly legible characters, and indelible.

ARTICLE 6:

This decree shall come into force six months after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Done in Rabat, on Moharrem 18, 1420 (May 5, 1999).

ABDERRAHMAN YOUSOUFI

For countersigning:

Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Maritime Fisheries, LAHBIB ELMALKI

The Minister of Health, ABDELOUAHED ELFASSI

ANNEX I

Provisional list of foodstuffs to be marked with the expiry date (SLD)

Meat:

- Ground meat, packaged and refrigerated
- Ground meat, frozen or deep-frozen
- Parts of meat, packaged and refrigerated
- Parts of meat, packaged and frozen or deep-frozen
- Deli products, cooked and packaged
- Raw deli products, packaged, dried and preserved as they are
- Raw deli products packaged and refrigerated to consume after cooking
- Whole eviscerated poultry and refrigerated
- Whole eviscerated poultry and frozen or deep-frozen.
- Parts of poultry, packaged and frozen or deep-frozen
- Semi-preserved meat or poultry
- Offal packaged and refrigerated
- Offal packaged and frozen or deep-frozen
- Whole eviscerated Rabbits and game, packaged and refrigerated
- Whole eviscerated Rabbits and game, packaged frozen or deep-frozen.
- Pieces of rabbits and game, packaged and refrigerated
- Pieces of rabbit and game packaged frozen or deep-frozen.
- Semi-preserved rabbits and game;
- Frog legs packaged frozen or deep-frozen

Milk and dairy products:

- Raw milk, packaged
- Pasteurized milk, packaged
- Sterilized milk, packaged
- Sterilized UHT Milk, packaged
- Fresh raw cream, packaged
- Pasteurized creams, packaged
- Sterilized creams, packaged
- Sterilized creams UHT, packaged
- Edible ice and pasteurized ice cream, packaged
- Preparation for pasteurized creams, packaged
- Preparation for raw creams, packaged.
- Fermented milks, packaged
- Pasteurized buttermilk, packaged
- Fresh cheese, packaged
- Soft cheese and parsley, packaged and refrigerated
- Pasteurized white cheese, packaged.

Fishing Products:

- Fresh fish, packaged and refrigerated
- Fat fish
- Lean fish
- Fish frozen or deep-frozen
- Fatty fish, prepackaged
- Lean fish, prepackaged
- Flat fish, prepackaged

- Smoked fish, prepackaged
- Salted fish, cold smoked
- Salted fish, heat smoked
- Dried fatty fish, prepackaged
- Dried lean fish, prepackaged
- Semi-preserved fish
- Molluscs and crustaceans, prepackaged and frozen or deep-frozen
- Molluscs and crustaceans, prepackaged and refrigerated

Cooked dishes:

- Refrigerated
- Preserved hot
- Frozen or deep-frozen

Eggs and egg products:

- Pasta with eggs
- The contents of eggs, packaged or frozen.

Groceries:

- Edible fats packaged frozen or deep-frozen
- Fresh pasta stuffed with animal foodstuffs or animal

Waters and drinks:

- Mineral waters, spring or table
- Beverages and lemonades
- Fruit juices.

ANNEX II

List of non-perishable foodstuffs exempted from the indication of the expiry date.

- Fresh fruit and vegetables, including potatoes, which have not been peeled, cut or other similar treatments. This derogation does not apply to germinating seeds and similar products such as legume juice
- Wines, liqueur wines, sparkling wines, aromatized wines and similar products obtained from fruit other than grapes
- Drinks containing 10% or more by volume of alcohol
- Bakery and pastry products, which by their nature, are normally consumed in the period of 24 hours after manufacture;
- Vinegars
- Kitchen salts
- Sugars in the solid form
- Confectionery products consisting almost solely of flavored and / or colored sugar;
- Chewing gums and similar chewing products
- Individual doses of ice cream

Joint Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Waters and Forests, the Minister for Maritime Fisheries and the Minister of Health [No. 440-01 of 2 hija 1421 \(26 February 2001\)](#) Regarding to the Period of Validity and the Conditions of Conservation of Certain Products.

- **THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WATERS AND FORESTS,**
- **THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES,**
- **THE MINISTER OF HEALTH,**

Considering the [law N° 17-88](#) relating to the indication of the period of validity the preserved packaged products and packaged drinks intended for the human or animal consumption, promulgated by the Act N° 1-88-179 of the 22- 1414 (September 10, 1993)

Considering the [Decree N° 2-95-908](#) of the 18th Moharrem 1420 (May 5th, 1999) taken under the aforementioned [law N° 17-88](#), in particular its articles 2 and 3,

Order

FIRST ARTICLE. - The period of validity (Shelf life) of preserved packaged products and packaged drinks intended for human or animal consumption appearing in Annex I of the abovementioned [Decree N° 2-95-908](#) of 18 Moharrem 1420 (May 5, 1999) as well as the temperature of their storage are listed in the table annexed to this order.

ART. 2. - In addition to the indication of the date of production, and the expiration date which must be indicated on the packaging in accordance with the provisions of the abovementioned [Decree N° 2-95-908](#) of 18 Moharrem 1420 (5 May 1999). The same expiration date followed by the indication of temperature storage, must be clearly expressed and in perfectly legible and indelible characters at the level of the labeling of the products listed in the table annexed to this order.

ART.3. – The present order will be published in the Official Bulletin.

Rabat, on 2 hija 1421 (February 26, 2001)

The Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Waters and Forests, Ismail Alaoui

The Minister of Fisheries, Said Chbaatou

The Minister of Health, Thami El Khyari

Annex

Durability and storage temperature of foodstuffs to be marked with the expiry date

(amended and supplemented by the joint order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries and of the Minister of Health [n ° 1001-15 of 21 jomada I 1436 \(March 12, 2015\)](#) - [BO n ° 6348 of 02/04/2015, page 1144](#))

(repealed and replaced by the joint order of the Minister of Agriculture, Sea Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests and the Minister of Health [No. 2473-17 of 28 Chaabane 1439 \(May 15, 2018\)](#) - [BO No 6692 of 19/07/2018, page 1425](#))

Foodstuffs	Shelf life	Maximum Temperature for Storage
Meat:		
Ground meat, packaged and refrigerated:		
- Seasoned	6 days	3 ° c
- unseasoned	3 days	3 ° c
Ground meat, frozen or deep-frozen	12 months	-18 ° c
Parts of meat, packaged and refrigerated:		
- as they are	6 days	3 ° c
- under controlled atmosphere	9 days	3 ° c
- seasoned or coated	9 days	3 ° c
- under vacuum	12 days	3 ° c
- cooked packed under vacuum	22 days	3 ° c
Parts of meat, packaged and frozen or deep-frozen	18 months	-18 ° c
Deli products, cooked and packaged:		
- refrigerated	6 months	6 ° c
- deep-frozen	18 months	-18 ° c
Raw deli products, packaged, dried and preserved as they are.	9 months	Ambient
Raw deli products packaged to consume after cooking:		
- refrigerated	5 days	3 ° c
- refrigerated under vacuum	12 days	3 ° c
- deep-frozen	12 months	-18 ° c
Whole eviscerated poultry packaged and refrigerated		
- as they are	6 days	3 ° c
- under vacuum	12 days	3 ° c
- under controlled atmosphere	12 days	3 ° c
Whole eviscerated poultry packaged frozen or deep frozen	18 months	-18 ° c

Parts of poultry, packaged and refrigerated: - as they are - under vacuum - under controlled atmosphere - seasoned or coated	6 days 12 days 12 days 9 days	3 ° c 3 ° c 3 ° c 3 ° c
Parts of poultry, packaged frozen or deep frozen	18 months	-18 ° c
Semi-preserved meat or poultry: - pasteurized foie gras	12 months	4 ° c
Offal packaged and refrigerated: - red offal refrigerated - white offal refrigerated	5 days 2 days	3 ° c 3 ° c
Offal packaged and frozen or deep-frozen	9 months	-18 ° c
Whole eviscerated rabbits and game, packaged and refrigerated	6 days	3 ° c
Whole eviscerated rabbits and game, packaged, frozen or deep-frozen	12 months	-18 ° c
Parts of rabbits and game, packaged and refrigerated	6 days	3 ° c
Parts of rabbits and game, packaged, frozen or deep-frozen	12 months	-18 ° c
Semi-preserved of rabbits and game: - refrigerated	6 months	4 ° c
Frog legs packaged: - refrigerated - frozen or deep-frozen	6 days 12 months	3 ° c -18 ° c
Milk and dairy products:		
Pasteurized milk, packaged: - refrigerated short duration - refrigerated long duration	5 days 15 days	6 ° c 6 ° c
Sterilized Milk, packaged	6 months	Ambient
Sterilized UHT Milk, packaged	6 months	Ambient
Pasteurized cream, packaged: - refrigerated - dairy dessert	20 days 30 days	6 ° c 6 ° c
Sterilized creams, packaged	6 months	Ambient
Sterilized creams UHT, packaged	6 months	Ambient
Edible ices and ice cream, packaged: - pasteurized	24 months	-18 ° c
Preparation for pasteurized creams, packaged - refrigerated - frozen	20 days 24 months	6 ° c -18 ° c
Fermented milks, packaged	30 days	6 ° c
Pasteurized Lben, packaged	30 days	6 ° c
Fresh cheese, packaged: - with pasteurized milk, refrigerated - with raw milk, refrigerated	15 days 7 days	6 ° c 6 ° c

- in sealed packaging, pasteurized and refrigerated	30 days	6° c
Soft cheese and parsley, packaged: - refrigerated	60 days	8° c
Fish products:		
Fresh fish, pre-packaged and refrigerated		
- fatty fish	8 days	2° c
- lean fish	8 days	2° c

Fish frozen or deep-frozen - fatty fish, prepackaged - lean fish, prepackaged - flat fish, prepackaged	24 months 24 months 24 months	-18° c -18° c -18° c
Smoked fish, prepackaged - salted fish, cold smoked - salted fish, heat smoked	3 months 6 months	10° c Ambient
Dried fatty fish, prepackaged	3 months	Ambient
Dried lean fish, prepackaged	6 months	Ambient
Semi-preserved fish: - as they are	18 months	15° c
- marinated fish	3 month	5°C to PH<4.53 from the placing in a tray
- marinated fish packaged in glass jars	6 months	5°C to PH<4 from the date of production
Mollusks and crustaceans, prepackaged and frozen or deep-frozen	24 months	18° c
Mollusks and crustaceans, prepackaged and refrigerated	8 days	2° c
Cooked Dishes: - refrigerated - kept hot - frozen or deep-frozen	6 days 1 day 18 months	3° c >65° c -18° c
Eggs and Egg Products: - fresh egg-pasta, refrigerated - contained eggs, packaged frozen or deep-frozen	24 days 12 months	3° c -18° c
Grocery products: - edible fats packaged frozen or deep frozen - fresh pasta stuffed with animal foodstuffs or animal origin and refrigerated	28 months 6 days	-18° c 3° c
Waters and beverages: - fresh fruit juices, packaged and refrigerated - fresh fruit juices, vacuum packaged and refrigerated	5 days 10 days	3° c 3° c