### Guideline for Distributing Food-Past the Best Before Date

**CATEGORIES**

**Time Frame Past Best Before**
- **Room Temperature**
- **Refrigerated**
- **Frozen**
- **Canned/Jarred**
- **Boxed/Bagged**

**Product Descriptions**
- **Fresh Produce**
- **Juices and Drinks-Tetra Pack, Bottled (Not requiring refrigeration prior to opening)**
- **Loaves, Rolls, Bagels, Muffins**
- **Granola, Flours, Rices, Dry Pastas, Cookies, Crackers**
- **Packaged and Bulk**
- **Examples: Prepared Food from Food Service Providers. Canned Tuna, Salmon**
- **Deli Meats, Powdered, Canned**
- **Fresh Milk, Powdered, Canned**
- **Butter, Margarines**
- **Tetra-Pak Milk**
- **May contain Popcorn, Condiments, Tomato Sauces, Canned Pastas, Cooking Oils**
- **Soups, Stews, Gravies. Could be Food Service Packaged or in Larger Quantities**
- **Laundry Detergent, Mixed Product Pallets, Body Washes, Deodorants, Diapers, Infant Wipes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Temperature</th>
<th>2-7 days</th>
<th>1 Month</th>
<th>1 Week</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>less than 2 hours</th>
<th>less than 2 hours</th>
<th>less than 2 hours</th>
<th>1 Week</th>
<th>6 months</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>less than 2 hours</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerated</td>
<td>Fresh</td>
<td>1-4 Weeks (depending on produce)</td>
<td>3-6 Months</td>
<td>2 Week</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>3-4 Days</td>
<td>Fish and Shellfish 1-2 days other 3 Days</td>
<td>5-7 days</td>
<td>2 Week</td>
<td>3 Months</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>beef, lamb pork, veal, whole poultry 12 months, poultry pieces 6 months, ground meat 2-3 months, fish 2-6 Months, and shellfish 2-4 months</td>
<td>beef, lamb pork, veal, 3 months whole poultry 2 months, food mixtures 3 months</td>
<td>2-3 months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>3 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned/Jarred</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxed/Bagged</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1 Week</td>
<td>6-12 Months</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>6 Months</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Best Before Date**
- This gives consumers information as to when the product is at its best - as good as the day it was made when stored under appropriate conditions and packaging is in tact. Best Before dates are not indicators of Food Safety and applies to unopened products only.

**Expiry Date**
- Tells consumers that the product may not be providing them with the nutrients expected of the product and they should no longer consume it after that date.

**Products with Expiry Dates must never be shared past the date on the packaging.**
- Infant Formula (Canned or Boxed, Liquid or Powdered)
- Baby Foods (Canned or Boxed, Liquid or Powdered)
- Nutritional Supplements (Canned, Boxed, or Ready to Use, Liquid or Powdered)

**Food Products and their ability to be shared should always be based on:**
1) Ensuring the product has been handled safely (ie. Chilled product is kept chilled)
2) That the product is at a level of quality that is still worth sharing
3) That the Manufacturer's Branding will not be compromised if the product is shared

**Note**
- Information provided is to be used as a guide only. The above Information is provided based on general knowledge and industry practices

**Canned**
- See Safe Food Handling Standards to assess integrity of the can (ie. Dents, Creases, etc)

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**Categories Explained**

**Categories**
- Do Not Distribute Past Expiry Date

**January, 2011**