



European Commission

Food information & redistribution

Giving consumers access to clear, comprehensive and reliable food information to make informed and safe choices is essential.

When surplus food is redistributed, end beneficiaries must have access to the same information that is required and provided when food is purchased in store.

Information requirements for prepacked foods

Food information must be present and provided to the end beneficiary if food is being donated. Mandatory food information must appear directly on the package or on a label attached therein.

In certain instances (surplus food not intended for the final consumer or supplied to mass caterers), food information may also be presented in commercial documents accompanying the food.

Information requirements for non-prepacked foods

Food donation of **non-prepacked foods** is allowed if consumers receive the **required information**. Required food information is limited to the presence of **allergens** and any **other additional information required by national rules**.



Language requirements

When food is donated, mandatory food information must be provided in the official language(s) of the country or a foreign language easily understood by the consumers.



Date marking

'Use by' informs about food safety

Food donation is not allowed **after the expiry** of the 'use by' date.

Donors should ensure a **sufficient shelf life** in order to allow the **safe redistribution and use** by the final consumer.

'Best before' informs about food quality

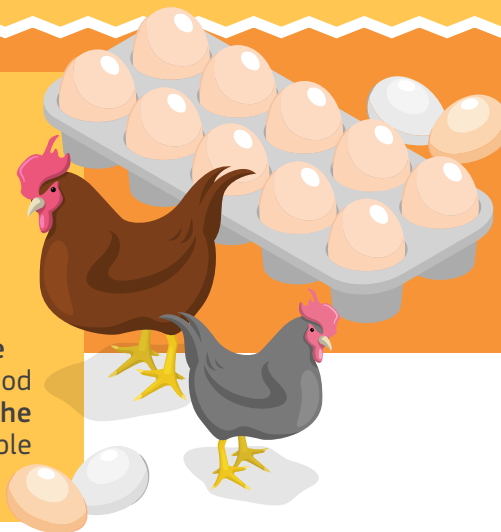
Food donation is allowed **after the expiry** of the 'best before' date.

When redistributing food past the 'best before' date, it is the responsibility of the food business operator to guarantee **proper storage conditions** and the **integrity of packaging**.

The case of eggs:

Eggs have a 'best before' date which is set at **28 days from laying**, but they can no longer be sold at retail **after 21 days from laying**.

Food donation is allowed **after the 21-day limit**, provided that the food business operator **processes the eggs** before making them available to consumers.



Relevant EU legislation

Food information to consumers (Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011)

In addition, some Member States have also adopted national measures and/or guidance.

Saving Food Together



EU guidelines on food donation focus on issues which need to be addressed at EU level. Where relevant, rules and guidelines of Member States need to be also taken into account.

#FoodDonationGuidelines #EUCircularEconomy #FoodWasteEU

Download the EU guidelines on food donation in your language here:

ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/food-donation_en