

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING
(Forty-fourth Session)
Asunción, Paraguay, 16 – 20 October 2017

European Union Comments on

Agenda item 5:

Date Marking

European Union Competence
European Union Vote

Draft Revision of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods*: date marking (CX/FL 17/44/5)

Section 4.7.1 (v) of the draft revision foresees that date marking can be provided with a day in the date [18] or without a day in the date [19].

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| <p>[18]“Use-by <insert date>” or “Expiration Date <insert date>” or “Best before <insert date>” or “Best Quality Before <insert date>” as applicable where the day is indicated; or</p> <p>[19]“Use-by end <insert date>” or “expiration date <insert date>” or “Best before <insert date>”; or “Best Quality Before <insert date>” as applicable in other cases.</p> |
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The EU considers that a date marking without a day in the date is only appropriate for foods which are stable from a safety point of view for medium to long periods of time. This possibility of not providing a day in the date should not be given to foods with short period of validity as in these cases, the date has to be precise and based on a strict risk assessment by the food business operator.

On this basis, the EU considers that the possibility of not providing a day in a date should only be given to 'best before' and 'best quality before' dates and therefore not to 'Use-by' dates and 'expiration dates'.

In addition, where a day is not part of the date marking for 'best before' and 'best quality before' dates, the term 'end' should be used before the date.

Consequently, the EU proposes to amend the text in the following way:

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| <p>[19] “Use by end <insert date>” or “expiration date <insert date>”, “Best before <u>end</u> <insert date>”; or “Best Quality Before <u>end</u> <insert date>” as applicable in other cases.</p> |
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