



November 17

Durability or Best Before dates on commodities

The Food Safety Act 1990, General Food Law Regulation EC178/2002; EC2073/2005; EC852/2004; Food Information Regulations EC1169/2011 & Food Labelling (Declaration of Allergens) England Regulations 2011 (Regulation (EC) No.178/2002; 2007/68/EC; 2000/13/EC; 2003/89/EC) all require products offered for (retail) sale to a final consumer (the general public) to have a suitable best before (end) date applied (unless the product requires a Use By date).

Commodities traded between traders & other wholesalers/caterers not intended for sale direct to the final consumer do not require a best before date applied. The final packer or trader that offers a product for sale to the final consumer must apply a Best Before date, which is made at their discretion.

For traceability purposes, all commodities should have a lot number applied.

Although many commodities do have Best Before dates applied Essential Trading neither require them nor apply them. Under suitable, cool, dry, hygienic storage conditions & through FIFO procedures the majority of stock will keep well for a significant period, although some commodities such as fruit may dry or 'sugar'; nuts may soften or turn rancid through prolonged storage. It is the responsibility of the customer to ensure that commodities are fit for their intended use, both upon receipt & prior to their own needs. Please refer to our Terms of Trade for further information

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the email below

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'P. Straker'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single blue line.

Paul Straker
Quality Assurance

quality@essential-trading.coop

BSc (Hons) FQC; HND FIM; CIEH AFH & Registered Trainer; Cert. of P in S.
Essential Trading Co-operative Ltd
Unit 3 Lodge Causeway Trading Estate
Bristol, BS16 3JB