

Thailand Date Labeling Regulations: PPP in Practice

Nopawan Charlongpuntarat Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) Public Company Limited, Thailand

June 2025



Outline



Thailand's Regulations on Date Labeling



CPF Sustainable Packaging



Public-Private Partnership on Regulatory Affairs (RA)









 Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 450) B.E. 2567 (2024) Issued by virtue of the Food Act B.E. 2522



 Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (Unofficial) Notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 450) B.E. 2567 (2024) Issued by virtue of the Food Act B.E. 2522 Re: Labeling of Prepackaged Foods

It deems appropriate to amend the notification of the Ministry of Public Health, Re: Labels.

By the virtue of provisions of Section 5in the first phrase, and 6 (10) of the Food Act B.E. 2522 (1979), the Minister of Public Health hereby issues the notification as follows:

Clause 1. The following Notifications shall be repealed

(1) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 367) B.E. 2557 (2014), Re: Labeling of Prepackaged Foods, dated 8^{th} May B.E. 2543 (2014),

(2) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 383) B.E. 2560 (2017), Re: Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (No. 2), dated 27^{th} February B.E. 2560 (2017),

(3) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 401) B.E. 2562 (2019), Re: Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (No. 3), dated 25^{th} April B.E. 2562 (2019),

(4) The notification of the Ministry of Public Health (No. 410) B.E. 2562 (2019), Re: Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (No. 4), dated 14^{th} August B.E. 2562 (2019),

Clause 2. In this Notification

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Definition of Expiration Date and Best Before or Best Before End

"Expiration Date" means the date which signifies the end of quality of food under any stated storage conditions, after this date the food cannot be marketable.

"Best Before or Best Before End" means the date which signifies the end of the period of food to have the best quality under any stated storage conditions indicating on the label. Beyond this date, the quality of the food may change, after this date the food cannot be marketable.



Example: Shelf-Life Indication of Food Sold in Thailand

Food indicating "Expiry Date/EXP"

อาหารที่ระบุ "วันหมดอายุ/EXP"



Source: "Shelf-Life Determination for Food" by Mayuree Paklumjeak, Thai Printing Journal, Issue 147, July 2024, Thai Printing Association

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Example: Shelf-Life Indication of Food Sold in Thailand

Food indicating "Best Before or Best Before End"

อาหารที่ระบุ "ควรบริโภคก่อน/BB, BBE"



Source: "Shelf-Life Determination for Food" by Mayuree Paklumjeak, Thai Printing Journal, Issue 147, July 2024, Thai Printing Association



Example: Shelf-Life Indication of Food Sold in Thailand with Storage Instruction



Source: "Shelf-Life Determination for Food" by Mayuree Paklumjeak, Thai Printing Journal, Issue 147, July 2024, Thai Printing Association



Example: Warning Statement



Translation:

Warning: Children and pregnant women should not consume. This product is not intended to treat or prevent any disease.

Example: Cooperation/Campaign on Consumer Education

อย. เผย ไม่แนะนำให้บริโภคอาหารหลังวันหมดอายุ หรือควรบริโภคก่อน 6 ธันวาคม 2564



อย. แนะผู้บริโภค สังเกตวัน "ควรบริโภคก่อน" (BB/BBE) และ "หมดอายุ" (EXP) **บนฉลากอาหาร หาก**

https://food.fda.moph.go.th/faqs/prosecute-02

การใช้วันหมดอายุ หรือควรบริโภคก่อน ต่างกันอย่างไร

🛗 24 พฤศจิกายน 2566

<u>ตอบ</u> "หมดอายุ" หมายความว่า วันที่ซึ่งแสดงการสิ้นสุดของคุณภาพของอาหารภายใต้เงื่อนไข การเก็บรักษาที่ระบุไว้

"ควรบริโภคก่อน" หมายความว่า วันที่ซึ่งแสดงการสิ้นสุดของช่วงเวลาที่อาหารนั้นยังคงคุณภาพดี ภายใต้เงื่อนไขการ เก็บรักษาที่ระบุไว้

วันที่ควรบริโภคก่อนแตกต่างจากวันที่หมดอายุคือ ควรบริโภคก่อนวันที่สิ้นสุดของช่วงเวลาที่อาหารนั้นยังคงคุณภาพ ดี โดยอาหารบางชนิดอาจยังสามารถบริโภคได้ ตัวอย่างเช่น สีของอาหารจางลงแต่คุณภาพของอาหารยังไม่เปลี่ยนแปลง เป็นต้น ทั้งนี้หลังจากวันที่หมดอายุหรือควรบริโภคก่อนที่ระบุบนฉลากอาหารไว้นั้น อาหารนั้นวางจำหน่ายไม่ได้

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🖉 ทำฉลากอาหารอย่างไรไม่ให้ถูกดำเนินคดี

https://dis.fda.moph.go.th/detail-newsUpdate?id=2179

Example: Cooperation/Campaign on Consumer Education



https://vinsure.viriyah.co.th/blog/expiration-date-manufacturing-date-best-before



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FDA: Policy related to Sustainability in Food System / Food Waste

FDA has implemented policies related to sustainability food system and food waste reduction, such as:



Promote the use of digital labels: The FDA has drafted a notification on drinking water without plastic labels, switching to digital labels instead. This helps reduce problem of plastic waste and promotes easier recycling of plastic bottles.



Support Circular Economy: The FDA's policy aims to reduce food waste and promote efficient resource use, which is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Public-Private O2 Partnership on Regulatory Affairs (RA)

Public-Private Partnership on Regulatory Affairs (RA)



Organize a meeting of the RA group members to attend twice a month to discuss on issues that private sector must comply with the new regulations issued by the FDA.

Participate in providing opinions and suggestions on new notifications and regulations from the FDA.





Arrange a special lecture by inviting experts from the FDA to be speakers, allowing for questions in a non-aggressive atmosphere.

Cooperate with the FDA and relevant government agencies on various occasions, such as campaigns to educate consumers.







SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING POLICY AND PRINCIPLE Charoen Pokphand Foods Public Company Limited and Subsidiaries



Packaging

The Company recognizes the importance of packaging that helps protect and maintain the quality and safety of products, while considering the environmental impact resulting from the resources used in the production of packaging through to the transition into waste. The Company is committed to the R&D of sustainable packaging design and management practices based on circular economy concepts throughout the value chain, to maximize resource utilization in packaging production, reduce packaging waste issues, and promote the use of materials that help mitigate environmental impacts under the Company's Sustainable Packaging Policy and Principle.



https://www.cpfworldwide.com/en/sustainability/7focus/climate_action/circular/packaging6

CPF's principle to optimize our packaging to ensure sustainable packaging development and

management:

Promote the use of materials from sustainably managed renewable resources Support initiatives take-back system to recycle or recover energy from used packaging Increase recycled material content where appropriate, without compromising food safety & quality

Develop to move from single-use towards reuse models for packaging used in production line or transportation as relevant

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https://www.cpfworldwide.com/en/sustainability/7focus/climate_action/circular/packaging





By 2030 the Company commits to:

 100% of the Company's plastic food packaging to be reusable or recyclable or upcyclable or compostable

• Eliminate problematic or unnecessary plastic packaging



https://www.cpfworldwide.com/en/sustainability/7focus/climate_action/circular/packagin

Innovative Material

Select packaging innovations that are suitable for products and reduce environmental impacts.

 Thailand operations collaborate with PTTGC, a packaging manufacturer to develop transparent bio-plastic trays made from Polylactic Acid (PLA), derived from corn, which are be biologically compostable. These trays have been used for packaging fresh pork and chicken sold in supermarkets since 2015.



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Consumption

Elimination of Single-Use Plastics





Chester's restaurants use melamine plates, stainless steel cutlery, and glasses without using single-use plastics in over 200 branches nationwide.



Five Star restaurants in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos operations use paper bags for fried chicken instead of plastic bags. In Thailand, we are the first Thai franchise brand to switch from plastic bucket lids to FSC-certified paper lids.



Plastic Content





Remark:

¹ The percentage of recyclable, reusable or compostable plastic packaging for food products excludes multi-material plastics, and alufoil. The reported figures covers Thailand, Vietnam, Russia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Türkiye, Laos, and Belgium operations.

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04 Takeaways

Takeaways





In Thailand, regulations related to best before and best before dates are relatively new. Regulations issued by Regulators must adapt to the fast-paced food production world, focusing on participation from private sector, consumer protection agencies and other related parties.



Thai consumers in certain parts of Thailand may not have proper intelligence on date labeling scheme, campaigns to disseminate such information are important and must be carried out continuously.



While it is important for us to reduce food waste, it is equally important that consumers must be well informed of date labeling scheme.



Thank You