



FOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT

IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODSTUFF





DUBAI MUNICIPALITY



IMPORT AND RE-EXPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODSTUFF





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Introduction:

Food Import & Re-Export Regulations

Food Import & Re-Export activities are considered among the most vital and important activities for Dubai economy and constitute evident symbols of its progress and prosperity.

Dubai has become the international hub of trade in the Middle East, especially with regards to the trading of food with substantial quantities imported and exported through its ports each year. Such high volume of trade could not be controlled without establishing proper food control procedures enforced by an active, efficient & effective food control authority. This authority aims at guaranteeing the safety and quality of imported & re-exported food, while ensuring simple & prompt procedures and transactions to facilitate food trade.

Since its establishment, Dubai Municipality has always been keen on upgrading its control authorities to cope with the development of the Emirate. To achieve this goal, the Municipality has capitalized on its valuable potentials – in terms of staff & technologies - and utilized its tremendous accumulated experience to lead the region in this regard. This has resulted in establishing a department which is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of the consumer through applying the most suitable standards and specification with the goal of providing safe and wholesome food.

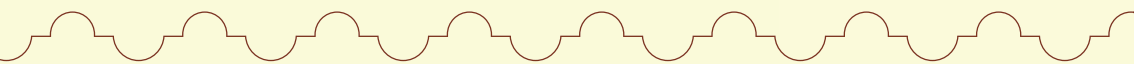
The Food Control Department of Dubai Municipality is pleased to publish this booklet to help food traders understand the regulations, guidelines, and procedures of importing and re-exporting foods in the Emirate of Dubai to ensure timely transactions and avoid any costly delays or losses.

Please accept our commitment to provide the best services and we wish you success and continued prosperity.

Khalid Sharif Al Awadhi

Director of Food Control Department





Food Import Re-Export System (FIRS)

To keep up its pace with the Emirate's electronic developments, Dubai Municipality has been the spearhead in adopting the most innovative electronic programs and services at all departments. Food Import Re-Export System (FIRS) is considered the most important and the biggest electronic service provided by Dubai Municipality, and is among the best programs of its nature around the world. Some of the attributes of this system are indicated below:

- It covers all services provided by the Food Trade Control Section of the Food Control Department. Such services include: importing foods, importing foods for re-export, food label approval, issuing all kinds of health certificates, food destruction application and issuing of their certificates. This is in addition to displaying all circulars and information to food traders, all food establishments, and other internal & external clients.
- The possibility of submitting applications from anywhere in the world, in addition to performing all kinds of follow ups and submission of attachments.
- The system registers all food items and linking food product information to its barcode.
- The program is fully electronic: starting with approval & registration of food items, food importation, food inspection, performing follow ups, till closing the transaction.
- All fees can be paid electronically.
- It includes an advanced food sampling system which is based on analyzing the risk of each food item, while ensuring complete integration with the electronic program of DM Food & Environment Laboratory. This guarantees prompt and correct laboratory results for the collected food samples.

Food Import Regulations

These regulations are applicable on all food consignments at all ports of entry in Dubai, and on all licensed establishments in UAE which their licensed activity is related to foodstuff.

Before importing any food product, the importing establishment must ensure that:

A. It is registered with Dubai Municipality E-Government. The registration includes the following steps:

- Submitting an electronic application by logging on DM website: www.dm.gov.ae and pressing on register & selecting (apply for company and Admin. user registration) and following the instructions.
- A company's representative shall come to the e-government counter at customer service in DM Karama office and submit the company's trade license copy, registration request number and the company's official stamp.

B. Activate the Food Import & Re-export service by registering with the Food Import & Re-export System (FIRS) program which belongs to Food Trade control Section. To register you need the following:

- Registration with the e-government (see above).
- Submitting a copy of the company's trade license.
- The company's telephone and fax numbers.
- The company's email.
- Post Office Box number of the company.
- Name and mobile number of the company's representative.
- Location details of the warehouse (warehouses) of the company in Dubai (Zone, street, etc)
- Telephone and fax numbers of the warehouse (warehouses)

C. Approving the label for any packaged food item which has not been approved before. The food label approval requires the following:

- Submitting an electronic application through the (FIRS). The application may include one or more food items. This is done by choosing "approving food label" from the main menu.
- Each food label shall contain the following:
 - 1 Brand Name
 - 2 Product name (a summarized description of the food product).
 - 3 The food ingredients (arranged in a descending order according or weight or volume).
 - 4 Production & expiration dates of all products (except those which are exempted from displaying the validity or expiration dates).



- 5 Name of the food manufacturer, packer, distributor or importer.
 - 6 Net weight or volume.
 - 7 Country of Origin (if its omission leads to deceiving or misleading the consumer).
 - 8 Product's barcode.
 - 9 Lot number
 - 10 Language of the label shall be in Arabic. Approved stickers could be used to translate the food labels in Arabic Language.
***The minimum requirement for the Arabic information on the label or sticker are indicated in C (2,3,7) above and any of (11,13,14) indicated below, if required.**
 - 11 Storage conditions (if the validity of the product depends on such conditions).
 - 12 Mentioning the ingredients which may cause hypersensitivity
 - 13 Instructions for using the product (if needed)
 - 14 Displaying the nutritional information is optional (except the products with special uses such as baby foods, foods for patients, etc).
- Submitting samples of each food product or its label (or a copy thereof) to the Food Studies & Planning section in Karama (a copy of the label may be attached with the electronic application).
 - Each food label shall be studied thoroughly by the Food Control Department. Appropriate modifications shall be noted. The application status shall be: Approved Pending Payment.
 - The company shall follow up the application and make an electronic payment and receive the approval from the Food Studies & Planning Office in Karama.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Food labels of all new products or those with amended labels must be approved before distributing the food products in Dubai.
2. Food labeling regulations may not apply on all foods, as some foods may need part of these regulations (e.g. fresh vegetables or fruits which require articles 1, 2,5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 (see labeling requirements above).
3. The stipulations included in individual food standards (if any) shall be followed to avoid committing any violations (such as presence of prohibited ingredients, microbial or chemical requirements, etc)
4. In addition to approving the food label, laboratory testing may be required before importing some products.
5. The manufacturing processes conducted on the products which are not included in GCC standard # 150-2007 (Expiration of foodstuffs) shall be mentioned when submitting an application for labeling approval.

D. All food items intended for importation should be registered in the registration and classification system (part of FIRS) based on the barcode number. This is a pre-requisite for completing any of the program's applications.

This shall be done through the following steps:

- Submitting an e-application for registering any new food item through the Food Import and Export system (FIRS) and filling the required information.
- Attaching a clear & complete image of the food label through choosing Upload Product Image.
- If the product label is not available, a sample of the food item can be submitted to the concerned officer (registration locations are mentioned in the Food Control Services Contact List which is found at the end of this booklet).

E. production & expiration dates shall be mentioned on all food packages (some exceptions apply) according to the following conditions:

- Production & expiration dates except for exempted products shall be printed on the original package or label.
- It is prohibited to write such dates manually or indicate them on a sticker (even the sticker which is used for Arabic translation).
- Double dates are not allowed (such indicating more than one production or expiration date).
- Production & expiration dates shall be clearly printed, embossed, or engraved; and shall difficult to erase.
- Day – month – year shall be indicated on food products with a validity of three months or less. Month – year shall be indicated on food products with a validity of more than three months.
- Food products are divided into three categories with regards to their validity (please refer to the tables)

Important Notes:

1. It is mandatory to register all food items at the FIRS. Without doing so, you can not submit any application for any of the provided program services.
2. For detailed information on the stipulations of labeling packaged foods, please refer to GCC standard 9-2007 or to standards of the individual food products. Copies of any standard could be purchased from the Emirates Standard & Metrology site: <http://www.esma.gov.ae>



Transactions done during the importation of foodstuff:

- 1. The importing establishment should submit an electronic import application through FIRS by logging on to DM website before the consignment arrives to the port of entry, or start the process at the port of entry. There are two types of import applications:**
 - Food import for local markets.
 - Food import for re-export.

- 2. When the consignment arrives at the port of entry, the importing establishment should bring the consignment at the inspection site of the Food Trade Section at the port of entry. The following documents should be submitted:**
 - Bill of Entry or Airway Bill.
 - Delivery Order in case of containers only.
 - An original Health Certificate approved by the governmental health authority at the country of origin.
 - Consignment packing list.
 - An original Halal Certificate issued by an Islamic Organization which is approved by UAE authorities (for meat or poultry and products thereof).
 - Any other certificates which might be required in case of any international epidemics or any certificates required based on local decisions (such as GMO-Free Certificates, Avian Flu-Free Certificates, Dioxin – Free Certificates, etc).

- 3. The consignment shall be detained at the port of entry (Stop Delivery) in the following cases:**
 - Failure to submit a Health Certificate (or a copy thereof).
 - Failure to submit a Halal Certificate (or a copy thereof), in case of meat, poultry and products thereof.
 - The whole consignment is physically unsatisfactory.
 - The consignment has considerable and evident pest infestation.
 - The establishment is blacklisted due to unsettled violations.
 - There is an administrative order to ban the establishment.
 - The activity of the importing establishment is not related to foodstuffs.

- 4. After the consignment is released from the port of entry, the establishment should ensure the following (through FIRS):**
 - There are no undertakings related to: (1- Releasing the consignment or any part thereof (Release with Detention) to the consignee warehouse. 2- Transferring one or more food items to the Deferred Inspection Procedure Unit (DIP). If there is any undertaking, the establishment should submit it electronically within one week.
 - The establishment should follow up the application through the FIRS and check the status of each item as detailed in the following table:



Table 1

	Actions taken by the Municipality	What is required by the establishment	Notes
1	<p>Normal release of the whole consignment or any part thereof</p>	<p>The establishment has the right to dispose any “normally released” items after being released from the port of entry</p>	<p>Viewing and printing this actions are possible through FIRS</p>
2	<p>The whole consignment or any part thereof is released with detention, and the establishment should not dispose of it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For this kind of release, the establishment should undertake not dispose of the released consignment or any items thereof. - Not to dispose of the consignment until a final action is taken by the Food Trade Section. <p>This action is taken in one of the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Drawing food sample from one or more items of the consignments. This takes normally about 5 – 7 working days. 2- One or more items may have some contraventions. (Actions regarding this case will be taken within 1-2 days). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A fixed financial deposit shall be submitted for an unlimited number of detained consignments - Follow-up is done by the FIRS program
3	<p>Release for re-export (the Whole consignment or any part of it)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-export the consignment within 45 days from the release date, and submit the required documents issued by the Customs Department proving the re-export of the exact quantities. 	<p>A fixed financial deposit shall be submitted for an unlimited number of consignments or a deposit for each consignment</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment may submit a request for granting a grace period to re-export the consignment, if it failed to do so within the specified period. The Food Trade Section has the right to accept reject the request based on the justifications submitted by the establishment. 	
4	Release To Other Municipality (Release the consignment for inspection under the supervision of another food control authority in the UAE.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approach the concerned food control authority to inspect the consignment and take the necessary actions. - submit the required documents to the Food Trade Control Section which prove that the transferred consignment was received by the concerned authority and appropriate actions were taken by the authority within 15 days of the release. 	A fixed financial deposit shall be submitted for an unlimited number of consignments or a deposit for each consignment
5	DIP Release (Transfer one or more items to the DIP Unit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Take the consignment from the port of entry and store it the establishment's warehouse in Dubai. - Pay the inspection fees electronically, and send the request to inspect the transferred items within 7 days of the transfer. 	A fixed financial deposit shall be submitted for an unlimited number of consignments
6	Release To Free Zone (Releasing the consignment to any free zone in Dubai)	Submitting documents which prove re-exporting the consignment, or submitting documents proving re-inspecting the consignment if the establishment decided to sell the consignment in the local market	

• Note: Only one Financial deposit is required for all previous cases



Following up the consignment to “close the case” :

The establishment should follow up the violating consignments for which “Prohibit Sale” order has been issued to “close the case”:

Table 2

Actions taken by the Municipality	The establishment could submit one of the following requests	Notes
Prohibiting sale one or more items due to some contraventions	Requests to accept re-export documents (after exporting the consignment).	The documents are issued by the Customs Department
	A request to accept food destruction documents (after destroying the specified food items).	The destruction should be conducted under the Food Trade Control Section Supervision (FTCS). Document proving the destruction should be obtained by (FTCS).
	A request for conditional release of one or more food items according to the contravention type. The location (e.g. in Dubai) and type of disposing the consignment shall be specified (e.g. catering, ship chandelling, manufacturing, etc).	The Food Trade Control Section has the right to accept or reject the request according to the procedures of the FTCS
	A request to extend the grace period to re-export or destroy the rejected food items.	The Food Trade Control Section has the right to accept or reject the request as per the procedures of the FTS

	A request to re-inspect the consignment or any part thereof if the establishment discovered that there is a difference between the inspection results and the actual situation of the consignment.	Example: rejecting one of the items due to not declaring the production & expiry dates. But after sorting the consignment at the consignee warehouse, it is found that only some packages have such violation, while the others conform to the standard.
Release the whole shipment or part of it for Re-export	A request to accept the re-export documents for the shipment or part thereof (after exporting).	Documents issued by the Customs at the port of exit proving the re-export of required items.
Release one or more item for deferred inspection at the consignee ware house (DIP)	A request to re-export the consignment or any part thereof if the establishment decided to re-export it after being transferred to the consignee warehouse for DIP	This request is submitted after the establishment pays the DIP inspection fees.
Transfer the whole shipment to be under the supervision of other food control authorities in the UAE	A request to accept documents indicating that the consignment was received by another food control authority in the UAE (after receiving the consignment by the concerned authority).	A documents issued by the concerned authority indicating that the consignment was received & appropriate actions were taken.

No establishment shall destroy non-compliant foods products without the permission of the Food Trade Control Section. Such products should be re-exported and may only be destroyed in special cases after being studied carefully by the Food Trade Control Section.

Transferring a food consignment from Dubai ports of entry to other food control authorities in UAE and vice-versa:

1 Procedures for transferring food consignments from Dubai Ports to other authorities:

- The establishment should obtain a request (which is issued by the Food Trade Control Section) to transfer the consignment to the food control authority in another Emirate. Such request shall contain the details of the consignment intended for transfer and the reasons for this transfer.
- The establishment should be licensed in the Emirate to which the consignment is transferred.
- The establishment should get an acceptance from the concerned authority in the same request.
- A fixed financial deposit should be submitted for an unlimited number of consignments or a deposit for each consignment.
- The request acceptance should be submitted to the port of entry where the consignment is. The consignment shall be released under the supervision of the concerned authority.
- The establishment should refer to the concerned authority to which the consignment is transferred for inspection and taking necessary actions.
- The establishment should submit the required documents to the Food Trade control Section proving the receipt of the transferred consignment, inspecting it and taking the necessary actions by the concerned authority within 15 days of the release date.

2 Procedures for transferring from other food control authorities in UAE to Dubai Municipality:

- One of the establishments which are licensed in Dubai obtains a request for transferring a consignment which is issued by another food control authority. The request contains the details of the consignment intended for transfer and reasons of this transfer.
- The importing establishment submits an electronic export application through the FIRS by logging on to DM website, provided that there is an approval to transfer the consignment for inspection under Dubai Municipality from the office of Food Trade Control Section at DM Karama Center.
- All the consignment items shall be released for DIP inspection by the concerned inspector at Karama Center to inspect the consignment at a location (in Dubai) which shall be specified by the establishment.
- The consignment shall be inspected by the concerned inspector at the DIP Unit and the follow up shall be conducted by the establishment and the Food Trade Section as outlined in tables (1) & (2).



Regulations of Exporting Food Consignments

There are three types of these consignments:

Food consignments exported to different countries:

Normally these consignments are not inspected at the exporting port (as the establishments which produce these foods are subjected to systematic routine inspections by the respective food control authorities in UAE. However, exporting establishments may submit a request for issuing export health certificates if the importing country requires such certificates. In this case, food establishments have to adhere to the procedures related to health certificates (this is detailed below).

Food consignments imported by the establishment for “re-export only” according to the following conditions:

- The establishment guarantees to re-export the whole consignment through submitting an “import for export request”.
- The establishment indicates in the request whether it needs a health certificate in order to save time and to facilitate the process of obtaining “NO OBJECTION” at the port of entry for issuing the health certificate.
- A grace period of 45 days is granted to re-export the consignment. This period could be renewed subject to an approval by the Food Trade Control Section.
- The establishment should obtain documents which are issued by the concerned authority proving that the consignment was re-exported by through one of UAE ports. This could be in form of an Exit Certificate detailing the quantities of the exported items.
- These consignments shall be subjected to physical inspection at the port of entry.
- If the establishment decided to sell the whole consignment or any part thereof at the local markets, the whole consignment shall be treated as a regular imported consignment.

Consignments which should be re-exported (mandatory)

- The reason for this mandatory re-export is the rejection of these consignments or any items thereof by the Food Trade Control Section as a result of violating the approved standards and specifications or being unfit for human consumption.
- The establishment should follow up these consignments electronically as indicated in Table (2) which is concerned with rejected consignments.

Services of issuing health certificates and other services

Issuing health certificates to all countries:

- The establishment which is registered with the e-Government submits a request for obtaining an export health certificate through the FIRS.
- The concerned food inspector shall receive the request and checks it to ensure that all the food items conform to the approved standards and specifications. These food items could be one of the following:
 - The items were released through one of Dubai ports of entry
 - The items were released by one of the concerned health authorities in UAE.
 - The items were released for re-export through the import for re-export request. The application for requesting health certificates was approved after inspecting the consignment by the inspectors at the port of entry and ensuring that they it conforms to the approved standards and specifications (there might be a need to take samples for laboratory testing).
 - Some items were re-inspected if any of them does not conform to the approved standards or specifications).
- After approving the certificate, it will be ready for e-payment (Approved pending payment) and the establishment should pay electronically through choosing "Health Certificate Follow up".

Issuing export health certificate to GCC countries:

- These certificates are issued for the establishments which manufacture or pack their products in Dubai and wish to export their products to one of the GCC countries.
- The registered establishment submits an electronic application through the FIRS.
- The concerned food inspector shall receive the application and ensure that all the submitted food items conform to the approved standards and specifications through the following:
 - The items are manufactured by one of the establishments which are licensed in Dubai.
 - The manufacturing establishment is inspected routinely by the Food Inspection Section, and is not banned to export or sell its products.
 - After approving the certificate it becomes ready for e-payment (Approved pending payment). So, the establishment should pay electronically through choosing "Health Certificates Follow up".



Export health certificates shall not be issued if the consignment or any part thereof is outside Dubai or could not be accessed for inspection.

Destruction Procedures for unfit foodstuff or foods which do not conform to the standards, and issuing of Destruction Certificates:

- The establishment which is registered with the e-government submits an application for “foodstuffs destruction” through the FIRS. The foods intended for destruction may be:
 - Expired, damaged, or spoiled.
 - Recently imported which become unfit for human consumption or do not conform to the standards and specifications. These foods should be re-exported to the country of origin, and shall not be accepted for destruction in Dubai without an official approval from the Food Control Department.
- If the applicant wishes to obtain a destruction certificate, he should choose that while submitting the destruction request.
- The concerned food inspector shall receive, check, and approve the application when it fulfils the requirements. The inspector shall then choose the location and time for destructing the foodstuffs.
- The applicant shall bring the foodstuffs intended for destruction at the specified time. Such foodstuffs shall be organized in way that facilitates its quantification.
- The foodstuffs shall be destructed under the supervision of the concerned team after paying the required fees.
- The destruction results shall be recorded in the FIRS by the inspector supervising the destruction process.
- If the client does not require a destruction certificate the status of the application shall be (Destructed). After that, the client shall be able to submit a destruction certificate request based on this application, which shall be approved. The destruction certificate shall be issued by DM multi service counter.
- If the client requires a destruction certificate, the transaction shall be transferred to the e-payment, after which the certificate will be issued.
- The client could follow up his transaction and know its status and perform the e-payment through the follow up mechanism related to the destruction process.

Remarks:

- No establishment has the right to destroy any prohibited food item without getting an approval from the Food Trade Section, as these items should be re-exported and are not allowed to be destroyed in Dubai except in certain cases which are decided by the Food Control Department.
- No foodstuffs shall be destructed without the supervision of the Food Trade Section, and the violating establishments shall be dealt with accordingly.
- Any Foodstuff must be destroyed under the supervision of Food Trade Section

Banned Food Additives in UAE

E. Number	Name
E104	Quinoline Yellow (yellow no.1)
E105	Fast Yellow A B
E107	Yellow 2 G (Food Yellow 5)
E123	Amaranth (C.1. 16185. FD and C Red 2)
E124	Ponceau 4 R (Red 2) (Cl. 16255)
E127	Erythrosine (FD & C Red 3) (C.I.45430) (مسموح فقط في الكرز)
E131	Patent Blue V (C.I. 42051)
E142	Green S (Acid Brilliant Green, Food Green S, Lissamine Green, C. 44090)
E924	Potassium Bromate (Bread products)
E952	Cyclamate: An artificial intense sweetener with known links to testicular atrophy in rats and monkeys. These links led to cyclamate being banned in the United Kingdom, but European Union legislation allowed cyclamate back into our food and drink.
E1510	Ethanol (alcohol)

- Adding alcohol is not allowed in any food product. However, if alcohol occurs naturally in some products such as juices, it is subjected to the limits as indicated in the respective UAE standards.
- If any product contains pork or pork products, it should be clearly declared on the label (Not only in ingredients)
- Permitted food additives for use in Gulf standards shall be indicated by their specific names or international numbers beside the common names (e.g. sodium benzoate or E 201 (preservative), Sunset yellow or E110 (color)



Expiration period for Foodstuffs

According to Gulf Standard # 150-2007 the foodstuffs are divided into two categories:

First Category: Foodstuffs with mandatory shelf life (specified).

This is divided into three main groups:

- Chilled foods which are stored at a temperature of 0 – 5C
- Baby foods which are stored in well-ventilated stores (Temperature shall not exceed 25C).
- Food Products which need specific storage temperature.

Second Category: these are the products with voluntary shelf life.

The shelf life of the products in this category is considered as guide only for the food manufacturers, as they have the right to display the shelf life of their products according to the type of the process, package, storage, and display temperature, etc. This is divided into four main groups:

- Frozen food products which are stored at a temperature not exceeding – 18C.
- Chilled food products which are stored at a temperature of 0 – 5C
- Food products to be stored at suitable temperature in well-ventilated stores (Not exceeding 25 C).

Third Category: Exempted food products

Some Food products exempted from indication of expiration date which include products without expiry date (production or crop date should be mentioned) and products without any validity date.

* * *



First Category: Mandatory Expiration periods of food products.

1- Chilled food products: To be stored at a temperature from $(-0.5 \pm 1) ^\circ\text{C}$

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Chilled meat packed under carbon dioxide atmosphere	Suitable Containers eliminating gases exchange	90 days from slaughtering date	Temperature $(-0.5 \pm 1) ^\circ\text{C}$
Edible organs and viscera such as kidneys, heart, brain, tongue, and poultry giblets.... etc.	Suitable containers	7 days	Except brain and testis Expiration period which shall not exceed 5 days From slaughtering date.
	Packed under vacuum in suitable plastic containers	51 days from slaughtering date	Temperature $(-0.5 \pm 1) ^\circ\text{C}$
	Packed under carbon dioxide atmosphere in suitable containers	90 days from slaughtering date	Temperature $(-0.5 \pm 1) ^\circ\text{C}$
Poultry meat (chicken - duck - goose – turkey - rabbits – pigeons - quails etc).	Suitable plastic containers	7 days from slaughtering	Chicken 3 days only
Beef and buffalo meat	Suitable containers	21 days from slaughtering date	
Mutton and goat meat	Suitable containers	14 days from slaughtering date	
Meat packed under vacuum	Plastic containers	10 weeks from slaughtering date	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Milk and Milk Products			
Pasteurized cream	Tightly sealed suitable plastic or carton containers	21 days	
Labnah heat treated after fermentation	Tightly sealed Plastic containers	4 months	In case of using aluminum cover it shall be isolated as to not contact the product
Pasteurized milk and Flavoured Pasteurized milk	Tightly sealed Suitable containers, plastic or paper	5 days	
Yoghurt and flavoured yoghurt	Suitable tightly Sealed containers	10 days	
Heat treated yoghurt	Suitable containers	6 weeks	
Labnah	Suitable containers	15 days	
Laban and flavoured Laban	Suitable tightly Sealed containers	7 days	
Butter	Suitable containers	2 months	
Other Different Products			
Fruit juices, drinks and nectars	Plastic or carton containers	30 days	
Margarine	Packed in plastic foils	3 months	



2- Baby foods Products stored in well-ventilated stores (Temperature shall not exceed 25 °C)

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Sterilized liquid milk prepared for infants	Tightly sealed glass or plastic containers	9 months	
Baby foods powder based on milk	Tightly sealed Metallic containers or packed under vacuum and sterilized	18 months	
Strained baby foods	Glass containers tightly sealed and sterilized	12 months	
Baby fruits juices	Glass containers tightly sealed and sterilized	12 months	
Baby foods in powder or granules form prepared from cereals, Legumes, fruits or vegetables etc.....	Carton containers lined with aluminum foils	12 months	
	Metallic Containers packed under vacuum or in presence of an inert gas.	18 months	

3- Food products that needs to be stored at specific temperature

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Storage Conditions
Fresh eggs (Table eggs)	Suitable containers	1 month	At temperature from 11°C to 15 °C
		3 months	At temperature from 4 °C to 10 °C

Second Category: Voluntary Expiration periods of food products.

1-Frozen Food Products: To be stored at a temperature not exceeding –18 °C

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Beef, buffalo, mutton and goat meat	Suitable containers	12 months from slaughtering date	
Minced meat, burger meat, sausages, liver	Plastic containers	9 months	
Chickens, rabbits, turkey duck and goose and ostrich.	Plastic containers	12 months from slaughtering date	
Edible organs and offal's: - kidneys, heart, tongue, tripe, poultry giblets... etc.	Suitable containers	6 months	
Brain, testis	Suitable containers	4 months	
Kidny	Suitable containers	9 months	
Pigeons and quails	Suitable containers	9 months from slaughtering date.	
Kabbah and Kofftah	Suitable containers	9 months	
Eggs	Suitable containers	9 months	
Egg whites and egg yolks	Suitable containers	9 months	
Fish and Shell-Fish Products - 18 °C			
Gutted and Ungutted smoked fish.	Suitable plastic containers	9 months	
Processed fish products such as fish fingers and fish fillets.... etc.	Suitable containers	12 months	



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Fish and Shell-Fish Products - 18 °C			
Lean fish	Plastic or carton containers	12 months	Fish species with oil content in edible part less than 5%
Fatty fish	Plastic or carton containers	6 months	Fish species with oil content in edible part of 5% or more.
Shrimp and shellfish	Plastic or carton containers	8 months	
Milk and Milk Products - 18 °C			
Ice cream , Milk ices and water ices	Suitable containers	12 months	
Frozen yoghurt	Suitable containers	12 months	
Butter	Suitable containers	12 months	
Margarine	In foil plastic or carton	12 months	
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products - 18 °C			
Fruits	Suitable containers	12 months	
Fruit juices	Suitable containers	18 months	
Fried potato chips	Packed in plastic bags	18 months	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products - 18 °C			
Leafy vegetables	Suitable containers	12 months	
Other vegetables	Suitable containers	18 months	
Concentrated fruit juices	Suitable containers	24 months	
Fungi such as mushroom	Suitable containers	12 months	
Cereals, Pulses and Nuts and Their Products			
Dough	Suitable containers	12 month	
Cake	Suitable containers	12 month	
Fruit muffins such as apple muffins	Suitable containers	18 months	

2-Chilled food products: To be stored at a temperature from 0 – 5 °C

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Cured or cooked processed meat packed in natural or synthetic wraps such as luncheon, salami, mortadella, frankfurters etc.	Suitable containers	6 months	
Dry salted fish	Suitable containers	12 months	



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Milk and Milk Products			
Processed cheese	Other nonmetallic containers	18 months	
Hard cheese	Suitable containers	12 months	

3- Food products to be stored at suitable temperature in well-ventilated stores (Not exceed 25 °C)

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Meat and Meat Products			
Canned meat	Sterilized Metallic containers	24 months	
Spicy salted meat such as Basterma, Salami.	Without wrapping such as Basterma, and in suitable containers for other products	6 months	If basterma is sliced, it shall be packed in suitable containers and kept refrigerated at 0 o C to 5 oC
Canned meat with vegetable	Hermetically sealed Metal cans	18 months	
Whole egg powder, egg white powder and egg yolk powder	Suitable tightly sealed Moisture proof containers	12 months	Should be stored st 10 °C GSO 1002/2007
Canned fish	Sterilized Metallic containers	24 months	
Canned shellfish	Hermetically sealed metal cans	18 months	
Dried fish and shellfish	Suitable plastic containers	12 months	
Salted fish in brine solution	Suitable containers	12 months	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Milk and Milk Products			
Skimmed dried milk	Metallic Containers packed under inert gas or under vacuum	18 months	
	Moisture-tight containers	12 months	
Full cream dried milk	Metallic Containers packed under inert gas or under vacuum	18 months	
	Moisture-tight sealed plastic or carton containers	12 months	
Sterilized milk	Non-metallic containers	6 months	
Evaporated milk	Metallic containers	12 months	
Sweetened condensed milk	Tightly sealed Carton containers lined with aluminum foil	6 months	Packed under aseptic conditions
Flavoured sterilized milk	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Other containers	6 months	
Whipping cream powder	Suitable tightly sealed Moisture proof containers	18 months	
Cheeses packed in brine solution such as Aldumiaty, Alakkawy, Alnabolsy etc.	Suitable tightly metallic or plastic sealed moisture proof containers	12 months	
Canned butter	Hermetically sealed metal cans	15 months	
Natural Ghee	Tightly-sealed Suitable containers	12 months	It is not permissible to package in PVC containers



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Milk and Milk Products			
Processed cheese	Metallic containers	18 months	
Ice cream powder	Suitable tightly sealed, moisture proof containers	18 months	
Cream	Hermetically sealed metal cans	18 months	
	Tightly sealed Carton containers lined with aluminum foil	6 months	Packed under aseptic conditions.
UHT Milk	Tightly sealed carton, coated containers lined with aluminum foil	4 months	
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products			
Canned vegetables and canned fruits	Metallic containers	18 months	
	Glass containers	24 months	
Dried fruit juices	Suitable containers	18 months	
Jam, Jellies and Marmalades	Metallic or glass containers	24 months	
	Tightly sealed plastic or aluminum foil containers	12 months	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products			
Fried potato chips and corn puffs	Plastic bags	6 months	
	Aluminum foils bags or nitrogen atmosphere in carton lined with tin foils containers or in metallic containers	9 months	
Dried fruits such as figs, raisins, prunes, apricots, etc	Carton or plastic containers	12 months	
Hot sauces all types	Glass containers	24 months	
Pickles	Tightly sealed Glass containers	18 months	
	Metallic Containers lined with plastic	12 months	
	Plastic containers or plastic bags in well sealed tinplate cans	12 months	
Spiced tomato sauce	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Glass containers	18 months	
Tomato sauce (tomato paste)	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Glass containers	18 months	
	Carton Containers lined with aluminum foil	12 months	Packed under aseptic conditions



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products			
Tomato puree (pulp) and ketchup	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Glass containers	18 months	
	Carton Containers lined with aluminum foil	12 months	Packed under aseptic conditions
Hot sauce (chili sauce)	Suitable containers	24 months	
Table olive preserved in brine solution or by sterilization and heat treated	Tightly-sealed glass containers	18 months	
	Tightly-sealed metal or plastic containers	12 months	
Mustard salad	Tightly-sealed metal, glass or plastic containers	12 months	
Fungi such as mushroom	Hermetically sealed metal containers	18 months	
	Tightly sealed glass containers	24 months	
Dried apricot past Kamaruldin)	Wrapped in plastic or cellophane	12 months	
Fried fruit chips such as apples, pears, peach with different flavours	Metal cans or Carton containers lined with aluminum foil, packed under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas such as nitrogen	9 months	
	Plastic bags	6 months	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Fruits, Vegetables and Their Products			
Canned fruit pulp and canned concentrated fruit and vegetable juices	Tightly sealed metal or plastic containers	15 months	The statement "For manufacturing purposes, not for direct consumption" shall be declared on the label
Vegetable fats, Oils and Their Products			
Vegetable oil and Hydrogenated vegetable oils and their derivatives such as palm Olean and styrene	Plastic containers	12 months	It is not permissible to package in PVC containers
Margarine	Metallic containers	12 months	
Cereals, Pulses and Nuts and Their Products			
Ground roasted coffee	Packed in metallic or aluminum foils containers under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas	18 months	
Instant coffee	Metallic or glass containers	24 months	
	Aluminum foils or special paper containers	12 months	
Sweetened or salted biscuits	Carton containers or wrapped in special paper or cellophane or aluminum foils	9 months	
	Metallic cans	12 months	
Stuffed or covered biscuits	Metallic containers	12 months	
	Carton, plastic, cellophane or aluminum foil containers	9 months	



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Cereals, Pulses and Nuts and Their Products			
Oat flakes	Tightly-sealed metal cans	24 months	
	Other containers	12 months	
Cake Mix	Paper containers or aluminum foils	18 months	
Canned pulses such as chick pea, chick pea with tehenā and fowl medames etc.	Tightly-sealed glass containers	24 months	
	Hermetically sealed metal containers	18 months	
Shelled roasted nuts, salted or sweetened	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags, packed under vacuum or in nitrogen atmosphere	18 months	
	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags	12 months	
	Plastic bags	6 months	
Shelled roasted nuts coated with a layer of hard candy	Metal cans or aluminum foil bags	18 months	
	Plastic bags	12 months	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Cereals, Pulses and Nuts and Their Products			
Flour	Cloth bags	6 months	
	Packed in paper or plastic bags	12 months	Temperature not exceeding 21oC in well ventilated stores far from moisture and contamination sources
Pulses powder such as chick pea powder dried ground falafel (Taamia)	Suitable moisture proof containers	12 months	
Peanut butter	Tightly-sealed glass or plastic containers	12 months	
Starch, all types	Carton or plastic containers	24 months	
Breakfast cereals such as corn, wheat, rice flakes, etc.	Carton containers or aluminum foils	12 months	
Ground roasted coffee with cardamom Arabic coffee)	Packed in metal or aluminum foil containers under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas such as nitrogen	18 months	
	Aluminum foils or special moisture proof paper containers	12 months	
Macaroni	Packed in Cardboard containers or plastic bags	24 months	



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Water and Beverages			
Malt beverage	Hermetically sealed metal cans	9 months	
	Tightly sealed glass containers	12 months	
Natural concentrated fruit drinks (squash)	Suitable containers	24 months	
Artificial, concentrated fruit drinks	Suitable containers	18 months	
Artificial drinks with natural or artificial flavours	Plastic or carton Containers lined with aluminum foil	18 months	Packed under aseptic conditions
	Tightly-sealed metal or glass containers	12 months	
Carbonated beverages	Metallic containers	9 months	
	Glass containers	12 months	
Non-carbonated beverages	Tightly-sealed plastic bottles	6 months	
Rose water, flower water	Tightly-sealed glass containers	12 months	
Carbonated natural mineral water	Tightly-sealed glass containers	24 months	
Other Different Products			
Dried baker's yeast	Suitable vacuum packed (metal or carton lined with aluminum foil or plastic) containers	18 months	
Baking powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	12 months	

Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Cream caramel powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Muhallabia powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Dumpling powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Vanilla powder	Suitable moisture proof, air-tight containers	24 months	
Food colours and Flavours powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	24 months	
Chewing gum	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Coffee mate	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Nutritive drinks powder such as that containing sugars, milk solids, flour, malt, cacao powder, calcium carbonate, bicarbonate, different flavours etc.	Tightly-sealed metal or aluminum foil containers, packed under vacuum	18 months	
	Other moisture proof containers	12 months	
Artificial beverage powder	Suitable containers	18 months	
Custard powder	Suitable moisture proof containers	18 months	
Cocoa powder	Metallic, glass or aluminum foils containers packed under vacuum or in the presence of an inert gas	24 months	
	Other Containers such as paper or plastic	12 months	



Product	Type of Packaging	Expiration Period	Notes
Other Different Products			
Jelly powder	Carton or plastic containers	18 months	
Plain hard candy	Suitable containers	24 months	
Enriched fortified hard candy	Suitable containers	12 months	
Soup powders	Carton plastic or aluminum foils containers	18 months	
Soup, partially dehydrated in cubic form, etc.	Carton plastic or aluminum foils containers	12 months	
Brown sugar	Carton or plastic bags	18 months	
Halawa Teheniah	Metallic or Plastic containers	12 months	
	Wrapped in paper or aluminum foils	6 months	
Tahena	Suitable containers	9 months	
Mayonnaise salad	Glass or Metallic containers	12 months	
All types of chocolate	Packed in carton, aluminum foils or plastic containers	12 months	

Third Category: Food products exempted from indication of expiration date (production or crop date should be indicated):

	Product	Notes
1	Edible salt	Production date should be declared
2	White sugar	Production date should be declared
3	Bakery products for daily consumption	Production date should be declared
4	Bee honey	Production date should be declared
5	Spices and condiments	Production or crop date should be declared
6	Tea	Production or crop date should be declared
7	Rice	Production or crop date should be declared
8	Vinegar	Production or crop date should be declared
9	Cereals and seeds	Production or crop date should be declared
10	Dried vegetables and dry herbs	Production or crop date should be declared
11	Dry and dried legumes (un-cooked and un-canned) such as Peas, Kidney bean, Chick peas, broad beans, Egyptian beans, lentils, etc;	Production or crop date should be declared
12	Fresh fruits and vegetables including potatoes have not been peeled, cut or similarly treated.	without any validity date

For more detailed information's about expiration periods, please refer to Emirates standard # GSO150/2007, Copies of any standard could be purchased from the Emirates Standard & Metrology site: <http://www.esma.gov.ae>



Contact List of Food Control Services

Office name & location		Telephone	Fax	E- mail	Available Services
Food Control Trade section DM main office		04-2064204 04-2064205 04-2064280	04-2221513	EABASTAKI@dm.gov.ae AENASSER@dm.gov.ae AMKALIFA@dm.gov.ae	- Following up special cases transferred from all ports, offices, and public counter.
Jebal Ali port	office Gate 2	04-8871797	04-7033095	HAFALAMARZI@dm.gov.ae safwania@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all food consignment in Jebal Ali port and free zone. - Following up all reported cases from the port and taking the necessary actions (online). - Export Health certificate issuance (3 types). - Issuing reports to transfer shipments to other authorities in UAE. - Food items registration in FIRS. - Over see destructing procedures of food. - Accepting transferred food consignments from other authorities in UAE.
	office Gate 3	04-8818675 Ext. 220 / 221			
Flower center office - Dubai Airport		04-2163430 04-2163449	04-2200484	maabdulmajeed@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all food consignment at the Flower center. - Food items registration in FIRS.
Emirates Airlines office - Dubai Airport		04-2163485 04-2834179 04-2163370	04-2827216	SAIBRAHIM@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all food consignment at Emirates Airlines Cargo. - Food items registration in FIRS

Office name & location	Telephone	Fax	E- mail	Available Services
Karama Office	04-3374800 Ext. 210	-	zafaras@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all deferred consignments at consignee ware house. - Accepting transferred food consignments from other authorities in UAE.
	04-3374800 Ext. 251	-	mahmoodma@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-labeling or repacking procedures.
	04-3360331	-	baabdellatif@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labeling approval.
	04-3374800 Ext. 231-226-280	-	tmjuda@dm.gov.ae cachaid@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Item registration in FIRS. - Food destruction requests approval.
	04-3374800 Ext. 208-234	-	khaldoonaa@dm.gov.ae mrfadish@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consignment Follow up - Issue Health certificate (3 types).
Alauddin containers yard Hatta border office	04-3333598 04-8528124	04-3333588	maabdulmajeed@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all food consignments at Alauddin containers yard. - Inspection of all food consignments at Hatta border office. - Food items registration in FIRS. (Hatta border office).
Warfage port	04-2279990	04-2276574	JHMOKAM@mail.dm.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all food consignment at Warfage port.
Hamriya port	04-2661844	04-2624283	TRTAHA@mail.dm.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection of all food consignment at Hamriya port.
Chamber of Commerce	04-2028209	-	hnabdulrazzaq@dm.gov.ae maabfh@dm.gov.ae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Export Health certificate issuance (4 types).

Other Publications from Food Control Department

- Food Import and Re-export regulations (Arabic copy and English copy)
- Halal Food (Arabic copy and English copy)
- Food Additives (Arabic copy and English copy)
- Food Transportation Guidelines (Arabic, English and Urdu)
- Local Order No.(11/2003) Concerning Public Health and Community Safety in the Emirate of Dubai (Arabic copy and English copy)
- Guideline to healthy & Nutritious Food Practices in School Canteens.
- Health requirements for new food premises.
- Registration and Practice Guidelines for Food and Beverage Suppliers (Arabic copy and English copy).

To obtain a copy of any of these publications, please contact any of the DM customer service counters (Food Control Department Counters).

Call us:

Emergency: 800900

Food Control Department: 042064201

Email: foodcontrol@dm.gov.ae

Website: www.dm.gov.ae



Our Vision

Creating an excellent city that provides the essence of success
and comfort of sustainable living.

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