



## **Application for Sell by and Best by Milk Date Labeling Greater Than 17 Days**

### **Application process:**

1. Applicant wishing to exceed 17 days for sell by date or best by date on milk must complete and submit this application to the Department.
2. Facility must submit samples of each milk type, in each container type and container size for which they are applying for a sell by or best by date greater than 17 days, to a Pennsylvania approved dairy laboratory for bacteriological shelf life testing. The testing protocol to be used is set forth in 3 Pa.C.S. § 5744 as follows:
  - a. Each milk type and type and volume of container shall be sampled from at least three different production days and submitted unopened to a Pennsylvania approved dairy laboratory;
  - b. The Pennsylvania approved dairy laboratory shall hold the samples unopened, and maintained at a temperature of between 34 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit for no less than the entire proposed sell by date or best by date period;
  - c. After the proposed sell by date or best by date period ends, each sample shall be opened and tested for bacterial count; and
  - d. The testing shall have been completed within the three (3) months preceding the date this application is submitted to the Department.
3. If test results are within the bacteriological limits for milk described in the Department's milk sanitation regulations, then the proposed sell by date or best by date will be approved. If test results from two (2) or more samples are not within the bacterial limits in the Department's milk sanitation regulations, the Department will calculate a reduced sell by date or best by date. The facility may retest but will be required to use the reduced sell by date or best by date until the facility submits a new application for approval, to include testing, demonstrating the facility can comply with the bacteriological limits at the proposed sell by or best by date.
- 4. All test results must be submitted with this application.**
5. Facilities with a sell by or best by date greater than 17 days, shall continue routine testing on the highest sales volume milk type in each container types and container size, at an interval of no longer than six (6) months.
6. Failure to comply with the Milk Sanitation Law and its attended regulations may result in enforcement action by the Department against the applicant.
7. PDA reserves the right to revoke approval status.
8. This approval shall be void if ownership is changed.

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### **Return the completed application and any other correspondence to:**

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services  
ATTN: Milk Program Specialist  
2301 North Cameron Street, Room 112  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Fax (717)-787-1873  
Email: RA-AGMilkProgram@pa.gov



**Application for Sell by and Best by Milk Date Labeling Greater Than 17 Days**

Facility ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Sell by or Best by date \_\_\_\_\_ (# Of Days)

\*Lab conducting testing: \_\_\_\_\_

Milk product (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Container type(s): Glass, Plastic, Paper, or other: \_\_\_\_\_

Container size(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_



**Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services Use Only**

Lab testing provided \_\_\_\_\_ Date of lab testing \_\_\_\_\_

Lab testing compliant \_\_\_\_\_ If not how many samples were out of compliance \_\_\_\_\_

Sell by or Best by day approved for \_\_\_\_\_ days Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Products approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sell by or Best by day approved for \_\_\_\_\_ days Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Products approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Calculated date approved for the following products: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Approval Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_