

Product Dating Information – September 2020

Date of manufacture¹

The date of manufacture is defined as the date of the first filling into primary packaging.

Release Date²

During release procedure of materials, analytical testing is performed according to our standard operation procedures. The date of final assessment is the point in time when analytical data has been reviewed as confirming compliance with product description, specification and lot uniformity, for all products.

For those materials where shelf life information is a requirement, expiration and retest periods are available at the batch level. When dating is indicated by month and year only and no specific date is otherwise stated on the label or elsewhere, the product is expected to meet specifications until the last day of the month.

Shelf Life³

The time period during which a product is expected to remain within established specifications, provided that it is stored under defined conditions.

Expiration Date (Expiry Date) or Use-By-Date

The date placed on the container label (or the certificate of analysis or quality) of a marketed product designating the time prior to which a lot of the product is expected to remain within the approved shelf life specification if stored under defined conditions, and after which it must not be used.

Retest Period/Retest Date⁴

The period of time during which the product is expected to remain within established stability specifications, provided that it has been stored under defined conditions. After the Retest Date, product samples should be examined to ensure that the product is still in compliance with the established specifications.

Products with No Retest, Expiration or Use-by-Date

A number of products are not included in either of the above programs as there is no indication to conclude they are unstable. The only date shown on the certificate of analysis will be the Release Date. For these products there is no stated Retest, Expiration or Use-by-Date Date. We recommend handling per defined conditions as printed in our product literature and website product descriptions. Products should be routinely inspected by the customer to ensure they perform as expected.

For those products, only our standard warranty of 1 year from the date of shipment of products is applicable. For further information on our warranty please refer to terms and conditions of sale.

¹ The Date of manufacture might also be expressed by the terms Manufacture Date, Manufactured Date and Production Date.

² The Release Date also might also be expressed by the terms Quality Release Date, Date of release, Date of QC Release, Date of examination as well as Retested Date if a batch has been re-released.

³ The Shelf Life might also be expressed by the term Minimum Shelf Life.

⁴ The Retest Period/Retest Date might also be expressed by the term Recommended Retest Date.



The life science business of Merck operates as
MilliporeSigma in the U.S. and Canada.

© 2020 Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany and/or its affiliates. All Rights Reserved. Merck and the vibrant M are trademarks of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany or its affiliates. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Detailed information on trademarks is available via publicly accessible resources. 2020 – 04/05/2020