

## **Advisory Note 13 Stock Rotation**

### **Legal Requirements**

Proprietors of food businesses must identify and control risks associated with their business and ensure that proper controls are in place so that food produced is safe. The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006.

### **Recommendations**

Stock rotation is an important part of ensuring the safety and quality of food and the day dot system described below is a quick and simple way of ensuring food is not kept beyond its recommended shelf life. It is particularly appropriate where food is made or stocked and opened for several days in advance of being used.

### **Day Dot System**

Circular self adhesive labels, a different colour for each day of the week, can be fixed to covered perishable foods in refrigerators to indicate when the food should be used by. The Day Dot System then becomes the Use By date, for foods where other manufacturers labelling is absent for defrosted foods, cooked meats, part cooked vegetables, fresh deliveries.

Different coloured dots can be used to identify different production batches of perishable foods, e.g. sandwiches which can be made at different times in a day and therefore must be displayed and used by a different time.

### **Reminder**

Vacuum packed or tinned food becomes perishable once the seal has been broken. The date displayed on an unopened package only applies whilst it is unopened and stored as directed.

### **Product Information Labels**

Can be used on containers of pre-prepared "Home-made" type dishes. They give a specific '**Use By**' date, what the product is, when it was produced and who produced it. Such products are invariably high risk foods and this system can help improve good hygiene practices. It is easily managed and can allow for staff change over/days off/shift changes. As well as minimising risk it can reduce wastage and cost.

These procedures may be incorporated into your HACCP based system (e.g. [Safer Food Better Business](#))

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