

SIGMA-ALDRICH®

Customer Support

Product Dating Information Statement

May 2014

Sigma-Aldrich is committed to providing materials that meet our customers' requirements. This commitment is demonstrated by the establishment of programs to monitor, preserve and protect the quality of our products. We document the Quality Release Date, that 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, the product is expected to meet specifications until the last day of the month.

Recommended Retest Dated Products

The Recommended Retest Date is the end of a period of time during which the batch is expected to remain within established specifications if stored under Sigma-Aldrich's defined conditions. The Retest Period has been established by review of the product's or a comparable product's history. The Recommended Retest Date for individual lots may be extended subject to quality review. If extended, a new Date Retested and Recommended Retest Date will be published on the Certificate of Analysis. If Sigma-Aldrich does not retest a lot in question, we recommend that customers evaluate the product to ensure that it still matches their needed specifications.

Recommended Re-test Dates on our labels and/or Certificates of Analysis are valid only if the product is stored under Sigma-Aldrich's defined conditions, and the container has remained unopened with original tamper evident seal still intact.

Expiration Dated Products

Products in the expiration date program will have an Expiration Date printed on the label and the Certificate of Analysis. This date assigns the time frame during which the batch is expected to remain within established specifications if stored under Sigma-Aldrich's defined conditions. The batch should not be used after this date.

Expiration Dates on our labels and/or Certificates of Analysis are valid only if the product is stored under Sigma-Aldrich's defined conditions, and the container has remained unopened with original tamper evident seal still intact.

Products with no Retest or Expiration Date

A number of Sigma-Aldrich 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 Quality Release date. For these products there is no stated expiration or recommended retest date, and the shelf life is considered indefinite if stored unopened and handled under Sigma-Aldrich's defined conditions as printed in our product literature and in our website product descriptions.

For customers requiring Laboratory Management Planning, Sigma-Aldrich suggests following industry practices of using products with no retest or expiration date within 5 years of opening and routinely inspect products to ensure they perform as expected.

Customer Inspection

Within our Terms and Conditions of supply, product dating, or lack thereof, does not release a customer from proper inspection when receiving goods, and does not warrant fitness of a product for any particular use. Such claims must be brought within one year of shipment from Sigma-Aldrich or a Sigma-Aldrich Authorized Distributor.

Order Blocking / Inventory Management

Our inventory is continually monitored and swept of products approaching the expiration and re-test date. This procedure is also subject to our continuing improvement programs. Product batches are blocked from shipment to customers as they approach these dates in order to allow customers to use them within the remaining period of time. This blocking time is batch specific. Should customers need products to be supplied with specific minimum remaining expiration or re-test time, this should be communicated at the time of order entry. Every attempt will be made, subject to available inventory, to satisfy these requests.

If you have additional questions regarding the Sigma-Aldrich Product Dating Information statement please contact your local Sigma-Aldrich Technical Service Department: www.sigma-aldrich.com/techservice.