



Ohio Department of Agriculture
and
Ohio Department of Health



Governor Bob Taft
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To: Health Commissioners, Directors of Environmental Health and Interested Parties

From: Division of Food Safety, Ohio Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Environmental Health, Ohio Department of Health

Subject: Cheese Date Marking Information for Letter of Opinion #2006-01

Date: May 15, 2006

Ohio Revised Code section 3717.041 permits the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Health to jointly issue a "Letter of Opinion" when its' issuance is recommended by the Retail Food Safety Advisory Council (RFSAC). A "Letter of Opinion" shall provide a detailed interpretation of the rules (Chapter 3717-1 of the Ohio Administrative Code, "*Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code*").

On May 9, 2006 the RFSAC recommended during their meeting that the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Health issue the attached "Letter of Opinion #2006-01". This Letter of Opinion serves to revise the date marking section of the *Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code* to include additional exemptions from date marking for certain deli salads, cheeses, dairy products, preserved fish products, and other shelf stable meat products.

Unless rules are adopted under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3717 that override the interpretation expressed in "Letter of Opinion #2006-01", this interpretation shall be binding and applied uniformly throughout this state.

In order to provide additional guidance regarding the cheeses that are exempted, attached is an alphabetical listing of Hard and Semi-soft cheeses that do not require date marking. This list is subject to revision and will be updated as additional information is forthcoming.

Questions regarding this information or Letter of Opinion #2006-01 may be directed to either the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614/728-6250 or foodsafety@mail.agri.state.oh.us; or the Ohio Department of Health at 614/466-1390 or BEH@odh.ohio.gov.

Attachments: Letter of Opinion #2006-01 "Date Marking"
Cheese Date Marking Listing

Listing of Some Hard and Semi-Soft Cheeses Exempt from Date Marking

Hard Cheeses

-A-

Asadero
Abertam
Appenzeller
Asiago medium
Asiago old

-B-

Bra

-C-

Cheddar
Christalina
Colby
Cotija Anejo
Cotija
Coon

-D-

Derby

-E-

Emmentaler
English Dairy

-G-

Gex (blue veined)
Gloucester
Gjetost
Gruyere

-H-

Herve

-L-

Lapland
Lorraine

-O-

Oaxaca

-P-

Parmesan
Pecorino

-Q-

Queso Anejo
Queso Chihuahua
Queso de Prensa

-R-

Romanello
Romano
Reggiano

-S-

Sap sago
Sassenage (blue veined)
Stilton (blue veined)
Swiss

-T-

Tignard (blue veined)

-V-

Vize

-W-

Wensleydale (blue veined)

Semi-Soft

-A-

Asiago soft
Asiago fresh

-B-

Battelmatt
Bellelay (blue veined)
Blue
Brick

-C-

Caciocavallo Siciliano
Camosum
Chantelle

-E-

Edam

-F-

Fontina

-G-

Gorgonzola (blue veined)
Gouda

-H-

Havarti

-K-

Konigskase

-L-

Limburger

-M-

Milano
Manchego
Monterey
Monterey Jack
Muenster
Munster

-O-

Oka

-P-

Pasteurized process¹
Port du Salut
Provolone

-Q-

Queso de Bola
Queso de la Tierra

-R-

Robbiole
Roquefort (blue veined)

-S-

Samsoe

-T-

Tilsiter
Trappist

Hard cheeses with not more than 39% moisture as defined in 21 CFR 133

Semi-soft cheeses with more than 39%, but not more than 50% moisture as defined in 21 CFR 133

¹*manufactured according to 21 CFR 133.169 and labeled as containing an acidifying agent*