



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 10/4/2006

GAIN Report Number: TC6019

United Arab Emirates

Trade Policy Monitoring

The Revised Draft of Gulf Standard "Expiration Periods on Food Products"

2006

Approved by:

David Williams

Prepared by:

Yamina Abdi

Report Highlights:

This is a summary report on the updated draft of the Gulf Standards relating to shelf life for food products. Gulf Cooperation Council officials are expected to finalize these and labeling standards within the next few months.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Dubai [TC1]
[TC]

Introduction: This report summarizes the updated draft Gulf Standard Ref. GS/2005 related to expiration periods for food products.

Disclaimer: This Summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Arabic, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/ATO Dubai Executive Summary: This draft is an update of the Gulf Standard GS 1023/2000 " Expiration Periods of Food Products – Part 2" and GS 150/1993 " Expiration Periods of Food Products- Part 1" to determine the shelf life for food products.

FAS/ ATO Dubai Analysis: Current Gulf standards require that imported products arrive with at least half of the shelf life remaining. For meat and poultry, products should arrive within the first four months after the production date. These draft standards would remove these requirements and set standard expiration periods for food products. This draft would also continue the requirement for a production date. Technical officials met recently to review this draft and another draft from Qatar that relates to labeling and would make production date labeling "preferable." Gulf Cooperation Council members are expected to finalize these requirements within the next few months.

Important Dates:

1. Draft Publication Date: GS/2005
2. Implementation Date: To be determined.
3. Validity Period: Indefinite from date of adoption.

For More Information:

Copies of the proposed standard are available from the Agricultural Trade Office in Dubai.

Fax: 011-971- 4- 311- 6189

E-mail: atodubai@usda.gov

Internet Connection:

ATO Dubai Web Site: We are available at <http://www.usembabu.gov.ae/atodubai.htm> , or visit USDA/FAS home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/> for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.