

March 2008 – Revision 2

## Product Dating and Shipping Information

Based on Sigma-Aldrich's continual quality improvement processes we have revised some of our corporate procedures and guidelines in order to provide worldwide consistency across all brands. This type of management over all Sigma-Aldrich brand enhances our global quality offer and improves the services we provide to our customers.

### **Recommended Re-Test Dated Products**

Products covered under the re-test program will have the QC Release Date and the Recommended Re-Test Date on 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 Re-Test Period has been established by review of the product(s) or a comparable product(s) history. The Recommended Re-Test Date for individual lots may be extended subject to quality review. If extended, a new QC Release Date and Recommended Re-Test Date will be published on the Certificate of Analysis. The QC Release Date is the point in time when analytical data has been reviewed as confirming compliance with product description, specification and lot uniformity.

### **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.

### **Other Products**

A significant number of Sigma-Aldrich products are not included in either of the above programs. The only date shown on the certificate of analysis will be the QC Release date. For customers whose systems require formal date management, use of a date one year from shipment is supported by our terms and conditions of supply. These products, however, are still included in our various internal re-test and product review programs.

### **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 and every attempt will be made, subject to available inventory, to satisfy these requests.

### **Shipping and Storage Conditions**

The storage conditions that a Sigma-Aldrich catalog and label recommend for products are deliberately conservative. For many products long term storage at low temperatures will increase the time during which they are expected to remain in specification and therefore are labeled accordingly regarding long-term storage. Where short-term, shipping timeframe, exposure to conditions other than those recommended for long-term storage will not affect product quality, Sigma-Aldrich will ship at ambient temperature. The products sensitive to short-term exposure to conditions other than their recommended long-term storage are shipped on wet or dry ice. Ambient temperature shipping helps to control shipping costs for our customers. At any time, our customers can request wet- or dry-ice shipment, but the special handling is at customer expense if our product history indicates that the product is stable for regular shipment.

**NOTE:** Expiration Dates or 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. Product dating does not release a customer from proper inspection when receiving goods and does not warrant fitness of a product for any particular use.

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