

Shelf life testing

Food manufacturers need to accurately determine the use by or best before dates for their products in order to meet strict regulations and to keep their brand and consumers safe.

With the vast number of mutually dependent factors involved in verifying an accurate shelf life, how can you ensure that the partner you choose has the technological expertise and resources to carry out reliable, bespoke testing?





Shelf life is a product of physical, microbiological and chemical processes, triggered by any one of a multitude of contributing factors. Product characteristics, including the quality and consistency of ingredients, the moisture content and acidity levels, all play a part, as do external factors like storage, transport and packaging materials. Shelf life may also be extended by the use of preservatives, preservation processes, and techniques including Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP).

Given the complexity of factors contributing to the shelf life of food, a bespoke service is required which is tailor-made to the composition of your products, storage and packaging.

Our Service

Our experts can develop and carry out shelf life testing tailored specifically for your products.

Our laboratories use the latest methods and technology, and are accredited to the international standard for quality management (ISO 17025). Therefore, you can be sure of a high quality, cost effective service which delivers accurate test results that will help to demonstrate compliance with statutory requirements.

By performing shelf life analyses, you can define accurate dates for your products, ensuring that the quality remains acceptable and safe for consumers.

Just some of the analyses our specialists can carry out include tests for:

- Food-borne micro-organisms such as Listeria, Salmonella, Campylobacter, E.Coli, Yeasts and Moulds, Staphylococcus Aureus, Bacillus Cereus, Lactic Acid Bacteria
- Total viable count
- Enterobacteriaceae
- Moisture content
- Acidity levels
- ph
- Water activity
- Fat rancidity

Benefiting You

Intertek is a partner you can trust for this critical service. With our experience, expertise and cutting-edge facilities, you can ensure that your customers and brand are protected, and that you fully comply with all relevant food safety regulations.

- Accurate, reliable testing will reduce the risk of product recalls and establish the extent of liability if problems do arise
- Identifying potential causes of reduced shelf life can help you to improve your products, processes and ultimately profitability

- Our shelf life testing services are part of a global network of food testing facilities
- Alongside our analytical expertise, we offer day-to-day support, consultation and training services
- We blend local expertise with world-class talent, and can help you navigate local, national and international regulations
- Our specialists can deliver reliable results with fast turnaround times, essential for maintaining your standards and credibility

With You All the Way

Shelf life testing is just one of a suite of services we provide to ensure the safety and quality of your products.

Intertek food laboratories can offer a full range of food testing services including microbiology, GMO, food authenticity, food contamination, nutrition labelling and allergens.

We can also assist with:

- **Risk Management:** Improve performance, reduce risk and free up valuable resource
- **Traceability through the supply chains:** including raw and semi-manufactured foodstuffs and final products in all food categories and special interest products
- **Global Coverage:** network of highly skilled and experienced experts to ensure smooth transition in the supply chain

At Intertek, it is our sole mission to provide not only the one-stop-shop you seek for all food services but to establish a trusted partnership with your business - consistently adding value and increasing your competitive advantage in the industry with every step we take together.

Visit www.intertek.com/food

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