

## BEST BEFORE DATE POLICY FAQs

### What is the change of policy?

FareShare currently redistributes some food past its Best Before Date, subject to receiving an extension letter from the manufacturer on a case-by-case basis. We will continue to redistribute food past its Best Before Date, but the new Policy will mean that we will no longer require an extension letter for the following products up to the length of time stated below:

Category	Extension time	Checks needed
Frozen Food	3 Months	Temperature Monitoring
Fresh Produce	Common-sense approach	Sensory check i.e., visual, touch and smell.
Wrapped bread and bakery	3 days	Visual conformity
Pitta wraps and similar	1 Month	Visual conformity
Crisps	1 month	Packaging intact
Biscuits	2 Months	Packaging intact
Cereals	2 Months	Packaging intact
Tinned	3 Months	No dents in tins
Confectionery	3 Months	Packaging intact
Cooking sauce	1 Month	Packaging intact
Dried pasta, rice/pulses	3 Months	Packaging intact
Preserve and condiments	3 Months	Packaging intact
Soft drinks	1 Month	Packaging intact
Bottled water	3 Months	Packaging intact.
UHT Milk	1 Month	Packaging intact.

### Items not included in this policy

Some food categories have a Best Before date but will not be included within this policy, these are:

- Eggs
- All Chilled items with a Best Before Date.

### Why is FareShare changing our policy on redistributing food past their Best Before date?

FareShare recognises that getting an extension letter can be time consuming for our Food Partners. We want to take a more practical approach and eliminate any barriers which may prevent perfectly-good-to-eat food being redistributed to people in need.

### What is the benefit of accepting this change of policy?

The new process will be more efficient for our Food Partners as they will no longer need to provide an extension note with their food. It also enables us to redistribute even more food to the charities and community groups we serve, while reducing the negative environmental impact of this food otherwise going to waste despite being fit for consumption.

### What is the policy for 'use by' dates?

This policy is only for items with Best Before Dates. FareShare will not redistribute food past its use by date.

### What is the process for ensuring food past Best Before Date is acceptable for redistribution?

Our process to redistribute food products that are beyond their Best Before date should ensure that:

- Packaging is intact, and there are no signs of physical damage or leaks.
- The product appears to be in good condition, without visible signs of deterioration.
- Products are clean and intact, sound (for example, not rotten, severely bruised or severely damaged) and free from foreign smell and/or unpleasant odours.
- The date in the advice for specific product types, as identified in the Policy, has not been exceeded.

### Does this mean you will always take all food past Best Before Date?

Where possible we will accept any food offered as long as it adheres guidelines. In the uncommon event that we have minimal capacity, we would always prioritise food which has not yet surpassed its Best Before Date.

### Does FareShare redistribute whole, uncut fruit and vegetables past their Best Before Date?

As per current FareShare policy for whole and uncut fruit and vegetables, the quality of the produce is assessed on arrival at our depots and already redistributed past its Best Before Date where suitable. We will make an assessment on the product to check quality before redistribution. We ask that no more than 10% of produce has rots and moulds on dispatch, and no more than 20% on arrival at a FareShare warehouse.

### What if we would like to provide an extension letter which specifies a different time period than that given by the FareShare policy?

Any extension time period provided by a manufacturer will be adhered to. The extension time period must be clearly stated on headed paper, from the supplier.

### What if we do not want any of our products being redistributed past the Best Before date?

FareShare will respect the wishes of the supplier if they ask for us not to redistribute food past the products Best Before date. We have processes in place to ensure this is adhered to. You can Opt out of this policy by informing us using the link on our webpage.