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## **CONTAINER CODING**

Federal regulations (21 CFR 114/80) requires a manufacturer must mark each container with a permanently visible code delineating the processing establishment, the product, the year, day, and packaging period. The codes should be embossed or ink whenever possible; otherwise the labels may be legibly perforated or otherwise marked as long as the label is securely fixed to the container.

In addition, processors must maintain processing records for each batch or lot of products produced. Records are a necessary to maintain quality control of your product. Records should include: date and time, type and volume of products processed, size containers, and relevant controls (temperatures, pH measurements, etc.) They must also include examinations of raw materials, packaging materials, and distribution.

This memo is designed to help with the Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations Part 108 (21CFR 108). Emergency Permit Control Regulations. These regulations were promulgated to protect consumers from contamination of microorganisms (ex: clostridium botulinum).

These records must be maintained for a period of three (3) years to facilitate immediate application of the emergency permit control, if necessary a product recall, should a public health hazard arise. To do this, each container must be coded to indicate:

Establishment where packed  
Product identity  
Year, day and period when packed

### **KEY TO TERMS - PRODUCTION DATE CODING**

Please take time to review this, for it will assist you in determining how various product codes read and how to interpret these codes. These production codes can also serve as expiration and shelf life dates to ensure that consumers are purchasing only your highest quality products

JULIAN PRODUCTION DATE: Julian codes normally consist of four digits followed in some instances by a batch number.

THE INTERPRETATION:

Example: 334542  
334 - Day of Production  
5 - Year of Production  
42 - Batch Number

To translate into a Calendar Date, refer to the attached Julian calendar. Find Day 334. This corresponds with November 30. You now have a calendar date of production - November 30, 1995.

NOTE: Occasionally, the Julian Code will appear in this manner:

5334 (Yr/Day), 3345 (Day/Yr), or 334 (Day only - no year notation)  
The interpretation will commence on the day of production.

Example:	5402	Last digit of year	Week	Day of week
		5	40	2
	Last digit of year manufactured		Week manufactured	Day of week manufactured
	1995		Week 40 is 1st Week of October	Tuesday

In this case, the product was produced the first Tuesday in October in 1995. In this instance every year consists of 52 weeks.

You can also incorporate letters of the alphabet in your product coding as well.

EXAMPLE: 5B202

5 = Year manufactured - 1995  
B = Month of the year, which is second letter - February  
20 = Day of month manufactured  
2 = Inspector's No.

Month

A = January	G = July
B = February	H = August
C = March	I = September
D = April	J = October
E = May	K = November
F = June	L = December

MAKE OR PRODUCTION DATE - Calendar date reflecting the day the product was produced. Occasionally, the make date will be followed by a vat number which is the same as the batch number.

EXAMPLE: November 30, 1995 Vat 6

EXPIRATION DATE - Calendar date used as a guide for the rotation of product, usually month-day-year. It can also be indicated by a "Sell by" and "Best if used by" date.

EXAMPLE: 113095

SHELF LIFE DATE - Calendar date used as a guide for interpretation of when to pull product from shelves that have exceeded their optimum freshness. Shelf Life, in most instances will commence on the date of make or production. Production date coding will also help you establish quality control on your products once you have established their shelf life based on the results of your testing. A critical factor of your product success is that product quality must be consistently excellent.

PACK DATE - Calendar date when the product was cleaned, inspected, waxed, or packaged. Shelf life will start from the production date specified in the code. All products must be removed from the shelf on or before the end of its shelf life. Shelf life normally commences on this date, unless otherwise indicated.

### **EXAMPLES OF PRODUCT CODING**

1009 95a - 10=Month  
09=Day  
95=Year  
A=Shift

519212D - 5=Year  
192=Julian Day Make Date of July 11  
12D=Lot Number

5165 - 5=Year  
165=Julian Day Make Date of June 14

# JULIAN DATE CALENDAR

(PERPETUAL)

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Day
1	001	032	060	091	121	152	182	213	244	274	305	335	1
2	002	033	061	092	122	153	183	214	245	275	306	336	2
3	003	034	062	093	123	154	184	215	246	276	307	337	3
4	004	035	063	094	124	155	185	216	247	277	308	338	4
5	005	036	064	095	125	156	186	217	248	278	309	339	5
6	006	037	065	096	126	157	187	218	249	279	310	340	6
7	007	038	066	097	127	158	188	219	250	280	311	341	7
8	008	039	067	098	128	159	189	220	251	281	312	342	8
9	009	040	068	099	129	160	190	221	252	282	313	343	9
10	010	041	069	100	130	161	191	222	253	283	314	344	10
11	011	042	070	101	131	162	192	223	254	284	315	345	11
12	012	043	071	102	132	163	193	224	255	285	316	346	12
13	013	044	072	103	133	164	194	225	256	286	317	347	13
14	014	045	073	104	134	165	195	226	257	287	318	348	14
15	015	046	074	105	135	166	196	227	258	288	319	349	15
16	016	047	075	106	136	167	197	228	259	289	320	350	16
17	017	048	076	107	137	168	198	229	260	290	321	351	17
18	018	049	077	108	138	169	199	230	261	291	322	352	18
19	019	050	078	109	139	170	200	231	262	292	323	353	19
20	020	051	079	110	140	171	201	232	263	293	324	354	20
21	021	052	080	111	141	172	202	233	264	294	325	355	21
22	022	053	081	112	142	173	203	234	265	295	326	356	22
23	023	054	082	113	143	174	204	235	266	296	327	357	23
24	024	055	083	114	144	175	205	236	267	297	328	358	24
25	025	056	084	115	145	176	206	237	268	298	329	359	25
26	026	057	085	116	146	177	207	238	269	299	330	360	26
27	027	058	086	117	147	178	208	239	270	300	331	361	27
28	028	059	087	118	148	179	209	240	271	301	332	362	28
29	029		088	119	149	180	210	241	272	302	333	363	29
30	030		089	120	150	181	211	242	273	303	334	364	30
31	031		090		151		212	243		304		365	31

(FOR LEAP YEAR USE NEXT PAGE)

# JULIAN DATE CALENDAR

FOR LEAP YEARS ONLY

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Day
1	001	032	061	092	122	153	183	214	245	275	306	336	1
2	002	033	062	093	123	154	184	215	246	276	307	337	2
3	003	034	063	094	124	155	185	216	247	277	308	338	3
4	004	035	064	095	125	156	186	217	248	278	309	339	4
5	005	036	065	096	126	157	187	218	249	279	310	340	5
6	006	037	066	097	127	158	188	219	250	280	311	341	6
7	007	038	067	098	128	159	189	220	251	281	312	342	7
8	008	039	068	099	129	160	190	221	252	282	313	343	8
9	009	040	069	100	130	161	191	222	253	283	314	344	9

10	010	041	070	101	131	162	192	223	254	284	315	345	10
11	011	042	071	102	132	163	193	224	255	285	316	346	11
12	012	043	072	103	133	164	194	225	256	286	317	347	12
13	013	044	073	104	134	165	195	226	257	287	318	348	13
14	014	045	074	105	135	166	196	227	258	288	319	349	14
15	015	046	075	106	136	167	197	228	259	289	320	350	15
16	016	047	076	107	137	168	198	229	260	290	321	351	16
17	017	048	077	108	138	169	199	230	261	291	322	352	17
18	018	049	078	109	139	170	200	231	262	292	323	353	18
19	019	050	079	110	140	171	201	232	263	293	324	354	19
20	020	051	080	111	141	172	202	233	264	294	325	355	20
21	021	052	081	112	142	173	203	234	265	295	326	356	21
22	022	053	082	113	143	174	204	235	266	296	327	357	22
23	023	054	083	114	144	175	205	236	267	297	328	358	23
24	024	055	084	115	145	176	206	237	268	298	329	359	24
25	025	056	085	116	146	177	207	238	269	299	330	360	25
26	026	057	086	117	147	178	208	239	270	300	331	361	26
27	027	058	087	118	148	179	209	240	271	301	332	362	27
28	028	059	088	119	149	180	210	241	272	302	333	363	28
29	029	060	089	120	150	181	211	242	273	303	334	364	29
30	030		090	121	151	182	213	243	274	304	335	365	30
31	031		091		152		213	244		305		366	31

(USE IN 1984, 1988, 1992, ETC.)