

Ronald G. Rios
Freeholder Director

Carol Bellante
Deputy Director

Kenneth Armwood
Charles Kenny
H. James Polos
Charles E. Tomaro
Blanquita B. Valenti
Freeholders



**COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES**
35 KENNEDY BLVD.
EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816

H. James Polos
*Chairperson, Public Safety
and Health Committee*

John A. Pulomena
County Administrator

Joseph W. Krisza
Department Head

Lester Jones
Director-Health Officer

December 11, 2015

Jennifer Apostol
MCIA Project Manager
MCFOODS Coordinator
101 Interchange Plaza, Suite 202
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Dear Ms. Apostol,

Please be advised that food product dating is not required by Federal or New Jersey State regulations, except for milk (including cottage cheese, yogurt, etc.), infant formula, and baby food. Canned foods with product dates refer to best quality and are not safety dates. Canning is a high heat process that renders the food commercially sterile. Canned foods kept in a clean, dry environment for long periods of time will be microbiologically safe. Again, it is the quality of the food (taste, etc.) that may be impacted.

According to the New Jersey Department of Health, Retail Food Division, there are no restrictions on the sale of canned foods past the product date. The consumer has the final decision on whether or not to use outdated canned foods.

However, cans that are leaking, rusting, bulging, or severely dented (particularly at the seals of the can) must never be used for consumption, and must be discarded. If you have any other questions regarding canned foods, please contact an Inspection Division Supervisor at 732-745-3100.

Sincerely,

David J. Kologinsky, Chief REHS

CC: Lester Jones, Director- Health Officer