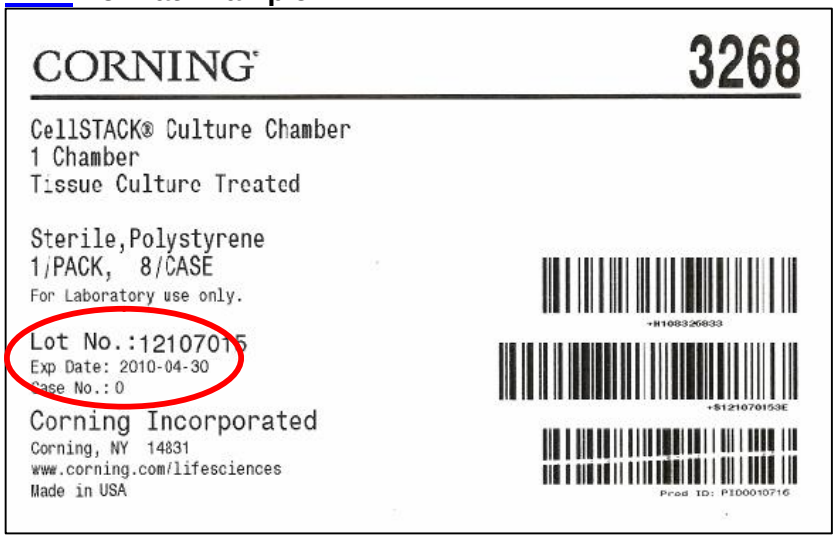
Expiration Date Format Change on Product Labels

What is changing?

The format of the expiration date printed on the outer carton label of products with a shelf life is changing. The new format will be YYYY-MM-DD (year-month-day). For example, June 1, 2007 will be represented as 2007-06-01.

NEW Format Example:



What product does this effect?

This effects all Corning products that have a shelf life. Currently, only a small percentage (approximately 10 – 15%) of Corning products has a shelf life. Shelf life products include most tissue culture treated products (e.g. microplates, flasks, dishes, roller bottles, CellSTACK® Chambers, Corning® CellBIND® Surface and Transwell® Supports), Stripette® Pipets, filtration products, Stripwell® Microplates, coated microplates, GAPS™ Slides, UltraGAPS™ Slides, Epoxide Coated Slides and Epic® plates.

When will the change occur?

Corning is beginning to convert to the new expiration date format in late May 2007. It will take several months to convert all applicable products to the new format. We expect to complete the conversion by the end of July 2007. This means that there will be a mix of date formats in the market as inventory gradually moves through the pipeline (i.e. Corning and distributor warehouses).

Why is the date format changing?

We are changing the date format to be consistent with international date format standards and to be compliant with CE Marking requirements. CE Marking is an important certification for some products. One of the many requirements for CE Marking approval is to present dates in the format: YYYY-MM-DD.

What is the CE Mark?

The CE Mark is a requirement for some types of products sold to the European Market. The CE Mark identifies a product as complying with the health and safety requirements spelled out in European legislation (Directives) and is mandatory for some equipment operating in the European Union (EU).

What is the expiration date for Corning products?

For products with a shelf life, the time varies depending on the nature of the product. Some products have 9 months of shelf life while others have 3 years. The expiration date is established by adding the shelf life time period to the date of manufacture.

Corning conducts rigorous testing on its products to determine which products require shelf life and, if required, how long the shelf life should be. Corning conducts thorough quality assurance testing and inspection during the manufacturing process. Certificates of compliance are available on the Corning Life Sciences web site or by contacting Corning Customer Service.

How can I determine the date of manufacture for a Corning product?

The date of manufacture for Corning products can be determined from the lot number. For Corning products, the lot number designation is as follows:

- The first 3 digits represent the Julian date when production of the lot was initiated.
- The middle 2 digits represent the year the lot was manufactured.
- The last 3 digits are a unique lot identification number sequentially assigned.

For example, production of lot 17805042 began on the 178th day of 2005 and it was the 42nd lot of product manufactured. The lots are typically sterilized within 7 – 14 days after the lot has been completed.