

How to **EXTEND** Shelf Life for Type II Items



SHELF-LIFE CODES FOR BOTH ITEM TYPES ARE FOUND IN THE SHELF-LIFE EXTENSION SYSTEM (SLES).

TO FIND OUT IF YOUR ITEM'S SHELF LIFE IS EXTENDIBLE, YOU NEED TO CHECK THE SLES ONLINE DATABASE, ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE DOD SHELF-LIFE PORTAL:
<https://www.shelflife.hq.dla.mil/>



ONCE THERE, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Choose the SLES tab. Then click on SLES Search. Select the "MQCSS" (Materiel Quality Control Storage Standards) radio button, unless you only want the QSL (Quality Status List) test results. The MQCSS selection will give you both.
- Submit a query by 13-digit NSN or 9-digit NIIN (with or without hyphens), or item name. Click on the listed NSN.
- In the MQCSS data field, check the "Shelf Life Code" (SLC) and the "Shelf Life Item Type." If the one-position SLC is numeric (1-9) or an "X", the item is Type II (extendible). If the SLC is alpha (A-Z, except X), the item is Type I (non-extendible) and must be processed for disposition after its expiration date. (There are exceptions for pharmaceuticals.) If the item's SLC is zero, the item doesn't go bad and no shelf-life period applies. (These items are not currently in SLES; however, you can check FLIS/FED LOG and look at the shelf-life column in the management data view.)
- For Type II items, note any "QSL" data. If QSL data is available, match up your materiel's contract and lot/batch numbers with the QSL listing, and check to see if the materiel with your lot/batch has already been tested and passed. A successful test is shown by a future date listing in the "Test Due" column. If there is a future date listing, and your materiel was stored using proper storage standards, then the QSL test results are your authority to extend the materiel's shelf life.

Note: Some of the entries in the QSL, especially for paints and adhesives, will show "AF" in the "Issued to" column and "RTL" in the "Source of Supply" (SOS) column. This means the item was tested by Air Force laboratories; however, the extension results may be used by all DOD customers.

- If no QSL data is available for the lot/batch of your NSN, note the "Inspection Type" code, "Characteristic Codes", and the "Source of Supply Code."

Note: If any information is missing, unclear or seems wrong, submit a query via the "Feedback" button on the website. Request any information you need, which may include visual inspection or laboratory test criteria, test sample submission procedures for laboratory testing, or shelf life extension time periods.

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE MILITARY SERVICE/AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR OR THE INVENTORY CONTROL POINT SHELF-LIFE ADMINISTRATOR MATCHING YOUR SOS.

CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON THE WEBSITE UNDER THE POCs TAB.

IF THE INSPECTION TYPE CODES CONTAIN AN "L", THIS MEANS THAT YOUR NSN REQUIRES **CERTIFIED LABORATORY TESTING** FOR EXTENSION.

IF THERE IS **NO** CORRESPONDING QSL DATA, YOUR NSN'S LOT/BATCH HAS **NOT** BEEN TESTED BY A CERTIFIED LABORATORY TO DATE, BUT IT **CAN** BE TESTED.

PERFORM AN ANALYSIS TO DECIDE IF IT WOULD BE COST-EFFECTIVE TO HAVE A SAMPLE OF YOUR ON-HAND STOCK TESTED.

THE DECISION TO TEST IS BASED ON AMOUNT OF INVENTORY, PRICE OF THE MATERIEL, TESTING AND SAMPLE TRANSPORTATION COSTS, DISPOSAL COSTS, AVAILABILITY OF RESUPPLY, AND ANY OTHER FACTORS YOU IDENTIFY.

IN SOME CASES, LABORATORY TESTING IS PERFORMED FREE OF CHARGE ONCE TEST SAMPLES ARE SHIPPED AT THE **OWNER'S EXPENSE** TO THE TEST FACILITY.

TEST LABORATORY CONTACT INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE PAGE UNDER THE SLES TAB. CLICK ON TEST LABS.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT THE ARMY SHELF-LIFE POC AT DSN 795-7685, (570) 615-7685, OR EMAIL: sles.army@dla.mil



Shelf-Life Training

Training is available through the Defense Acquisition University's continuous learning modules. The course is:

CLL 120—*Introduction to the DOD Shelf-Life Program*

The Logistics Support Activity's Packaging, Storage, and Containerization Center also offers a one-day classroom workshop, *Principles of Shelf-Life Operations*. For more information, call DSN 795-9176/6408, (570) 615-9176/6408, or email:

toby.pt@us.army.mil

TO REGISTER FOR THE COURSE, VISIT...
<http://www.dau.mil/clc/default.aspx>

