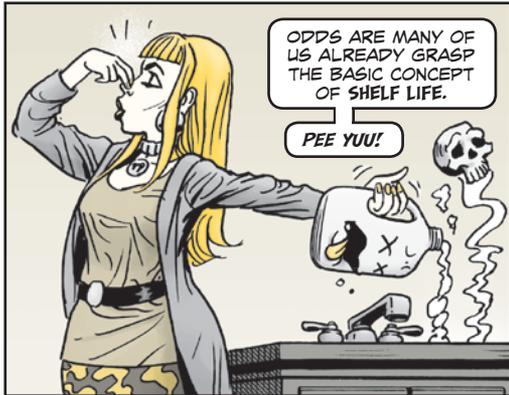


Shelf Life and Service Life

HEY, CLOE, SHELF LIFE ONLY APPLIES TO THINGS LIKE FOOD AND MEDICINE, RIGHT?

LIKE THIS OLD MILK.

THINK AGAIN, PRIVATE. SHELF LIFE APPLIES TO MANY THINGS IN STOCK HERE!



ODDS ARE MANY OF US ALREADY GRASP THE BASIC CONCEPT OF SHELF LIFE.

PEE YUU!

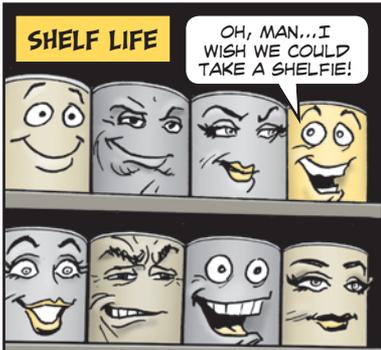
AT THE GROCERY STORE WE OFTEN CHECK EXPIRATION DATES ON BREAD OR MILK TO BE SURE IT'S STILL GOOD BEFORE WE BUY IT.

BEST BEFORE 09/28/15

BUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SHELF LIFE AND SERVICE LIFE SOMETIMES CAUSES CONFUSION IN ARMY SUPPLY CIRCLES.

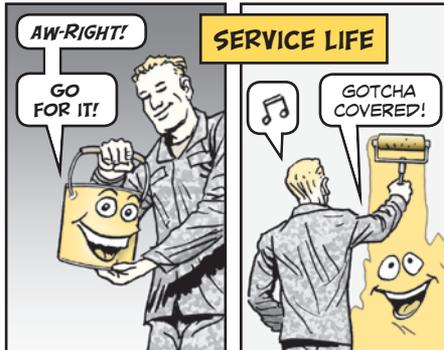


EVERY SUPPLY ITEM HAS A USEFUL LIFE EXPECTANCY, BUT SHELF LIFE AND SERVICE LIFE ARE TWO DIFFERENT STAGES IN AN ITEM'S LIFE.



SHELF LIFE

OH, MAN...I WISH WE COULD TAKE A SHELFIE!



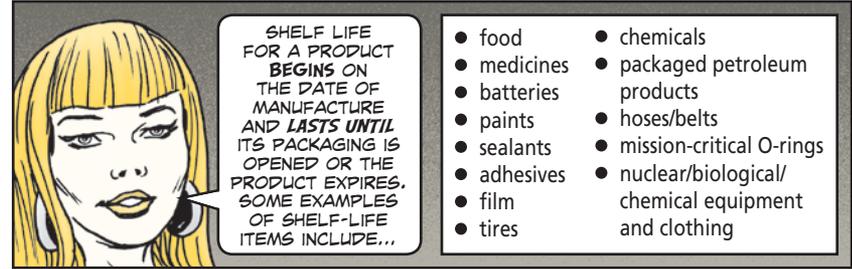
AW-RIGHT!

GO FOR IT!

SERVICE LIFE

GOTCHA COVERED!

Shelf Life

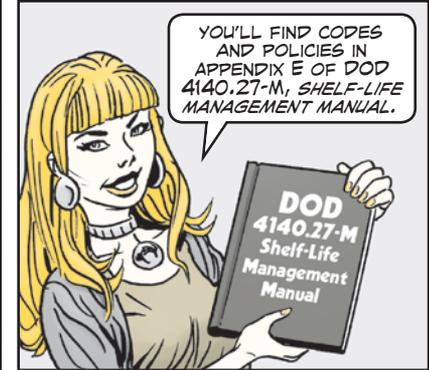


SHELF LIFE FOR A PRODUCT BEGINS ON THE DATE OF MANUFACTURE AND LASTS UNTIL ITS PACKAGING IS OPENED OR THE PRODUCT EXPIRES. SOME EXAMPLES OF SHELF-LIFE ITEMS INCLUDE...

- food
- medicines
- batteries
- paints
- sealants
- adhesives
- film
- tires
- chemicals
- packaged petroleum products
- hoses/belts
- mission-critical O-rings
- nuclear/biological/chemical equipment and clothing



SHELF LIFE CODES TELL YOU THE DATE BY WHICH YOU MUST USE, INSPECT, TEST, RESTORE OR DISPOSE OF ITEMS.



YOU'LL FIND CODES AND POLICIES IN APPENDIX E OF DOD 4140.27-M, SHELF-LIFE MANAGEMENT MANUAL.

VIEW OR DOWNLOAD IT HERE:

https://www.shelflife.hq.dla.mil/policy_DOD4140_27.aspx



THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF SHELF-LIFE SUPPLIES.

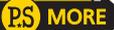
TYPE I ITEMS HAVE DEFINED, **NON-EXTENDIBLE** SHELF LIVES. THEIR USEFULNESS ENDS ON THEIR EXPIRATION DATE.

TYPE II ITEMS HAVE ASSIGNED SHELF-LIFE PERIODS THAT MAY BE **EXTENDED** AFTER INSPECTIONS, TESTS OR RESTORATION.

Shelf-Life Training

DOD Shelf-Life Program computer-based training (CBT) is available from the Defense Acquisition University (DAU). Access DAU's CBT module CLL 120 at:

http://icatalog.dau.mil/onlinecatalog/courses.aspx?crs_id=1884



Service Life



SHELF LIFE ENDS AND SERVICE LIFE **BEGINS** WHEN PACKAGING IS OPENED AND AN ITEM ENTERS USE.

THIS TRANSITION ALSO OCCURS WHEN A SHELF-LIFE ITEM IS INSTALLED, PLACED IN A BIN OR HELD AS BENCH STOCK.

YAAAH-HOO!

BOUND

BOUND

I'M LOOSE!

AND I'M READY TO CHARGE!



SERVICE LIFE IS A GENERAL TERM FOR THE AVERAGE OR STANDARD LIFE EXPECTANCY OF AN ITEM WHEN IT'S IN USE. MORE TESTING AND INSPECTION IS NEEDED ONCE AN ITEM ENTERS ITS SERVICE LIFE. YOU'LL FIND THE SERVICE LIFE TESTING AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOME ITEMS IN THEIR TMS.

HOWEVER, MANY CONSUMABLE TYPE I (NON-REPARABLE) ITEMS **DO NOT** HAVE SPECIFIC SERVICE LIVES. IF THERE'S ANY **DOUBT** ABOUT THE SAFETY OR SERVICEABILITY OF AN ITEM, **DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY.**

HERE ARE SOME **EFFECTIVE** SHELF LIFE AND SERVICE LIFE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES...



- Requisition/procure items in smaller quantities and units of issue. Use supply support requests when necessary.
- Reduce inventory stockage levels.
- Requisition items just-in-time.
- Practice stock rotation: First-in, first-out (FIFO).
- Maintain required storage conditions, particularly for shelf life items that are hazardous materials.
- Extend Type II shelf-life items by:
 - using test results from the Shelf-Life Extension System (SLES).
 - testing samples when cost effective, or
 - accomplishing authorized visual inspections or restoration procedures.
- Label extended Type II items using DD Form 2477 series labels, available from the DOD shelf-life website.
- Prepare Supply Discrepancy Reports (SDRs) when issued outdated shelf-life items.
- Submit shelf-life code challenges to the DOD shelf-life website when experience indicates a change is needed.
- Process outdated items promptly for disposal.
- Obtain shelf-life training at the DOD shelf-life website.
- Follow tech pub guidance when managing service life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT DOD'S SHELF-LIFE WEBSITE:

<https://www.shelflife.hq.dla.mil/>

FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL THE ARMY'S SHELF-LIFE POC AT: sles.army@dlamail OR CONTACT THE LOGISTICS SUPPORT ACTIVITY'S PACKAGING, STORAGE AND CONTAINERIZATION CENTER AT DSN 795-7257, (570) 615-7257, OR EMAIL:

usarmy.tyad.usamc.mbx.pt@mail.mil

