

What is the Expiry Dates Add-on?

The Hibsoft Labelling software as standard allows the user to create a label with an offset date (say six months in advance) which is useful when labelling products which have expiry dates. However, since this is part of the label template it must be the same for all products for which labels are to be printed using that template. For products with different shelf lives, alternative templates are required.

Some customers have found this not to be wholly practicable in their particular environment, therefore we have created an add-on facility to automatically update expiry dates (created as a variable field) on all labels by a period of days appropriate to each individual substance. Thus allowing a single template to be used even where products have differing shelf lives.

This add-on comes in the form of a supplementary program which must be run before HibSoft label. It then scans the label database and updates all expiry dates by a user-determined period based on the current date. On completion, the program automatically calls the standard labelling application which then runs as normal.

How do I add this functionality to my Installation?

Just run the installer program supplied by Hibiscus PLC ('InstExpDates.exe') and follow the simple instructions. This will install a new icon on your desktop, identical to the existing label program icon except for a red dot to the left. Use this icon when you wish to run the labelling program with the Expiry Dates function enabled (this may cause a short delay in Hibsoft labelling opening). If you wish to use this functionality all the time, you may remove the other icon from your desktop to avoid confusion.

How does it work?

You need to add two **Variable Fields** to your label template. These must be named **ExpDays** and **ExpDate** respectively. After adding the two new fields, load the template in HibSoft label then select an appropriate substance from the database. Edit the substance, go to the Variables tab, and enter the number of days to offset in the **ExpDays** field. Repeat this for each applicable substance. Note that the **ExpDate** field is NOT automatically completed at this time.

When you have completed entering the offset dates on each of your products, close HibSoft label. Next, reopen Hibsoft label using the new icon. Reload your template and select one of the substances previously updated. You should now see that the **ExpDate** field has been filled in by a date determined by the number of days you entered in the **ExpDays** field. As long as you use the new icon to open HibSoft label, this date will in future be updated before you begin printing labels so should always be set correctly.

Note that you must have the **ExpDays** field on your template for this to work. If you do not wish this to print on your template you can 'hide' it by resizing the field to the smallest allowable size, a 2mm square (ensure that 'Size to Fit' is NOT selected). This is too small for any text to appear and the field will remain blank.

Note also that in order for this facility to function correctly the system date must be correctly set on your computer.