



**DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY**  
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**Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) Milk**  
**Inspection & Shelf-Life Guidance**

The following guidelines are based on Industry Standards and recommendations from DLA Troop Support for Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk provided through the Operational Rations Program.

Storage and Handling Recommendations:

- Temperature: 50°F to 80°F
- Normal Humidity: 50%
- Sunlight: Avoid direct sunlight exposure. While the foil lining prevents UV rays from entering the carton and depleting nutritional value, direct sun exposure may lead to surface heating of the product.
- Freezing: Do not store at or below 32°F. Freezing can cause irreversible product breakdown, resulting in a grainy texture and protein settling.
- Extreme Heat: Avoid extended storage at or above 110°F, as other bacteria not destroyed by the Ultra-High Temperature process may find favorable conditions for survival and growth, leading to product spoilage.
- Failure to store in proper conditions may lead to physical changes in the product such as:
  - A browning of the color due to sugars and enzymes present.
  - A "flat" taste and separation of cream. Chilling the milk before serving can improve this condition.
  - Flecks of cream may rise to the top. Shaking the carton before opening should resolve this.

Product Quality and Inspection:

- The supplier performs extensive microbiological incubation testing at 98°F to verify commercial sterility. This testing validates the recorded time and temperature logs for each production lot, confirming that the milk received the thermal lethality required to eliminate target pathogens.
- UHT milk should be consumed before the expiration date stamped on the carton. DLA Troop Support does not recommend extensions of shelf life.
- Do not serve milk from cartons that appear damaged or abnormal.
- If there are any doubts about the quality, perform an Open Package Inspection on randomly selected samples.

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