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Dear Valued Customer,

At Parker EPS Division, we have accepted ARP 5316 as a sound basis for establishing shelf life. It should be noted that ARP 5316 is not a binding specification; rather, it provides a basis upon which companies can establish their own shelf life limits. First and foremost, ARP 5316 is a "Recommended Practice" and is offered as a guideline for those companies that deal with elastomeric seals.

ARP 5316 is controlled and issued by the Society of Aerospace Engineers. The shelf lives listed in ARP 5316 are limited to materials supplied to various AMS and US Military specifications. To limit its liability, the SAE committee has specifically limited the shelf life listings to include only those materials that it is inherently familiar with: AMS and MIL spec materials. At Parker, we have expanded on that list. This has meant grouping compounds by polymer family and assigning that family a uniform shelf life. The shelf life of each polymer family as practiced by Parker EPS Division is listed below:

- **3 years:** SBR
- **10 years:** Polyurethane, TPE
- **15 years:** Nitrile, Neoprene, HNBR, Polyacrylate, Natural Rubber, CSM
- **Unlimited:** Ethylene Propylene, Fluorocarbon, Perfluorinated Elastomer, Butyl, Silicone, Fluorosilicone, Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), Tetrafluoroethylene Propylene (Aflas®).

At Parker, we utilize the last day of the quarter as the time of manufacture (cure date) as when the shelf life clock begins. Because ARP 5316 represents the latest and most accurate information concerning shelf life of elastomer seals, Parker recommends that all distributors and customers work to incorporate these guidelines in the most appropriate manner. ARP 5316 is a copyrighted document and copies may be purchased from SAE.

<https://www.sae.org/standards/content/arp5316/>

Regards,

*David Seaborn*

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