

KODAK RELIABLE IMAGE TIP # 50

What is the life expectancy of microfilm?

(ISO/ANSI has stated microfilm has a **Life Expectancy (LE)** of 500 years).

Three conditions need to be met for microfilm to achieve LE 500:

1. The microfilm is manufactured to the ISO and ANSI standards for LE-500 films. Kodak's family of Camera Negative films is manufactured to these standards. It is stated in Kodak's data letter D-30, *Kodak IMAGELINK HQ, CS, CP and FS Microfilms.*
2. The microfilm must be processed according to ISO 18901:2002 Imaging Materials – Processed silver gelatin type black and white films – Specifications for stability. Meeting this standard is the responsibility of the microfilm processing facility.
3. The microfilm must be stored according to ISO 18911:2000 Imaging Materials – Processed safety photographic films – Storage practices. Meeting this standard is the responsibility of the organization that stores the microfilm.

In summary, Kodak manufactures microfilm to the ISO and ANSI standards for LE-500 films. If this film is processed correctly and stored correctly, it will have a life expectancy of 500 years.

Additional information on microfilm and LE-500 can be found at <http://preserve.harvard.edu/about/programoverview.html>

