



Improvement of the quality of milk and other dairy products and compliance with legal standards

(PRJ-0108-2016)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 1 2016 (January 2016 till March 2016)

Project goals

Goal 1 - National monitoring of milk and other dairy products in collaboration with Health Authorities

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for cycle 65 were completed as per predetermined schedule. 296 Milk samples, 65 drinking yoghurt, 12 fruit yoghurt, 77 flavoured and plain yoghurt, 2 goats milk, 29 buttermilk, 104 cultured (maas). 6 Metropolitan Municipalities, 12 District Municipalities and 55 Local Municipalities participated in the cycle 56 sampling runs, representing all provinces.

Samples were submitted at two laboratories whose analysts are authorised in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972). As per standard procedure results of milk and other dairy products were benchmarked against food safety, compositional and trade metrology standards as respectively gazetted under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990) and the Trade Metrology Act, 1973, (Act 77 of 1973). With regards to compositional standards it should be noted that samples were tested and analysed in accordance with R2581 of 1987 and where applicable R260 of 2015 which became effective on 28 March 2016.

Non-conforming results obtained were assessed and communicated to the processors for further action. Contact details of participating authorities as well as processors were updated as per standard procedure. Non-conformance reports regarding Cycle 56: >2% added water, inhibitory substance positive, phosphatase positive & E.coli positive were also forwarded to the relevant authorities for further action.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Investigations regarding complaints received in respect of product compliance with legal standards

Achievements

1st Quarter of 2016

Investigations regarding complaints were initiated on:

Milk that went sour within expiry date

Addition of water to milk

Composition of cultured milk sold in Gauteng.

All complaints were documented, the complaints on milk were concluded and the investigation on the composition of cultured milk is still ongoing.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Flocculation of UHT milk

DSA, following concerns raised by a retail group regarding evidence of flocculation of UHT milk is collaborating with the retailer as well as the University of the Free State, Dr Koos Myburgh whom is also conducting research work on behalf of the Milk SA: Advisory Committee regarding this subject.

Aflatoxin M1 in fresh milk

An investigation regarding aflatoxin M1 in national retail milk was conducted during the final quarter of 2015. The investigation was initiated following information gained from the DSA Risk Identification Project. The maximum residue limit for aflatoxin in milk destined for human consumption is regulated in terms of R 313 Regulations governing tolerances for fungus-produced toxin (Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972) – The determined limit is 0,05 micrograms per kg aflatoxin M 1. Test results for Mpumalanga, North West, and Kwa Zulu Natal were received and appropriate actions are implemented to resolve non conformities. The investigation is to be continued in the remainder of the provinces during the second quarter of 2016. The presence of levels aflatoxin M1 above the prescribed legal limit is considered a serious food safety risk and therefor receives high priority with DSA in terms of facilitation of remedial action plans with the relevant authorities as well as industry members.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy products risk identification project

Achievements

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of Cycle 56. Each municipality received a quarterly report on the analysis done of samples submitted. Non-conforming processors as well as processors whose contact details were verified and who requested to receive test results were provided with individual test reports.

The DSA national dairy monitoring program provides for the sampling of the categories namely packed pasteurised and unpasteurised milk and retail bulk pasteurised and

unpasteurised milk. Relevant information regarding food safety and compositional standards for milk and other dairy products were communicated to the dairy industry and other organisations.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY AND RECALL MONITORING

International food risk monitoring - The following websites and RSS feeds* were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety scares that might affect the local dairy industry:

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FSA newsletters and alerts

Dairy Markets monthly newsletter

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International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)

European Union Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) – newsletters

Google Alert - food poisoning; Food Production Daily

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The focus remains on raw milk and milk products due to prevailing high trend of non-conformances detected as a result of the DSA National milk monitoring program in collaboration with Health Authorities as well as food poisoning cases as a result of listeria cases reported internationally.

*RSS (Rich Site Summary) uses a family of standard web feed formats to publish frequently updated information: blog entries, news headlines, audio and video. None of the food safety international alerts monitored and in terms of imports import posed a health risk to the South African dairy industry. The special investigation regarding Aflatoxin M1 is to continue in the second quarter of 2016.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial action programs with the processors and distributors

Achievements

Due to the limited shelf life of most dairy products the follow-up of non-conforming results to ensure appropriate action by the parties involved, requires prompt action. The activities of project 1.1, project 1.5 were followed up by interaction with processors/PD's regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions. Communication with processors/retailers were done either by means of a telephone call, e-mail report, posted report or a visit to the facility. Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP's) were also requested to communicate all test results to the relevant parties.

DSA technical personnel provided the respective processors and producer/distributors and retailers (milk shops) with comprehensive reports after the visits that are also used for further reference purposes.

During Cycle 56 visits in Gauteng (4), Limpopo (7), KZN (8) and Mpumalanga(4) Eastern Cape

(5) were completed. The DSA Code of Practice for the secondary industry was distributed to all processors.

In total 28 facilities were visited for the period February 2016 – March 2016.

* PD's Producer distributors (PD's) are defined as milk producers that are also engaging the packing, distribution and selling of milk whether raw or as heat treated milk and may include dairy products.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

Communication with authorities and other organisations

Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

DSA as member of the Directorate's Food Legislative Advisory Group participated in the first meeting held on 28 February 2016 regarding food regulatory matters as well as a working group investigating the law enforcement role of Environmental Health Officers with specific reference to the labelling regulations in terms of the Foodstuffs cosmetics and disinfectants Act of 1954.

DSA in its supportive role assisted the industry with a substantial amount of queries relating food labelling requirements as well as dairy technical matters which in several cases resulted in facilitation processes with the Directorate. As in 2015 DSA continued formal discussions meeting with officials of the directorate regarding the sale of substandard retail bulk milk regarding a strategy to establish effective law enforcement at municipal level. Legal opinion regarding payment requests for the issue of certificates of acceptability and inspections by certain health authorities in terms of milk shed regulations were initiated and the process is yet to be finalised.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1 continued in the first quarter. Communication is primarily focussed on the implementation of remedial action on non-conforming/ substandard milk and other dairy products. Interactions with Environmental Health Officers are also used to encourage information and education sessions as an industry initiative to promote the improvement of milk and other dairy product safety and quality.

c. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle 56 results regarding infringements in terms of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products, as a result of the DSA national monitoring program were communicated to the Guardian Manager for the Agricultural Products Standards Task Team of the Directorate. Misleading claims, incorrect composition and labelling of dairy products continued to serve as priority.

ii) Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance – FSQA (policy making)

Communication with FSQA included dairy product composition queries, interpretation of the new Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products and the standards and requirements relating to export of dairy products. DSA assisted with the facilitation process regarding industry dispensations relating product compositional standards and labelling requirements and formal communication with industry via the Regulations and Standards Workgroup of Milk SA. DSA upon invitation from DAFF and following industry participation submitted its application as proposed assignee of the Department to conduct certain tasks in terms of the relevant dairy regulations as provided for in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act. DSA was accordingly informed that the matter is still pending.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA continued liaison with the directorate in an attempt to resolve issues relating to the process of review of the Veterinary Procedural Notice 20. A formal meeting was scheduled with the Director Animal Health and confirmation was received regarding the appointment of a state veterinarian with dairy import and export as priority.

d. National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS): Legal Metrology

A quarterly report regarding metrology infringements are forwarded to the Senior Manager, inspections: Legal Metrology NRCS, in terms of a standard agreement. Due to no infringements as a result of the DSA national milk monitoring programme, no formal report was forwarded in the first cycle of 2016.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

DSA liaison with PPECB is primarily focused on service rendering to the dairy industry in respect of inspection and testing of milk and other dairy products of export facilities as per standard operating

procedures. DSA following industry participation submitted a request to DAFF via Milk SA structures for the revocation of PPECB as assignee to execute the regulations relating to dairy export products, as a result of specific concerns raised by dairy exporters. The application was subsequently not approved by DAFF. Good progress however has been made following an industry meeting with DAFF and PPECB regarding a much improved agreement relating to the revision of the current Standard Operating Procedure for Inspection of Dairy Products Intended for Export in terms of the APS Act. This process is to continue by means of interaction between the organised dairy industry, other government departments and PPECB via Milk SA structures.

f. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

DSA serves on the Technical Committee SABS TC 70/SC 4, Legal Metrology - sale of goods as well SABS TC 034 SC 17 Food products – Hygiene practices in the food industry and technical committee of the SABS TC 1094, Livestock welfare, developing SANS 1694, Standards relating to the welfare of dairy cattle which is in the final stages of completion for public comment.

Communication with other organisations

Milk SA, MPO and Sampro

DSA attended where possible Milk SA Advisory Committee meetings on which it serves and also interacted on a regular basis with the project managers of the Milk SA Consumer Education Project and SAMPRO Training. As standing arrangement, DSA regularly met with the Consumer Education Project Manager to discuss relevant issues namely DOH and the Dairy Sector - Healthy Food Options Initiatives Action Plan (reduction of added sugar in certain dairy products). DSA continued engaging with the manager of the Transformation Project of Milk SA regarding the assessment of 8 milk production facilities related to the commercialisation of black farmer's project. Regular assistance to primary and secondary industry members regarding food safety and product compositional standards were ongoing.

CGCSA: FSI – DSA as member of the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) interacts on a regular basis with management.

IDF – DSA acts as member of the Standing Committee: Food labelling and terminology and provide inputs at the SANCIDF meeting, together with the representative of DAFF. DSA participated in rendering technical comments regarding milk and dairy based products.

SANCU - DSA communicates with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related issues as and when required.

SASDT - DSA as elected member of the management of SASDT Northern division participated in the 2016 SASDT meetings during the first quarter with specific reference to the upcoming SASDT national symposium in May 2016.

SAAFoST – DSA as member of SAAFoST participate in association's activities when applicable.

Tertiary institutions – DSA serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Department of Health at the Tshwane University of Technology as well as Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The purpose of the advisory committees is to give industry inputs and assist the universities with the development of course material for Environmental Health Practitioners. Scheduled meetings at bot both institutions are scheduled for in May 2016.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organisations

Achievements

DSA liaised with the authorities regarding the following legislation and standards:

Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972);

Regulations Governing General and Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food (R.962/2012) and the draft R364/2015 published for comments;

Regulations relating to milk and dairy products (R1555/1997) – review;

Regulations relating to the labelling and advertising offoods: amendment (R429 of 29 May 2014);
DOH and the Dairy Sector - Healthy Food Options Initiatives Action Plan (reduction of added sugar in certain dairy products).

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990)

Comments on the Agricultural Product Standards Amendment Bill.

Regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in RSA (R260 of 15 March 2015) and dispensations.

DAFF Directorate Veterinary Health Services: Veterinary procedural Notice 20

DAFF invitation to prospective assignees i.t.o. the APS Act

PPECB as assignee in terms of the Regulations regarding control of the export of animal products, R422 of 22 May 2015

Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB) - PPEC Bill 2015

DAFF Directorate Veterinary Health Services

Veterinary procedural Notice 20

1.7.3 Non-compulsory South African National Standards – SABS:

SANS 10049: 2012 – Edition 4, Food safety management - Requirements for prerequisite programs (PRPS);

SANS 10330: Food safety - Requirements for a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system

SANS 1694: The welfare of dairy cattle.

Compulsory South African National Standards - SABS

SANS 289 ED 1.6: Labelling requirements for prepackaged products (prepackages) and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control

1.7.5 Codex Alimentarius and ISO:

ISO 22000 and 22004:2014 - Food safety management systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 22000

Codex request for Comments: Report on the Draft General Standard for Processed Cheese

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education project

Achievements

DSA presents information sessions based on the DSA Code of Practice and related guideline materials to professional EHP's as well as student EHP's, on a national level, at the respective tertiary institutions. These information sessions are also available to other professions and government/municipal officials, milk producers, processors and distributors that require information regarding food safety and quality standards on a national level. No sessions were held in the first quarter of 2016 and work is scheduled as from the second quarter onwards.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

A series of 5 published on food safety and product composition legislation in the Dairy Mail was completed with related articles in Veeplaas and Farmers Weekly. Radio interviews on Radio 2000, Radio Algoa, Radio RSG and Podcast on Milk SA website were finalised. Contributions to Milk SA Essay booklet were finalised.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The work on the new DSA Guideline for the Labelling of Dairy Products has been initiated and the date of completion is scheduled for end May 2016. Further to the existing DSA Code of Practice for Milk Producers, DSA started working on a basic hygiene checklist for milking sheds which serves as tool for conducting minimum food safety checks in terms of legal compliance as well as communicating food safety aspects to milk production managers and workers as part of internal training.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Maandelikse bestuurstate vir Maart 2016.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[DSA Quarterly summary report 4 January to 31 March 2016.pdf](#)

Statement

Levy funds were applied only for the purposes stated in the contract	Yes
Levy funds were applied in an appropriate and accountable manner	Yes
Sufficient management and internal control systems were in place to adequately control the project and accurately account for the project expenditure	Yes
The information provided in the report is correct	Yes