



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

(PRJ-0108-2016)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 2 2016 (April 2016 till June 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 57 were completed as per predetermined schedule. 363 Milk samples, 43 cream and 53 butter samples were analysed to determine compliance with legal standards. 6 Metropolitan Municipalities, 11 District Municipalities and 57 Local Municipalities participated in the cycle 57 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).

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 57: >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

2nd Quarter of 2016

Investigations regarding complaints were initiated on:

Cheese – deviation in fat in dry matter of a specific branded products

UHT – composition of UHT milk and possible incorrect labelling due to alleged reconstitution

processes with powder milk.

DSA initiated the process of establishing internationally recognised analytical test methods at a local commercial laboratory to assist in the investigation as well as for future monitoring of fresh and other heat treated milk subjected reconstitution and recombining processes.

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 (Department Biochemistry) regarding microbiological quality aspects and 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 initiated during the final quarter of 2015.

The investigation was initiated following information gained from the DSA Risk Identification Project. The work is continued and sample submissions of milk offered in the Free State province is currently undertaken.

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 57. 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:

- www.foodproductiondaily.com
- www.dairyreporter.com
- FSA newsletters and alerts
- Dairy Markets monthly newsletter
- www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/
- www.foodqualitynews.com/...Alerts/
- www.foodqualitynews.com/Food-Alerts/New-evidence-calms
- www.dairysafe.vic.gov.au/
- www.foodsafety.gov
- www.thefoodsafetynetwork
- International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)
- European Union Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) – newsletters
- Google Alert - food poisoning; Food Production Daily
- www.foodpoisonjournal.com;
- www.foodsafetynews.com;
- www.recalls.gov.au;
- efoodalert.net;
- www.fastmoving.co.za

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 third 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. A total of 58 facilities were visited during the period April to June 2016 in Kwa-Zulu Natal, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, North West and Northern Cape. During visits, the DSA guideline documentation were used extensively.

* 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 other 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 work group activities 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 to food labelling requirements as well as dairy technical matters, which in several cases resulted in facilitation processes with the Directorate. Feedback regarding a legal opinion on payment requests for the issue of certificates of acceptability and inspections by certain health authorities in terms of milk shed regulations is still awaited.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1 continued in the second quarter. Communication is primarily focused 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 57 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 as well as the facilitation process regarding industry dispensations relating product compositional standards and labelling requirements and formal communication with industry via the Regulations and Standards Project 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 by the Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) following the application of DSA that as a result of technical differences in the applications in terms of Category C: Regulated Animal Products (Poultry Meat, Eggs, Dairy and Imitation Dairy Products and Edible Ices and other meat or meat products) DAFF decided to review the matter and that new invitations in this regard will be published.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA continued liaison with the directorate on 19 April 2016 in an attempt to resolve issues relating to the process of review of the Veterinary Procedural Notice 20 as well as to introduce the role and activities of DSA in terms of chemical residue monitoring as part of the DSA national milk and other dairy product monitoring program. DSA further participated in a formal meeting with various agro processing stakeholders regarding the Departments' Residue Monitoring and Control Programs.

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 program, 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. The process was followed up with an industry forum meeting between the organised dairy industry, other government departments and PPECB via Milk SA structures on 20 April as well as a workgroup meeting on 1 June 2016.

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. DSA also participates in the SABS TC 034/SC05 Dairy Products and assisted in the facilitation of industry participation as members of the technical committee.

Communication with other organisations

Milk SA, MPO and Sampro

DSA attended the 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 meet 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).

Following a Milk SA Board decision regarding the management of the project activities of Milk SA and the subsequent review of the structure of the Milk SA Advisory Committee: Regulations and Standards the DSA managing director was appointed as the project manager as well as a member of the management committee. The Advisory Committee meeting took place on 4 May 2016 followed by the projects' management committee end June 2016. 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 attended the SANCIDF general meeting that took place on 5 May 2016.

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 second quarter and presented a paper at 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 Environmental 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. DSA attended the scheduled meeting of TUT on 18 May 2016.

WWF – DSA participated in a collaboration meeting of the WWF regarding water and environmental stewardship with the SA dairy sector on 25 May 2016.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organisations

Achievements

It is important to note that the work of the Regulations and standards project of Milk SA project is not a duplication of this DSA project. The fundamental difference of Project 7 relates to the relationship and involvement of DSA as self-regulatory initiative with government structures and execution of the law. The Regulations and standards Project of Milk SA relates to participation in the formalisation of draft regulations and standards and comments on regulatory matters, as well as communication through Milk SA in the interest of the dairy industry and other stakeholders.

DSA continued liaison with the authorities regarding the following legislation and standards:

1. 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 (R962/2012) 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 of foods: 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).

2. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

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

- 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 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.

DAFF Directorate Veterinary Health Services

- DAFF Directorate Veterinary Health Services: Veterinary procedural Notice 20.

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.

4. 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.

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. On 26 May DSA presented a talk on food safety and hygiene requirements at the Department of Agriculture and

SA Milch Goat Society at the LNR Kimberley to emerging farmers. A workshop was held with 22 EHP's of the Amatole District Municipality (Eastern Cape) on 27 May 2016 focussing on intervention programs regarding the improvement of the safety of milk and other dairy products in the municipal area. An information session based on the DSA Codes of Practices (primary and secondary industry) was held on 29 June 2016 with final year veterinarian students of the University of Pretoria at the Onderstepoort.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Three articles and one advertorial relating to food safety and product composition were published in the Dairy Mail and Veeplaas as well as one radio talk on a national radio station done.

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 completed the work on the "Basic hygiene checklist for milking shed" which was launched at the SASDT national symposium in May 2016. This DSA product 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	No file has been uploaded
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[May 2016, nr1.pdf](#)

[May 2016, nr2.pdf](#)

[DSA Quarterly summary report April to June 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