



QUALITY OF MILK AND OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS

(PRJ-0002-2013)

DAIRY STANDARD AGENCY

Quarter 3 2013 (July 2013 till September 2013)

Project goals

Goal 1 - National milk monitoring in collaboration with health authorities

Achievements

The quarterly sample run for cycle 46 was completed as per predetermined schedule. 437 milk samples and 103 cheese samples (47 Hard- Semi Hard- Semi Soft Cheese samples; 19 Cottage cheese samples; 16 Cream cheese samples; 8 Feta Cheese samples; 3 cheeses made from Goats milk and 10 Processed cheese samples) were analysed in order to determine compliance to regulatory specifications. Active participation by health authorities registered with the DSA monitoring program continued in the third quarter with 8 metropolitan municipalities, 15 district municipalities inclusive of 56 local municipalities participating in the cycle 46 sampling run representing all nine provinces. Samples were submitted to Lactolab, of which the analysts are authorised in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972). As per procedure, results of fresh milk and other dairy products were benchmarked against food safety, compositional and trade metrology standards (where applicable) 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).

The sample results were e-mailed and faxed to participating authorities and contact details of participating authorities and data of processors were updated. The collection of contact information of processing facilities is an ongoing process.

Letters and request of updating contact details have been communicated to all processors. Non-conforming results obtained were assessed and communicated via post to the processors. Non-conformance reports regarding Cycle 46: >2% Added Water, Inhibitory Substance Positive, Phosphatase positive and E.coli Positive were forwarded to the relevant authorities for further action.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Investigations regarding complaints received i.r.o. product compliance with legal standards

Achievements

Investigations regarding complaints were initiated on:
â€¢ Under filling of milk sachets in the Western Cape area

â€¢ Food safety related complaint on milk sold in Schweizer-Reneke region (NW) followed by intensive follow-up action by project 2.1.

â€¢ Alleged adulteration of cultured milk in North West province

All complaints were documented, investigated and closed out with the exception of the complaint relating to alleged adulteration of cultured milk.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

3.1 Å-lactoglobulin, lactulose and peroxidase analysis of UHT, sterile, ultra pasteurised and pasteurised milk

Samples of the types UHT milk, sterilised milk, ultra pasteurised milk and pasteurised milk were collected to be used in the investigation into values for Å-lactoglobulin, lactulose and peroxidase values of milk sold in SA. The samples were submitted to the University of the Free State for analysis to determine the quantitative values of Å-lactoglobulin; lactulose and peroxidase. The test results were compiled in a final report to be used by the Technical Working Group (under guidance of Sampro) working on the draft regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products.

3.2 Determination of the microbiological quality of bulk milk for human consumption in South Africa with specific reference to Campylobacter

The DSA indicated the potential risks relating to the possible presence of Campylobacter bacteria in pasteurised bulk milk and unpasteurised bulk and pre-packed unpasteurised milk destined for human consumption. It was decided that additional retail bulk milk samples as well as unpasteurised packed milk samples would be submitted to be analysed for the presence of Campylobacter in milk sold directly to the consumer during the period August 2013 to October 2013.

The DSA requested all participating health authorities to sample all bulk milk samples in triplicate. One sample was submitted for the standard milk analysis, the second sample was submitted to be analysed for the presence of the Campylobacter bacteria in the bulk milk sample and the third sample was used for confirmation purposes if the second sample tested positive. A draft report has been compiled for the attention of the Chairman: DSA Technical Advisory Committee for comments prior to final release.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective Government Departments at the beginning of October 2013. Each municipality received a quarterly report of the analysis done on samples submitted. Non-conforming processors as well as processors of whose contact details were verified and who applied to receive results were submitted with quarterly reports. One hundred sixty four letters were posted.

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. Although the categories packed unpasteurised, retail bulk pasteurised and unpasteurised milk showed a marginal improvement during Cycle 46, a continuous negative compliance rate in critical food safety standards is still reflected.

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

International food risk and recall monitoring - The following websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food 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 Dairy Standard Agency in terms of its standing relationships with government departments is also linked to the Department of Health, Directorate Food Control: Food Safety Alert Team. The Directorate Food Control is the official contact point for INFOSAN in South Africa. The International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) is a joint initiative between WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Communication regarding dairy products and ingredients originating from New Zealand potentially contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum* was received from DOH. The importance thereof that dairy manufacturers and input suppliers should ensure raw material integrity (food safety and composition) by means of appropriate product specifications and implement corrective measures were communicated to industry.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial action programmes with producers / processors / producer-distributors

Achievements

All non-conforming results obtained through analysis of samples submitted by EHPs for the period July 2013 - September 30 were communicated to processors and PDs by post or e-mail as well as via EHPs in the case where contact details were not available on the system. Letters were sent to processors and PDs in the case where any of the 11 analysis criteria per sample indicated a major non-compliance with the standards as defined in the applicable regulations.

49 Facility visits to PDs and processors whose results indicate non-conformances within the past four cycle runs were frequented until end October 2013. Potential problem areas in terms of a lack of, or non-compliance with pre-requisite programs may contribute to poor results were

identified and corrective actions were discussed with the managers of these facilities. Additional information in the form of the DSA guideline documentation were conveyed during the visits. Follow-up reports on the visits together with new results were sent via post to all facilities visited.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with authorities and other organizations

Achievements

Communication with authorities and other organisations

a. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

The DSA through the Food Legislative Advisory Group (Directorate Food Control) is still communicating with the directorate regarding UV treatment of fresh milk. DSA also requested the review of the regulations relating to milk and dairy products as well as review of the regulations governing microbiological standards for foodstuffs and related matters, R692 of 16 May 1997, as amended.

A follow-up meeting with the Acting Director: Food Control took place at the offices of the DSA regarding assistance of the National Department of Health to address substandard retail bulk milk sales on a national level. Actions taken coincided with workshop activities that took place in KZN during October 2013.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1.1 were completed with reference to category A infringements relating inhibitory substances, E.coli, phosphatase positive results. Facilitation of remedial action regarding the sale of substandard milk and other dairy products are followed up with strategic meetings at district municipality level. Specific attention was given to adulteration of milk with chemicals by a facility in North West province. The matter was however resolved in collaboration with officials of the local Health Authority.

c. KZN Provincial and Port Health

Communication between DSA and KZN Provincial Health is ongoing and actions to address non-conformities following project 1.1 activities in KZN was successfully implemented with three workshops that took place on 29, 30 and 31 October 2013 in Richards Bay, Ladysmith and Durban. The workshops were attended by 208 Environmental Health Practitioners and related professions such as government employed nutritionists.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle 46 results were communicated to the Guardian Manager for the APS Task Team of the Directorate with reference to infringements in terms of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products. Misleading claims and incorrect composition and labelling of fermented products continued to serve as priority.

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

Communication with FSQA included discussions regarding geographical names of cheese products, labelling of milk and other dairy products and dispensation on labelling of cheese products.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA participated in the process of review of the Veterinary Procedural Notice 20 due to changes in health legislation. Inputs to the reviewed VPN was forwarded to the Directorate Animal Health. Positive results relating to inhibitory substances detected during the cycle 46 run were communicated to the department as part of collaboration on chemical residue control.

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

The DSA is in regular liaison with the Senior Manager, inspections: Legal Metrology. A quarterly report regarding metrology infringements was forwarded to the NRCS ending cycle 46 as per standard agreement.

f. SABS (South African Bureau of Standards)

DSA serves on the Technical Committee 1038: Dairy Standards, Sub-Committee 70D: Legal Metrology - sale of goods as well as giving inputs in the technical committee 1025 Hygiene practises in the food industry. All relevant information regarding standards as per standard operating procedure is communicated to the dairy industry via the Milk SA: Advisory Committee Standards and Regulations

Communication with other organisations

DSA attended the scheduled Milk SA and 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. Regular assistance to SAMPRO and MPO members regarding food safety and product compositional standards is continuous.

CGCSA - Food Safety Initiative: scheduled meetings with the manager of the Food Safety Initiative regarding the proposed retail food safety audit (Global Market System) and the position and role of the DSA in the context of the proposed system continued. The matter served at the DSA Board and the service level agreement was finalised to continue with benchmarking with GFSI standards. The next meeting took place on 14 October 2013. Further discussions were held with representatives of Global G.A.P. as roleplayer in the Global Market System food safety audit scheme.

IDF – DSA has been elected by SANCIDF to serve on the Standing Committee: Food labelling and Terminology together with representatives of DAFF.

SASDT - DSA as elected member of the management of SASDT Northern division participates in related matters and give inputs regarding 2014 SASDT Symposium planning that is to take place in April 2014.

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

SAAFoST – DSA attends the general meetings of SAAFOST on an ad hoc basis subject to agenda discussions.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison with authorities and other organizations

Achievements

DSA actively participated in the Food Legislative Advisory Group meeting held on 29 August 2013 regarding dairy related matters in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act,

1972 (Act 54 of 1972)

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

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)
- Regulations relating to Foodstuffs for Infants and Young Children (R991/2012)
- Regulations relating to the reduction of sodium in certain foodstuffs and related matters (R214 of 20 March 2013)
- Regulations relating to milk and dairy products (R1555/1997)

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

- Regulations relating to dairy products and imitation dairy products “ R2581/1987
- DSA participated in a meeting with DTI (Department of trade & industry) regarding matters that will affect the dairy industry in terms of geographical names with specific reference to cheese.
- DSA participated in discussions with DAFF on 10 July 2013 regarding the issue of a dispensation on the labelling of packed cheese. A dispensation has been granted to the packers/distributors and retailers of cheese in view of difficulties experienced with final marking of containers.

All relevant information relating to legislative matters are communicated to the Milk SA: Advisory Committee on Dairy Standards and Regulations for communication and discussion purposes.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education

Achievements

DSA participated in the Lejweleputswa District Environmental Health Forum day. The information session included a theoretical session regarding milking shed inspections to Environmental Health Practitioners as well as a practical session at a milk farm near Wesselsbron on 25 July 2013.

A scheduled information session during which DSA guideline documentation was used took place on 27 August 2013 at the Tshwane University of Technology. This session was the last group of EHP students for 2013.

KZN Provincial Health workshops have been conducted in Richards Bay, Ladysmith and Durban on 29, 30 and 31 October 2013.

A farmers day arranged by Nestle Mossel Bay was attended by invitation. DSA addressed the farmers on the principles of food safety at milk production level in the context of integrated chain management in the value chain.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

DSA regularly published news bulletins regarding issues relating to the promotion of the improvement of dairy quality and safety issues. The document is also used to advertise the DSA

projects and Dairy Quality Club issues. Advertorials and articles relating to dairy technical information were published in the Dairy Mail and Veeplaas magazines. Two broadcasts on dairy technical information and promoting the DSA Code of Practice took place on national radio.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The Code of Practice for Milk Producers which is an extension of the first Dairy Standard Agency Code of Practice was initiated in the first quarter and completed mid-September 2013. The Code of Practice was also launched at the Agri Mega Week in the Southern Cape and is currently distributed to the organised dairy industry and other stakeholders.

DSA initiated the process of developing a generic labelling chart as well as a guideline document to packers of dairy products and other stakeholders in the dairy industry. The intention is also to assist and promote compliance with Regulation 2581, R146 as well as SANS 289 and to add value in a collaborative manner between the organised dairy industry, CGCSA and government. The concept documents have been compiled and the first meeting with stakeholders took place on 23 October 2013.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Nil

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Sept bestuurstate 2013.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

No file has been uploaded

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