



QUALITY OF MILK AND OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS

(PRJ-0049-2014)

DAIRY STANDARD AGENCY

Year 2014 (January 2014 till December 2014)

Project goals

Goal 1 - National milk monitoring in collaboration with health authorities

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for 2014 were successfully completed as per predetermined schedules. A total of 1568 milk samples in the predetermined categories (packed pasteurised and unpasteurised and pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk), 116 cultured milk, 14 buttermilk, 64 cream, 74 UHT milk, 142 yoghurt (various class designations), 36 butter, 230 cheese, 9 sterile milk, 6 condensed milk, 47 custard and 11 milk powder samples were analysed in order to determine compliance to regulatory specifications.

On average 7 metropolitan municipalities, 19 district municipalities and 63 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs representing all provinces. As per procedure results of all 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 where applicable, the Trade Metrology Act, 1973, (Act 77 of 1973).

As per protocol sample results were e-mailed and/or faxed to participating authorities and contact details were updated. The collection of contact information of processing facilities is considered an ongoing process and requests for the purpose of updating contact details have been communicated to all processors.

Non-conforming results obtained were assessed and communicated to all the respective processors and manufacturers identified. Non-conformance reports of continues substandard results were generated and forwarded to the relevant authorities as official complaints. These included separate reports reflecting the following non-conformances:

- >2% Added Water;
- Inhibitory substance positive;
- Phosphatase positive;
- E.coli positive.

Please see attached summary report with explanatory graph on milk sample results.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

Investigation of complaints related to:
Composition of ice cream
Inhibitory substances to milk
Foreign objects in custard
Organoleptic defects in milkshake
Organoleptic defects in UHT milk
The use of food colorant in Amazi
Composition of butter

All complaints were documented, investigated and closed out.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Investigation was launched by the Dairy Standard Agency on a selection of UHT milk samples suspected of flocculation, foul taste and extreme foaming reaction when heated. The investigation followed a complaint received of which the outcome revealed significantly increased values of protease activity in some of the samples. In view of the complexity of the problem, work done was also brought to the attention of the Milk SA: Research and Development Advisory Committee.

Subsequent analytical work was also undertaken (on request of DSA) by the University of the Free State, Department Microbial Biochemical and Food Biotechnology on the samples submitted to determine the possibility of other contributors to the phenomenon of flocculation.

A special investigation regarding addition of stabilisers and colorants to plain fermented milk (maas) was initiated in August 2014.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Planned investigation regarding the testing of milk and other dairy products for heavy metals was not undertaken.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

It was resolved that further research on previous studies first be conducted via the DSA Technical Advisory Committee prior implementation

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Outcomes of DSA Technical Advisory Committee to be tabled in 2015 for further consideration

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

DSA compiled comprehensive statistical reports following the completion of each quarterly cycle. The reports were interpreted to determine possible industry specific food safety risks. All cycle results indicating non-conformances were subsequently communicated to the respective health authorities.

The following websites and web feeds (Rich Site Summary) 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

International food safety (dairy) risks recorded mainly related to the presence of pathogens such as Listeria in final product manufactured from unpasteurised milk. The DSA is a member of the National Department of Health Food Safety Alert Team. No national and international incidents that had a direct impact on the South African industry and consumer were recorded during 2014.

National food safety risk monitoring - Quarterly analysis and trending of results obtained from project 1 – National milk and other dairy product monitoring program in collaboration with health authorities were conducted.

The presence of high E. coli positive results identified during quarterly cycle runs remained a persistent problem. As a result of the interaction with the municipal health authorities an increase in retail bulk samples taken were noted. This was mainly due to continuous difficulties experienced with the level of non-compliance (food safety and product composition) of packed unpasteurised and retail bulk milk and follow-up samples by the health authorities based on risk. Non-compliances were communicated to the owners of the relevant businesses and health authorities. DSA procedures were followed to ensure that follow-up work were done according to the project relating to remedial action with producer/distributors and processors.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial action programmes with processors and distributors

Achievements

All non-conforming results obtained through analysis of samples submitted by EHP's were communicated to processors and PD's by post or e-mail as well as via EHP's in the case where contact details were not available on the system. The scheduled visits of the DSA to non-complying facilities were considered to be very successful as the interaction on a one-on-one basis have proven to produce positive outcomes in terms of compliance. DSA guideline documentation were extensively used during visits and consultative sessions relating to trouble shooting. It was noted that since the implementation of this project a significant number of small to medium dairy enterprises not linked to the normal communication network of the organised dairy industry started to network. The relationships between the DSA and the respective authorities are of great importance in terms of this project, as in certain cases statutory measures to facilitate immediate remedial action are required. Expansion of the activities of this project is considered a priority in terms of the DSA 2015 strategic approach as the role of the DSA as industry self-regulatory initiative is increasingly acknowledged by the government departments and other stakeholders.

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 participated in the Food Legislative Advisory Group (Directorate Food Control) meetings for 2014.

The DSA also actively participated in the joint industry – government initiatives to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in South Africa. DSA participation is a result of these initiative's impact on formulation of government policies and legislative matters e.g. the use of sweeteners and salt as well as other additives in foodstuffs (dairy).

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communications with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 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 were followed-up with strategic meetings at district municipality level. The matter were also raised as discussion point at the South African Local Government Association annual general meeting for Municipal Health Managers where DSA presented on the role of the DSA and proposed intervention strategies to address continual non-conformances.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

DSA relationship with the DAFF lead to the Managing Director serving as chairman of an appeal board of DAFF during a hearing regarding R2581 related matters. Cycle results regarding infringements in terms of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products (relating to 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. Imitation dairy products and the composition of cheese offered for sale in the hospitality industry were once again prioritised and followed up with the Directorate. Liaison in this regard continued into the final quarter of 2014.

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

Communication with FSQA included dairy product composition queries, requests for dispensations, the draft regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products and formalising an amended standard operating procedure for the export of dairy products in conjunction with PPECB and Sampro.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA participated in the process of review of the Veterinary Procedural Notice 20 due to changes in legislation. Inputs to the reviewed VPN were forwarded to the Directorate Animal Health. This work was not completed as final feedback from DAFF was still awaited. Positive results relating to inhibitory substances detected during the cycle runs were communicated to the department as part of collaboration on chemical residue control.

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

The DSA regularly liaised with the Senior Manager, inspections: Legal Metrology. Quarterly reports regarding metrology infringements were forwarded to the NRCS in terms of a standard agreement.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

DSA contributed to the facilitation process between PPECB and stakeholders in the dairy industry with the purpose to review existing standard operating procedures for the export of dairy products. These procedures were to be reconsidered with the latest draft regulations relating to the import and export of dairy products, to be published in 2015.

f. SABS (South African Bureau of Standards)

DSA served 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. DSA also participated in the SABS TC 1094, Livestock welfare, developing SANS 1694, Standards relating to the welfare of dairy cattle. The relationship between DSA and SABS has been further strengthened whereby SABS representation was established on the development of DSA guideline documentation working groups.

g. Department of Trade and Industry

DSA participated in the in-depth study on the dairy value chain and subsequently commented on the draft report.

h. DEB (Department of Basic education)

DSA liaised with the department regarding the supply of safe milk and other dairy products in terms of the National School Nutrition Programme.

Communication with other organisations

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. DSA rendered services to the MILK SA Transformation project by conducting milk shed assessments as part of the Commercialisation of black farmer's project. Regular assistance to SAMPRO and MPO members regarding food safety and product compositional standards were ongoing.

CGCSA – Food Safety Initiative scheduled meetings with the newly appointed 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. DSA personnel attended the training sessions of the CGCSA: FSI Global Market Capacity Building Programme. DSA also delivered a presentation at the CGCSA: National Symposium on July 2014 with the topic Integrated chain management for food safety in the dairy industry: The role of the CGCSA: FSI GMCBP.

IDF – DSA as member of the Standing Committee: Food labelling and Terminology attended and provided inputs at the SANCIDF meeting, together with the representative of DAFF.

LHPG – DSA engaged in talks with the management of the Livestock Health Advisory Group to assist rural veterinary surgeons to better understand the promotion of the improvement of raw milk and herd health with the view on export certification. LHPG – DSA presented at the Livestock Health Advisory Group to rural veterinary surgeons regarding the role and function of the DSA in terms of food safety management at milk production level as well as possible avenues to collaborate on the promoting the improvement of raw milk and herd health.

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

SAIEH – DSA attended the national congress of the SA Institute for Environmental Health and presented on the important contribution of the organised dairy industry in terms of self-regulation, in terms of dairy food safety and product composition and effective collaboration with law enforcement bodies to ensure improvement of compliance with legal standards.

SANCU - DSA communicated 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 planning and presented at the 2014 SASDT National Symposium.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison with authorities and legislation

Achievements

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

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

DSA actively participated in the Food Legislative Advisory Group and departmental meetings regarding dairy related matters, in terms of the abovementioned (Act 54 of 1972)

- Regulations Governing General and Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food (R.962/2012)
- Regulations relating to milking sheds and the transport of milk (R961/2012)
- 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)
- Regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs R146 phase 2.

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

- Regulations relating to dairy products and imitation dairy products – R2581/1987
- Regulations regarding the classification, packing and marking of edible ices intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa - R78 of 8 February 2013
- Draft regulations relating to the import and export of dairy and imitation dairy products
- DSA participated in a meeting with DTI (Department of trade & industry) regarding matters affecting 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 was been granted to the packers/distributors and retailers of cheese in view of difficulties experienced with final marking of containers

Non-compulsory South African National Standards - SABS

- SANS 10049:2012 – Edition 4 : Food safety management- requirements for prerequisite programmes (PRPs)
- SANS 1694 - Standards relating to the welfare of dairy cattle

Compulsory South African National Standards - SABS

- SANS 289:2012 – Edition 1.4 Labelling requirements for prepackaged products (prepackages) and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control

All relevant information relating to legislative matters were 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

Successful EHP information sessions were held on 9 April 2014 at the Ekurhuleni Food Safety Forum and 8 May 2014 in Moorreesburg with professional EHP of the West Coast District Municipality. DSA presented at the Ethekewini Stakeholder workshop attended by the retail sector and health officials regarding dairy technical information and regulatory matters. DSA information sessions based on DSA guideline documentation to student EHP's at six tertiary institutions were successfully completed.

Successful EHP information sessions were held at the following institutions, attended by a total of 231 students:

CPUT (14 May 2014) - 33 students
UJ (21 May 2014) - 52 students
MUT (27 May 2014) - 36 students
DUT (28 May 2014) - 30 students
NMMU (30 May 2014) - 36 students:
CUT (5 Aug) – 44 students
TUT - session postponed until further notice due to student unrest.

DSA exhibited and presented at the South African Institute for Environmental Health attended by 360 delegates in Port Elizabeth. The topic was "The role of the Environmental Health Practitioner ensuring integrated chain management for food safety in the dairy industry".

DSA serves as a member of the Tshwane University of Technology: Academic Advisory Committee for Environmental Health whose function amongst other is to assist with the development of appropriate and relevant syllabus material for the new bachelor degree in Environmental Health Services.

Non-achievements / underperformance

TUT - session postponed until further notice due to student unrest.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

TUT - session postponed until further notice due to student unrest.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Information sessions to be reinstated during 2015 at the institution

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Advertorials and articles relating to dairy technical information were published in the Dairy Mail, Veeplaas and Stockfarm magazines on a monthly basis as per contractual agreements. Three broadcasts on dairy technical information and promoting food safety took place on national radio.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of Guideline documentation

Achievements

Non-achievements /

DSA continued with the development of the DSA Code of Practice for the secondary industry through its Technical Advisory Committee. The process of revision of the DSA Code of Practice (2006 edition) was however prolonged as a result of amendment of legislation and it is projected that this project will be completed in the second quarter of 2015.

The New DSA's Guide to dairy product labelling in South Africa was completed and launched at the SASDT National symposium in Cape Town. The new guideline is well accepted by industry and serves as a valuable tool to assist dairy processors and manufacturers with compliance to current labelling legislation. The guideline together with other guideline documentation were also made available on the DSA website.

underperformance

Revision of Code of Practice for the secondary industry was not completed

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

The process of revision of the DSA Code of Practice (2006 edition) was prolonged as a result of amendment of legislation.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

It is projected that this project will be completed in the second quarter of 2015.

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Financial management report Jan to Dec 2014.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[DSA Annual Summary Report for 2014.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