



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

(PRJ-0108-2016)

Dairy Standard Agency

Year 2016/2016 (January 2016 till December 2016)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for 2016 were successfully completed as per predetermined schedules. A total number of 2120 samples of milk and other dairy products were analysed during 2016. Based on four cycles and average 6 Metropolitan Municipalities, 12 District Municipalities and 56 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 per regulation. In the cutback environment that government operates in, the expertise needed to regulate was often lacking or too expensive to obtain. DSA in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities continuously worked with the law enforcement bodies and provided support through dairy technical information, workshops and guideline documents to limit the sale of non-conforming product. The total number of samples of milk and other dairy products analysed are as per table 1 in the attached annual report.

Samples were submitted to SANAS accredited laboratories as per standard procedure and 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 added water, inhibitory substance positive, phosphatase positive and E.coli positive were also forwarded to the relevant authorities for further action.

The categories packed unpasteurised, retail bulk pasteurised and unpasteurised milk (see figure 1 in the attached report) that continuously indicate a negative compliance rate remains a major concern and focus point of the DSA during 2016 in terms of critical food safety standards. Although the figures relating to this substandard products may seem insignificant in relation to the total of fresh milk sold in South Africa, it remains a persistent problem mainly due to poor control measures (law enforcement) and the unlawful sale of substandard milk to the end user. DSA in terms of guideline development completed the draft update of the current retail bulk milk guideline during 2016 to promote the improvement of the level of compliance for completion during the second quarter in 2017.

DSA in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities (see project goals 5 and 6) continuously liaised with the relevant law enforcement bodies, providing support through dairy technical information, workshops and guideline documents to limit the sale of non-conforming products.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

A total of 10 complaints were received and investigated. Prima facie following investigation complaints were subsequently communicated to the authorities for the purpose of statutory intervention. Investigations regarding complaints related to:

Fresh milk not reaching best before dates.

Addition of water to milk.

Product composition of cultured milk.

Deviation of "fat in dry matter" of specific branded cheese.

Product composition compliance of milk, yoghurt and cream – North West province.

Possible adulteration of UHT milk sold to consumers - standard investigation completed and complaint was referred to Project 3 for investigation for further analysis.

Substandard fresh milk (product composition) 2 complaints.

Labelling of imported cheese sold in retail stores.

Extended shelf life of cultured milk products - Standard investigation completed – Complaint referred to special investigation for further analysis during 2017.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Special investigations were initiated on:

Addition of butter to fresh milk and UHT milk – investigation is ongoing into 2017.

Addition of milk powder and milk protein concentrates to fresh milk and UHT milk – investigation is ongoing into 2017.

Status of Aflatoxin M1 presence in milk – sampling of retail milk in North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Free State were completed.

Compliance of imported UHT milk with national standards – sampling and analysis were completed and results handed over to DAFF for further intervention on non-conforming product.

Flocculation of UHT milk - DSA participated in a fact finding visit to a UHT plant in collaboration with the project leader of the Research and Development Project of Milk SA, in support of determining the factors and commenting on possible solutions to the national problem of flocculation of UHT milk.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy products risk identification project

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.

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of each cycle. Each participating 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 as well as other dairy products. 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;](http://efoodalert.net)
- www.fastmoving.co.za

The focus remained 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. Industry reports on the prevalence of Brucellosis in milk herds in certain provinces and consumption of unpasteurised milk remains a further public health concern and information in this regard has been communicated to the Department of Health.

DSA assisted in the facilitation of the processes addressing the outcomes of the food safety risk incident (raw milk/amasi) in the Eastern Cape leading to the hospitalisation of school children. Interaction took place between milk producers and producer distributors and the local authority in finding solutions regarding the way forward.

*RSS (Rich Site Summary) uses a family of standard web feed formats to publish frequently updated information: blog entries, news headlines, audio and video.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial action programs with the processors and distributors

Achievements

Quarterly milk and other dairy product sample results once processed were forwarded to the respective PD's and processors/manufacturers. These activities are followed by means of interaction with PD's and processors/manufacturers regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions. Communication is 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.

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

Project 5: 2016 facility visits in 9 provinces	Total
Quarter 1	28
Quarter 2	58
Quarter 3	77
Quarter 4	102
Total	265

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 served as standing member on the Food Legislative Advisory Group. In its supportive role, DSA 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 Food Control. Related matters included dairy product enrichment and various regulations relating to sugar, sodium reduction, fungus producing toxins, heavy

metals, food additives and additives. DOH confirmed the legal status regarding payment requests for the issue of certificates of acceptability and inspections by certain health authorities in terms of milk shed regulations which was communicated to industry.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1 was continuous through the year and primarily focused on the implementation of remedial action on non-conforming/substandard milk and other dairy products. Interactions with Environmental Health Practitioners were 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. DSA also assisted in matters such as Ethekewini Metro with revision of its draft by-laws relating milk and milk products as well as interacting with the Buffalo City Metro Health Authority on dealing with the matter of illegal sale of raw milk in its area of jurisdiction.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle 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 continued regarding 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. Follow up facilitation processes and interpretation of matters such as industry dispensations relating product compositional standards and labelling requirements and formal communication with industry via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA were continuous.

Application for assignee in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act: Following the application process DSA was invited to present its application on 8 November 2016. On 22 December 2016 DSA was informed by the office of the Executive Officer that its application was unsuccessful. During September 2016 DSA's managing director on request of the DAFF Director General acted as appointed chairman of the appeal board in terms of the APS Act in a profile case between DAFF and the South African Poultry Association.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA liaison with the directorate was limited to communication regarding chemical residue monitoring by the DSA in terms of its national milk and other dairy product monitoring programs and the Departments' Residue Monitoring and Control Programs and the Veterinary Procedural Notice 20, Standards for the registration of a veterinary approved dairy establishment for export..

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

Standard procedure provided for quarterly reports regarding metrology infringements to the Senior Manager, inspections: Legal Metrology NRCS for further action.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

Industry and PPECB comments were collated and shared with DAFF. The draft SOP was completed to the next phase of finalisation in the final quarter of 2016 when all collated comments would be considered for inclusion into the draft as well as the annexures to the draft relating to the PPECB process flow and documentation control. The next meeting is to be scheduled during the first quarter of 2017.

f. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).

DSA continued to serve on the Technical Committee SABS TC 70/SC 4, Legal Metrology - sale of goods as well as the 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 participated in the balloting of draft standards as well as commented on drafts namely SANS 10049, SANS 10330 and ISO standards via the ISO electronic system.

Outcomes of meeting where applicable were communicated to the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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, Transformation and Research and Development. As standing arrangement, DSA continued to meet regularly 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). During November 2016 DSA rendered services to the Transformation Project of Milk SA by conducting facility assessment in terms of the relevant health legislation at a black owned dairy processing facility in the Eastern Cape.

Regular assistance to primary and secondary industry members regarding food safety and product compositional standards were ongoing. In a collaborative effort DSA shared dairy technical information with the MPO's Institute for Dairy Technology, presenting at a farm management course in Pretoria.

Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA

The Advisory Committee held one formal meeting and the management committee of the project interacted via electronic correspondence to the members of the Advisory Committee on a regular basis. Where applicable outcomes of correspondence were forwarded to the organised dairy industry on an informative basis or requesting comments on regulations and standards. This project is not a duplication of the DSA Project goal 7, Title: Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organisations, as the fundamental difference of Goal 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 structures in the interest of the dairy industry and other stakeholders.

CGCSA: FSI – DSA as member of the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) interacted on a regular basis with management regarding share of regulatory information.

IDF – DSA acts as member of the Standing Committee: Food labelling and identity and provide inputs to SANCIDF electronically. The managing director attended the IDF World Dairy Summit in Rotterdam, representing SANCIDF at various IDF Standing Committee meetings. A report to this effect is prepared for the SA National Committee.

SANCU - DSA communicated with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related issues as and when required. At the last DSA Board and Members meetings Mrs Moolman as long standing director and member representative resigned and was presented with a prestigious merit award for outstanding service to the DSA.

SASDT - DSA as elected member of the management of SASDT Northern division actively participated in the 2016 SASDT and presented at the SASDT National symposium in May 2016.

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

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

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.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organisations

Achievements

Although a blended role of activities exist in terms of interaction with government bodies 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 the General Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food (R962/2012) and the draft R364/2015).

Regulations relating to Milk and Milk Products (R1555/1997). 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).

Draft regulations relating to the maximum levels of metals in foodstuffs. Draft regulations relating to the reduction of sodium in certain foodstuffs and related matters: Amendment.

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 (R260/2015) and dispensations.

Repeal and revision of the standing dispensation regarding compositional standards for butter and modified butter with added foodstuffs and the use of alternative class designations for certain cheeses.

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.

Draft regulations to the protection of geographical indicators used on agricultural products intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa.

DAFF guidelines on pictorial depictions allowed on packaging.

Revised standards for fresh (unripened cheese) in terms of R260 of 15 March 2015 based on Codex standards.

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 479/ISO 5738 Milk and Milk Products – Determination of Copper Content – Photometric method.

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.

Adoption of ISO standards referred to in the R260/2015 Regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa, R260 of 2015 under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990) as SA National Standards by the SABS.

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.

6. Treasury Department

A formal response regarding the matter of taxation of sugar sweetened beverages with specific reference to affected dairy products was submitted via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA to the Standing Committee on Finance and Portfolio Committee on Health. The attendance of public hearings and presenting to the committee is to be confirmed during 2017.

7 . DSA Technical Committee

Two successful technical workgroup meetings were held with industry expertise regarding revision of standards relating to butter with added foodstuffs as well as standards for soft (unripened) cheese. This led to a further consultation with industry via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA and subsequent dispensation granted for butter with added foodstuffs. The matter relating to standards for fresh cheese is still in process and to continue in 2017.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education project

Achievements

DSA presented 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.

DSA interacted with EHP's by means of presentations and workshops on:

26 May 2016 - 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.

27 May 2016 - A workshop was held with 22 EHP's of the Amatole District Municipality (Eastern Cape) focusing on intervention programs regarding the improvement of the safety of milk and other dairy products in the municipal area.

29 June 2016 - An information session based on the DSA Codes of Practices (primary and secondary industry) was held with final year veterinarian students of the University of Pretoria at Onderstepoort.

17 August 2016 - Western Cape Food Control Committee – Presentation on the project activities of DSA and collaboration between DSA, the role of the EHP in dairy industry.

20 September 2016 - An information session based on the DSA Codes of Practices (primary and secondary industry) was presented to students of the University of Pretoria, Department of Food Science.

29 and 30 September 2016 – DSA presented a two day workshop with Fezile Dabi District Municipality based on the DSA guideline documentation. The workshop included a visit to a local dairy processor near Parys in the Free State.

Date	University	Amount of students attending
20 and 21 April 2016	CPUT	28 students

25 May 2016	DUT	27 students
26 May 2016	MUT	38 students
20 May and 1 June 2016	UJ	54 students
5 and 12 September 2016	TUT	63 students
7 September 2016	CUT	59 students
None	NMMU	Session cancelled due to student unrest

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

DSA signed contractual agreements with Veeplaas and Agri Connect. Project work consisted of:
 Quarter 1: A series consisting of 5 articles were completed on food safety and product composition legislation and published in the Dairy Mail with related articles in Veeplaas and Farmers Weekly. Radio interviews on 3 national radio stations, a podcast on Milk SA website and contributions to Milk SA Essay booklet were finalised.

Quarter 2: 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.

Quarter 3: Two articles and two advertorials 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 were finalised.

Quarter 4: Two articles and two advertorials 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 took place.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The updated DSA Labelling Guide for Dairy Products was completed and launched on the DSA website in the final quarter of 2016.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Retail bulk tank guidelines were not completed

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Due to amendment of health legislation harmonisation of guidelines were delayed. Draft guidelines have already been forwarded to DOH for a preliminary report on alignment with new draft regulation.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Draft guidelines have already been forwarded to DOH for a preliminary report on alignment with new draft regulation to speed up the process.

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	December 2016, bl1.pdf Desember 2016, bl2.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Annual Popular Report for 2016 .pdf](#)

Additional documentation

[DSA Annual Report for 2016 rev - .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