



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

(PRJ-0108-2016)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 3 2016/2016 (July 2016 till September 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 58 were completed as per predetermined schedule. 335 Milk samples, 53 hard cheese, 93 semi-hard cheese, 2 semi-soft cheese, 3 soft cheese, 31 cottage cheese, 29 cream cheese, 18 processed cheese and 7 cheese spread samples were analysed in order to determine compliance with legal standards. 7 Metropolitan municipalities, 12 district municipalities and 56 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs representing all provinces.

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 Cycle 58: >2% added water, inhibitory substance positive, phosphatase positive and E.coli positive were also forwarded to the relevant authorities for further action.

During September 2016 special attention was given to the review of the existing DSA SOP relating to the sampling collection, transport and submission to the laboratories of milk and other dairy products to ensure sample integrity in support of reliable test results.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

3rd Quarter of 2016

Investigations regarding complaints related to:

- Compliance of imported UHT milk to national standards – Sample and analysis regarding the retailer complaint received completed. The investigation is continuing to determine compliance in terms of product composition with the relevant legal standards. 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 to reconstitution and recombining processes.
- Compliance of labels of imported cheese sold in retail stores.
- Compliance of milk, yoghurt and cream sold in North West province.

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 academic institutions regarding microbiological quality aspects and whom is conducting research work on behalf of the Milk SA: Advisory Committee Research and Development regarding this subject. DSA's managing director also consulted internationally with experts on this subject during the IDF World Dairy Summit from Poland and France whom will share their respective knowledge on this subject.

Aflatoxin M1 in fresh milk

An investigation regarding aflatoxin M1 in national retail milk is ongoing as a result of test results obtained which indicate significant detection values although within the maximum residue limits prescribed by legislation. Provinces currently of concern is North West and Northern Province.

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 in the process of completion.

Addition of milk powder to fresh milk and UHT milk

The investigation is ongoing.

Addition of butter to fresh milk and UHT milk as milk fat replacement

The investigation in conjunction with DAFF is ongoing

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 58. 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;
- 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. 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.

*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 fourth quarter of 2016.

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.

During cycle 58 visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in Gauteng (5), KZN (20), Mpumalanga (37), Free State 3, Limpopo 10 and the North West (2). During visits, the DSA guideline documentation is

used extensively. In total 77 facilities were visited for the period July – September 2016.

* 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.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

Communication with authorities and other organisations

1. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

DSA as member of the Directorate's Food Legislative Advisory Group continued participation 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. This work is still in process and will continue into the fourth quarter of 2016.

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 Food Control. Related matters included dairy product enrichment and the Regulations relating to foodstuffs for infants and young children. DSA has been informed by DOH that a legal opinion regarding payment requests for the issue of certificates of acceptability and inspections by certain health authorities in terms of milk shed regulations has been obtained and that a formal letter to industry will be forwarded in due course.

. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1 continued in the third quarter. Communication is primarily focused on the implementation of remedial action on non-conforming/substandard milk and other dairy products. Interactions with Environmental Health Practitioners 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.

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

a. Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle 58 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. As a result of the amount of incorrect labelled products detected, the matter has also been referred to the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance for appropriate action.

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

As was the case in the second quarter of 2016, 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. 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 continued. DSA upon invitation from DAFF and following a process of 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 it is shortlisted and that the invitation to an interview will take place in November 2016. As a result of the relationship between DSA and DAFF, the Directorate actively participated in the development of the electronic version of the DSA Labelling guide to dairy products in South Africa which is the latest addition to the DSA list of dairy technological supportive material (guidelines).

On 26 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 Agricultural product Standards Act (119 of 1990) in a profile case between the DAFF and South African Poultry Association.

c. 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.

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

Standard procedure provides for a quarterly reports regarding metrology infringements to the Senior Manager, inspections: Legal Metrology NRCS. Due to no significant infringements reported in the 3rd quarter, no formal report was submitted to the NRCS.

4. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

Following an industry meeting with DAFF and PPECB regarding the revision of the current Standard Operating Procedure for Inspection of Dairy Products Intended for Export in terms of the APS Act, the activities of the work group continued and final comments were requested from all stakeholders prior to submission of the draft SOP to DAFF. As was agreed, the annexures of the draft SOP are to be finalised once consensus on the content of the draft has been obtained. The work is to continue in the final quarter of 2016. DSA engaged with the CEO of PPECB on 16 August 2016 to strengthen work relationships between DSA and PPECB.

5. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

DSA serves 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 also attended the SABS TC 034/SC05 Dairy Products meeting held on 14 July 2016 regarding the adoption of ISO analytical methods referred to in national dairy legislation as SANS standards. Further interaction with the above committees in the third quarter were via electronic comments and ballot voting.

6. Communication with other organisations

a. 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).

Regular assistance to primary and secondary industry members regarding food safety and product compositional standards were ongoing.

DSA exhibited and participated in the MPO Gauteng information day on 28 July 2016 and attended the MPO National Congress in KZN on 7 September 2016.

Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA

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 Management Committee Meetings of the project took place on 1 July and 27 September 2016.

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

c. IDF – DSA acts as member of the Standing Committee: Food labelling and identity and

provide inputs to SANCIDF electronically.

d. SANCU - DSA communicates with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related issues as and when required. DSA also addressed the Bedfordview Consumer Group which is a member of SANCU on the activities of DSA as Milk SA project on the promotion of the improvement of dairy quality and safety.

e. SASDT - DSA as elected member of the management of SASDT Northern division participated in the 2016 SASDT meetings during the third quarter. On 13 September 2016 DSA attended the SASDT Western Cape regional meeting and acted as facilitator in the meeting between the SASDT members and representatives of Agri Expo.

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

g. 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. Due to student unrest no further meetings during the third quarter were scheduled.

h. ALFA - On 28, 29 and 30 September 2016 – DSA exhibited together with Fezile Dabi District Municipality at the African Livestock Trade Fair.

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:

Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

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

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 of 15 March 2015) and dispensations.

Dispensation on the use of the word “fresh” on certain dairy products.

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.

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.

Adoption of ISO analytical methods as SANS standards in R260/2015.

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

Formal comment on the media statement and policy paper and proposals on the taxation of sugar sweetened beverages.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

20 September 2016 – DSA presentation to students of the University Pretoria Department of Food Science.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Nine 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 was done.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The work on the new electronic version of the DSA Guideline for the Labelling of Dairy Products in South Africa has been completed with the final product scheduled to be deployed on the DSA Website end September 2016. Due to technical difficulties, this work is now delayed to mid-November 2016. The review of the DSA Retail Bulk tank guidelines has been initiated for completion during the first quarter of 2016.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Due to technical difficulties, this work is now delayed to mid-November 2016.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Due to technical difficulties, this work is now delayed to mid-November 2016.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Information technology difficulties are addressed by the DSA and service provider

Income and expenditure statement

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

Popular Report

No file has been uploaded

Additional documentation

[DSA Quarterly summary report July to September 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