



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

(PRJ-0108-2016)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 4 2016/2016 (October 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 cycle 59 were completed as per predetermined schedule. 327 fresh milk samples, 69 UHT, 38 condensed milk, 6 sterilised milk samples and 28 custard samples 4 dairy desert, 44 flavoured milk samples and 18 milk powder 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 59: >2% added water, inhibitory substance positive, phosphatase positive and E.coli positive were also forwarded to the relevant authorities for further action. Graphic presentation and interpretation regarding compliance trends are provided in the attached quarterly report for the corresponding period.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Investigations regarding complaints received in respect of

product compliance with legal standards

Achievements

4th Quarter of 2016

Investigations regarding complaints related to:

Possible adulterated 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) sold in Gauteng. – Complaint investigation was completed.

Labelling of imported cheese sold in retail stores – Investigation was carried over from the 3rd quarter and followed up with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

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

4th Quarter of 2016

Special investigations related to :

Addition of butter to fresh milk and UHT milk – ongoing.

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 sold to consumers – 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

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at

the end of Cycle 59. 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 may affected 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.

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. 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 C59 visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops in Gauteng (15), Western Cape (8), Eastern Cape (4), Mpumalanga (1), Free State (42), and North West (28). The DSA Code of Practice for the secondary industry was distributed.

In total 102 facilities were visited for the period October 2016 – December 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

a. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

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 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 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. DSA assisted the 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 59 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 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.

Application for assignee in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act: Following DSA application 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.

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.

d. 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.

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

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 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 conducted an assessment 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 management committee of the project continuously interacted with 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.

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

c. 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.

d. SANCU - DSA communicates 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.

e. SASDT - DSA as elected member of the management of SASDT Northern division participated in the 2016 SASDT meetings during the fourth quarter.

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.

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 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)

a. 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).

b. Draft regulations relating to the maximum levels of metals in foodstuffs.

c. 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)

a. Regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in RSA (R260/2015) and dispensations.

b. 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.

c. DAFF invitation to prospective assignees i.t.o. the APS Act.

d. PPECB as assignee in terms of the Regulations regarding control of the export of animal products, R422 of 22 May 2015.

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

f. DAFF guidelines on Pictorial depictions allowed on packaging.

g. 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:

- a. SANS 10049: 2012 – Edition 4, Food safety management - Requirements for prerequisite programs (PRPS).
- b. SANS 10330: Food safety - Requirements for a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system.
- c. SANS 479/ISO 5738 Milk and Milk Products – Determination of Copper Content – Photometric method.

4. Compulsory South African National Standards – SABS

- a. SANS 289 ED 1.6: Labelling requirements for prepackaged products (prepackages) and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control.
- b. 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

- a. ISO 22000 and 22004:2014 - Food safety management systems – Guidance on the application of ISO 22000.
- b. 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.

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, as well as students in the veterinary and food science disciplines. 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. The project work with tertiary institutions were successfully completed with 319 students reached through this project in 2016.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

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 work on the new electronic version of the DSA Guideline for the Labelling of Dairy Products in South Africa has been completed and the final product was deployed on the DSA website during the last quarter of 2016. Review of the DSA Retail Bulk tank guidelines has been completed and the draft document was forwarded to Department of Health to determine the alignment thereof with the new draft Regulations Governing General and Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food (R364/2015).

Non-achievements / underperformance

The revision of the Retail bulk tank guidelines was not completed.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Completion of the guidelines is subject to affirmation that the guidelines are not in any respect in contradiction with the latest draft Regulations Governing General and Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food (R364/2015) of DOH. Documents to this effect were submitted to DOH and response is still awaited.

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Progress are regularly followed up with DOH as quotations have already been received to continue with the completion of the project work.

Income and expenditure statement

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

Popular Report

[DSA Quarterly summary report October to December 2016.pdf](#)

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