



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

(PRJ-0144-2017)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 3 2017/2017 (July 2017 till September 2017)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for cycle 62 were completed as per the predetermined schedule and the amount of samples of milk and other dairy products were:

Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk - 355

Hard cheese 66, semi-hard 56, semi-soft 7, soft 4, cottage cheese 39, cream cheese 38, processed cheese 3, cheese spread 7 - 220

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 62: >2% 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 continuously indicated a negative compliance rate during the second quarter of 2017 in terms of food safety standards and compositional 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 its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities (see project goals 5 and 6) continuously liaise with the relevant law enforcement bodies, providing support through dairy technical information, workshops and guideline documents to limit the sale of non-conforming products. A formal report to the Department of Health regarding the food safety status of substandard milk is compiled for submission to the Directorate: Food Control in the 4th quarter to this effect.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

Cheese that does not fit the profile of Gouda and Cheddar sold as Gouda and Cheddar - Food fraud / labeling – investigation pending.

Mislabeled cheese packed by retailer. Incorrect use of supplier name during repacking of bulk cheese using the name of another supplier. The complaint was successfully investigated and closed.

Long shelf life of cultured product and possible addition of starch to cultured product (Amazi) – Complaint closed out.

Fraudulent sale of mozzarella cheese made wholly from cow milk as buffalo mozzarella – Investigation ongoing.

Labeling of fat spreads as “butterly”. Complaint handed over to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Misleading claim on butter: “rbST hormone free” on label of butter. Complaint handed over to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

All complaints were documented and investigated. Follow-up verification, where applicable will be conducted during Cycle 63.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Initial work regarding extended shelf life of cultured milk products is completed and currently followed up with a more extensive sampling and test regime relating to the use of products such as Natamycin and other preservatives not permitted by regulation in cultured milk. This work is not completed and will continue into 2018.

Determination of the status of Aflatoxin M1 presence in milk sold to consumers – Project commenced during August 2017 and will be completed May 2018. 50 samples were submitted for analysis during the third quarter of 2017.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy products: Risk identification

Achievements

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of Cycle 62. 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. Quarterly reports forwarded to respective Health Authorities as the below:

Mpumalanga - 13

Limpopo - 26

Western Cape - 22

North West - 31

Gauteng - 30

Free State - 35

North Cape - 2

Eastern Cape - 29

KZN - 14

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

19 international cases and nil national incidents relating to dairy were recorded and monitored. International incidents related to Salmonella and E.coli outbreaks, Cryptosporidium contamination in raw milk, multi-drug resistant Salmonella, Shiga-toxin producing E.coli, and Listeria contamination in cheese.

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.

*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 posed a health risk to the South African consumer.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial action programs with 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.

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. A total of 104 facilities were visited for the period July to September 2017.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Low frequency of visits in the Eastern Cape

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Lack of human resource capacity

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	Telephone calls	Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	4	11	12	28	3
Mpumalanga	16	37	9	Possible appointment of contractor, subject to funds availability	3
Free State	4	6	7	20	3
North West	4	13	0	0	3
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	1	3	0	44	0
Eastern Cape	0	0	0	7	0
Limpopo	7	23	4	8	6
KwaZulu Natal	4	11	0	28	0

* 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.

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

1. Communication with authorities and other organisations

a. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

DSA in its supportive role, assisted the industry with queries relating to food labeling requirements as well as dairy technical matters, which in several cases resulted in

facilitation processes with the Directorate Food Control. DSA participated in the Food Legislative Advisory Group meeting on 28 September 2017.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1 was 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 presented at the Eastern Cape Environmental Health Summit at the Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth regarding the food safety status of milk and other dairy products in South Africa.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle 62 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 labeling 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 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 labeling requirements and formal communication with industry via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA continued. A significant amount of communication with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) continued regarding the appointed Assignee by DAFF and the development of a standard operating procedure.

Meetings with the Assignee as well as industry meetings with DAFF were attended.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA liaison with the directorate continued with regards to the national chemical residue milk monitoring, export certification and import requirements from SADC countries. A formal meeting took place 21 September in Uitenhaag, Eastern Cape with the Provincial State Veterinarian regarding the interpretation of import requirements of Angola.

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

Standard procedure provides for a quarterly report regarding metrology infringements to the Senior Manager, inspections: Legal Metrology NRCS. No formal complaints were lodged with the NRCS during the third quarter.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

Following the facilitation processes that took place during the first quarter final industry and PPECB comments were collated and forwarded to DAFF for finalisation. Prior to signature the draft SOP was recirculated due to legal interpretation issues and is currently with DAFF for finalisation.

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 editing and publication of the draft for public comment. 1 SABS meeting was attended during the third quarter. Outcomes of meeting where applicable were communicated to the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

2. 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. As standing arrangement, DSA continued to meet regularly with the Consumer Education Project Manager to discuss relevant issues. During the third quarter DSA consulted regularly with the organised dairy industry via the Regulations and Standards Project

of Milk SA with specific reference to the appointment of the DAFF Assignee and regulatory matters

Additional work took place as Milk SA projects. These additional projects are separate registered as Milk SA projects and reported on under the following project headings:

Investigation into the establishment of infrastructure regarding supply of standardised standards used for the calibration of laboratory equipment in the local dairy industry.

Special investigation into food fraud: adulteration of local and imported milk and other dairy products.

Additional print of the DSA current Code of Practice for Milk Producers - 300 copies with 300 Milk shed hygiene checklist inserts.

Investigation into the dairy industry's participation the continuation and maintenance of the National Chemical Residue Monitor Program (NCRCP)

CGCSA: FSI – DSA as member of the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) interacted on a regular basis with management regarding share of regulatory information. Matters related to regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, Agricultural product Standards Act and the DAFF appointed Assignee.

IDF – DSA MD is a member of SANCIDF and of the IDF Standing Committee: Standards of Identity and Labeling and provide inputs to SANCIDF electronically. The following IDF request for inputs towards Codex matters received specific attention:

Standard of dairy permeate powder

Processed cheese

Date marking

Labeling of nonretail containers

Front of pack labeling

Food authenticity

SANCU - DSA communicates with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related issues as and when required. DSA attended the general meeting on 26 July 2017 as guest speaker.

SASDT - DSA attended the Northern region meeting on 28 August 2017 in Pretoria.

SAAFoST – DSA personnel attended the SAAFoST National Congress 3-5 September 2107.

Tertiary institutions – DSA serves as a member of the Advisory Boards of the Departments of Environmental Health of the Tshwane University of Technology as well as Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. The purpose of the advisory boards is to give industry inputs and assist the universities with the development of course material for Environmental Health Practitioners. The meetings were concluded during the second quarter of 2017.

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:

Department of Health: Directorate Food Control: Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972)

- Regulations relating to the labeling and advertising of foods: Amendment (R429 of 29 May 2014).
- New draft Regulations on Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food
- Regulations Relating to Maximum Levels for Metals in Foodstuffs

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.
- DAFF appointed assignee 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 SOP.
- DAFF guidelines on pictorial depictions allowed on packaging (cont.).
- Revision of 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 1678 and 1679 Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk (cont.)

4. Codex Alimentarius and ISO

ISO/TS 22002-3:2011 - Prerequisite programs on food safety - Part 3: Farming

ISO/TS 22002-6:2016 - Prerequisite programs on food safety - Part 6: Feed and animal food production.

5. Treasury Department

A formal response regarding the matter of taxation of sugar sweetened beverages with specific reference to the “Draft Response Document on the 2017 Draft Rates and Monetary

Amounts and Amendment of Revenue Laws Bill - Health Promotion Levy” was forwarded to Committee Secretary Standing Committee on Finance, on 6 July 2017

6. DSA Technical Committee

Work identified for the attention of the DSA Technical Committee that continue from the second quarter include the technical SABS National Standards (SANS 1678 and 1679) for pasteurised and sterilised milk.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education

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 completed is as per the table below:

Date	University	Amount of students
17 August 2017	CUT	71
23 August 2017	DUT	24
30 and 31 August 2017	CPUT	19
4 and 11 September 2017	TUT	59
21 September 2017	NMU	14

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Three advertorials relating to food safety and product composition were published in the Dairy Mail as well as one radio talk on a national radio station.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The draft Retail Bulk Tank Guideline document has been completed upon confirmation that it is correctly aligned with the latest health legislation. The document is to be printed during the 4th quarter of 2017.

Non-achievements / underperformance

Delay in completing work due to publication of latest applicable regulations and standards.

Reasons for non-achievements / underperformance

Work cannot be completed without knowledge of latest standards

Planned remedies for non-achievements / underperformance

Liasion with DOH and SABS to obtain relevant information required

Goal 11 - Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project

Achievements

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. Priority was given during the third quarter to the facilitation of the process regarding the appointment of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Assignee and subsequent publication of proposed inspection fees and standard operating procedures relating to inspection and sampling. Matters dealt with under this committee included:

R260 draft standard relating to standards for fresh/ soft cheeses (continued);

R260 dispensation regarding the marking requirements in; respect of cheese wedges, mini milk pods and mini butter tubs (continued).

Regular interaction and meetings between the Management Committees of the Regulations and Standards and Customs Duty and Market Access Advisory Committees took place with the following agenda items shared:

DAFF assignee APS Act R260/2015;

DAFF assignee PPECB SOP;

Dairy import requirements - SADC countries;

SANS standards regarding dairy cattle and welfare.

No formal meetings of the Advisory Committee has taken place during the third quarter

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Sept 2017 Bestuurstate.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Quarterly summary report July to September 2017.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

