



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

(PRJ-0144-2017)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 4 2017/2017 (October 2017 till December 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 63 were completed as per the predetermined schedule and the amount of samples analysed per product are as follows:

Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk 392, UHT milk 86, condensed milk 46, milk powder 23, dairy desert 3, flavoured milk 79 and custard 33. A total of 662 samples were analysed,

8 Metropolitan municipalities, 11 district municipalities and 54 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 63: >2% inhibitory substance positive, phosphatase positive and E.coli positive were also forwarded to the relevant health authorities for further action. Non-conforming test results relating to compositional standards were not forwarded to DAFF Directorate inspection services due to the disruption of services and appointment of assignee. 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 has been prepared for submission to the Directorate: Food Control in the 1st quarter of 2018. This report also reflects on the national Listeria food safety situation and the public health food safety risks relating to the sale of substandard milk and other dairy products

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 2017

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

Adulteration of fresh milk by means of water addition – Complaint closed out

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

Off flavour fresh milk in the retail - Complaint closed out.

Labeling of fat spreads as “butterly”. Complaint handed over to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Case not resolved due to application for dispensation by the manufacturer not successful.

All complaints were documented and investigated. Follow-up verification, where applicable will be conducted during Cycle 64.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

4th Quarter of 2017

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. 138 Samples were submitted for analyses during the fourth quarter of 2017. 29 of the 138 samples indicated traces of Aflatoxin M1 present of which test results were above the MRL value of 0.05ppm.

Industry Testing for *Listeria Monocytogenes* - The following actions were initiated as a pro-active response to determine whether or not the dairy industry was effected by this outbreak. The analyses request letter as received from the Director General's office was communicated to the organised dairy industry. A DSA internal sampling programme was triggered of which the scope of the sampling program primarily focussed on:

- a. Area - Gauteng, Western Cape, Free State, North West, Free State.
- b. Product Types -
 - i. Raw milk sold directly to the public.
 - ii. Bulk milk sold to the public. (pasteurised and unpasteurised product).

A total 57 samples were tested for *Listeria Monocytogenes*

In view of the seriousness of the matter and to assist industry to act in a food safety proactive and preventative manner, a guideline document is to be developed in the first quarter of 2018 focussing specifically on Listeriosis. Monitoring activities are to continue in 2018 on a risk based approach.

- 22 Free State samples were submitted – 22 samples tested negative.
- 27 Gauteng samples were submitted – 27 samples tested negative.

- 1 Limpopo sample was submitted – 1 sample tested negative.
- 1 North West sample was submitted – 1 sample tested negative.
- 1 KZN sample was submitted – 1 sample tested negative.
- 5 Western Cape samples were submitted – 5 samples tested negative.

In view of the seriousness of the matter and to assist the industry to act in a food safety proactive and preventative manner, a guideline document is to be developed in the first quarter of 2018 focussing specifically on Listeriosis. Monitoring activities are to continue in 2018 on a risk based approach.

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 63. Limited information has been shared with the Directorate: Inspection Services in lieu of the appointment of the DAFF assignee. 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 Health Authorities are indicated in the table below:

Province	Number of health authorities that received reports
MP	15
LP	26
WC	22
NW	31
GA	30
FS	35
NC	2
KZN	20
EC	29

Non-conforming processors as well as processors of whose contact details were verified and who applied to receive results were submitted with quarterly reports. 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 remained on the *Listeria* outbreak in South Africa of which a copy of the latest NICD – Situation Report on Listeriosis Outbreak South Africa 2017 – 2018 is attached.

The focus remains on retail bulk milk 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 74 facilities were visited for the period October to December 2017.

Quarterly summary report: October to December 2017

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	Telephone calls	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	4	7	0	20	2
Mpumalanga	2	2	0	23	3
Free State	17	25	0	20	1
North West	10	24	0	31	2
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	1	4	0	25	9
Eastern Cape	0	0	0	6	5
Limpopo	0	0	0	8	0
KwaZulu Natal	5	12	0	27	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.

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 in its supportive role, assisted the industry with 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. DSA participated in the food legislative and communication regarding the Listeriosis outbreak which is ongoing. A special report prepared in the fourth quarter regarding the status of substandard milk and dairy products mainly due the sale of non-compliant milk in the retail bulk milk sector will be submitted to the Director during the first quarter of 2018.

2. 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. The current service level agreement between DSA and municipal health authorities was taken under review and will be communicated with municipalities participating in the DSA national milk and other dairy products monitoring programme.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle 63 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, compositional non-compliance and labeling of dairy products continued to serve as priority. As the work of the appointed assignee of DAFF regarding the

R260/2015 is scheduled to become effective in the first quarter of 2018, preparations were done to communicate results of the 2017 DSA monitoring work to the assignee.

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 and no final agreement could be reached by end 2017. Consultation is scheduled to continue in 2018.

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. Communication with the directorate continued regarding the establishment of an effective chemical residue programme on national level however the matter is complicated as a result of lack of government funding and expectations of industry support to the programme.

4. 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 fourth quarter.

5. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

Following the facilitation processes that took place during 2016 and 2017 the Standard Operating Procedure on the inspection of dairy products destined for export in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act were signed off and communicated to the organised dairy industry. Information sessions by PPECB and dairy exporters is scheduled for 2018.

6 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. The ISO standards 22002/3 and 22002/6 relating to safe farming practises and production of food currently serve as agenda items. SANS 1678 and 1679 relating to pasteurised and sterilised milk are currently under review.

Communication with other organisations

1. 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. DSA presented at two MPO Herd management courses on food safety at Cedara and Dundee. As standing arrangement, DSA continued to meet regularly with the Consumer Education Project Manager to discuss relevant issues. During the fourth 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.

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

2. 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.

3. 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

Labeling of nonretail containers

Front of pack labeling

4. SANCU - DSA communicates with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related issues as and when required.

5. SASDT - DSA attended the Northern as well as Western Cape meetings during the final quarter of 2017.

6. SAAFoST – DSA shared technical information relating to the Listeriosis crisis with members of SAAFoST.

7. ESADA – DSA participated and presented in the Africa Dairy Conference and Exhibition in Gauteng 15 to 17 November 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)

- New draft Regulations on Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food

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, Finalisation of SOP.

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

Publication of the Rates and Monetary Amounts and Amendment of Revenue Laws Bill -

Health Promotion Levy” and subsequent SARS published levies for public comment.

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. This work will continue into the first quarter of 2018.

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 was completed is as per the table:

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

One Information session regarding at the University of Pretoria to 3rd and 4th year students took place on 18 October 2017 as well as one workshop with the professional EHP's of the Kouga Municipality was held on 30/31 November 2017.

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 industry related magazines and one talk on a national radio station took place.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The revisions of both the publications of the DSA Guidelines for the interpretation of quality problems in milk and the Retail bulk milk guidelines have been completed and will be available

in the first quarter of 2018. Revision of an updated electronic version of the Code of Practice for the Secondary Industry has also been finalised and will also be launched during the first quarter of 2018.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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 fourth 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:

Request for industry dispensations regarding technical product specifications.

Regular interaction and meeting 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.

Appointment of DAFF assignee

Treasury and sugar tax legislation

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	November 2017 - BI 1-4.pdf November 2017 - BI 8.pdf November 2017 - BI 9.pdf November 2017 - Voorblad.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Statutory Quarterly report Oct to Dec 2017.pdf](#)

Additional documentation

[MILKSA.pdf](#)

[NICD-Situation-report-on-listeriosis-outbreak-South-Africa_03-January-2018.pdf](#)

Statement

Levy funds were applied only for the purposes stated in the contract	Yes
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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