



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

(PRJ-0188-2018)

DAIRY STANDARD AGENCY

Quarter 1 2018/2018 (January 2018 till March 2018)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for cycle 64 were completed as per the predetermined schedule and the amount of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Dairy Product	Total
Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk	388
Buttermilk (17), Cultured Milk (89), Drinking Yogurt (64), Yoghurt with added foodstuffs (61)	231
Total	619

8 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 64: >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 first quarter of 2018 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 was also updated for submission to the Directorate: Food Control. The report focused on the status of unpasteurised milk sold in municipal area in which the sale of raw milk is authorised vs the status of unpasteurised milk sold in municipal areas in which the sale of raw milk is unauthorised.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

1st Quarter of 2018

Underweight 8g butter portion complaint. The complaint was verified by the DSA and handed over for further investigation and statutory intervention by the NRCS.

Clotting of fresh pasteurised milk sold in Gauteng.

Follow-up investigation regarding % butterfat of milk sold in Western Cape continuously below legal requirements.

All complaints were documented and investigated. Follow-up verification, where applicable will be conducted during Cycle 65.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

1st Quarter of 2018

Calcium determination was done on 10 cultured milk samples in order to determine the range of calcium values of cultured milk manufactured from milk, reconstituted milk and or recombined milk.

The addition of milk powder and milk protein concentrates to fresh milk and UHT milk – the investigation is to continue into 2018 with application to Milk SA as an additional Milk SA project.

Listeria monocytogenes

Tests were performed on all raw and pasteurised milk obtained through the DSA National Dairy monitoring programme (Project 1) to determine the possible risk of *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination of fresh milk. Positive results were communicated to all relevant parties (National Department of Health, Municipal Health Services (EHP's) as well as processors in accordance with standard procedure to ensure test result traceability. All milk samples submitted for analyses (See Project1) were submitted for *Listeria* spp. analyses.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of Cycle 64. 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 Table 3.

Table 3

Province	Reports to Health Authorities
MP	13
LP	26
WC	22
NW	31
GA	29
FS	35
NC	2
EC	29
KZN	15

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.

The use of the DSA Industry Guideline document: **INDUSTRY GUIDELINE - CONTROL OF LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES FOR THE SA DAIRY INDUSTRY** together with other DSA guideline documents were promoted and communicated to the organised dairy industry and other stakeholders to assist with the implementation of precautionary measures relating to substandard milk.

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/FoodAlerts/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

NICD reports

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 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 up 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. During C64 visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops in Gauteng (5), Mpumalanga (3), North West (3) and Limpopo (4). The DSA Retail Bulk Milk Guidelines were distributed. In total 15 facilities were visited for the period January 2018 – March 2018

Table 4 - Quarterly Summary for Project 5 - January to March 2018

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	3	5	23	4
Mpumalanga	1	3	33	3
Free State	0	0	19	2
North West	2	3	3	3
Northern Cape	0	0	4	0
Western Cape	0	0	8	0
Eastern Cape	0	0	0	0
Limpopo	2	4	8	5
Kwa Zulu Natal	0	0	0	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

- a. 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 participates as member of the Food

Legislative Advisory Group (FLAG) of DOH. Due to the listeria outbreak the first of the bi-annual FLAG meetings was postponed until further notice.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities based on information obtained from project 1 was primarily focused on effective monitoring and remedial action relating to Listeria positive test results. 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.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Due to the appointment of the DAFF assignee in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act limited activities by the Directorate Inspections Services were noted. Cycle 64 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 DAFF. Misleading claims, and other non-compliance relating to marking of containers continued served 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. A request from DAFF for an industry workshop regarding certain product compositional requirements has been facilitated and will take place in the second quarter of 2018. Formal communication with industry via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA continued. Extensive work between 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 on behalf of Milk SA.

iii) Directorate Animal Health

DSA liaison with the directorate continued with regards to the national chemical residue milk monitoring, and the import of standards for the use as part of the Milk SA Standardisation of Standards for the calibration of laboratory equipment continued.

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. One formal complaint regarding product non-compliance was lodged with the NRCS during the first quarter.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

Following the facilitation processes that took place during the first quarter final industry with the facilitation of industry SOP information sessions. The information sessions are scheduled to take place on 16, 18 and 20 April 2018 in Pretoria, PE and Cape Town respectively.

f. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

DSA participated as member in the activities of 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 and SABS TC 034 SC 05 Standards for pasteurised and sterilised milk. Outcomes applicable were communicated to the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

Communication with other organisations

Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO

DSA attended the Milk SA Advisory Committee meetings on which it serves and also interacted on a regular basis with the project managers of the Milk SA Consumer Education Project and SAMPRO Training. As standing arrangement, DSA continued to meet regularly with the

Consumer Education Project Manager to discuss relevant issues. During the first 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 continuation of the Milk SA project relating to the standardisation of standards for calibration of laboratory equipment. Further continuation of the project is subject to approval of the work as Milk SA additional project and application of DSA which is to be done in May 2018.

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 Labelling and provide inputs to SANCIDF electronically. An electronic report was prepared and submitted for presentation at the SANCIDF meeting on 3 April 2018.

PPECB – DSA assisted with the facilitation of industry information sessions to take place in April 2018

SANCU - DSA communicates with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related issues as and when required. DSA interacted with the acting chairperson of SANCU also nominated during the first quarter as SANCU as member representative of the DSA.

SASDT - DSA MD as member of the management of the Northern region participated in the activities of the SASDT with the change of venue of the SASDT National Symposium to Pretoria

SAAFoST – DSA personnel attended the SAAFoST Listeria workshop held on 14 February 2018.

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 scheduled meetings are to take place during the second quarter of 2018.

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
Draft regulations relating to preservatives and antioxidants – (alignment of standards with international General Standards for Food Additives)

Regulations relating to milk and dairy products – standards for *Listeria monocytogenes*

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, R422 of 22 May 2015, Draft SOP.

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

SANS 1694 The Welfare of Dairy Cattle

Codex Alimentarius and ISO

Codex Committee on Food Labelling – feedback report of the 44th Codex session

ISO 22000 Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain

DSA Technical Committee

No Technical Workgroup meetings were held during the first quarter of 2018. Work identified for the attention of the DSA Technical Committee are 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 first workshop with professional EHP's is scheduled for 15 May 2018. Project work with student EHP's is to be initiated in the second quarter of 2018.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

DSA signed contracts with AgriConnect and Plaas Media for the regular publication of advertisements and advertorials. 4 Articles and advertisements were placed in the first quarter of 2018.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The following guideline documents were revised during 2017:

DSA Retail Bulk Milk Guidelines

DSA Guidelines for the interpretation of quality problems in milk

DSA Code of Practice of the Secondary Industry

Due to amendment in legislation and voluntary standards the documents were only finalised in the first quarter of 2018.

In addition to the above the DSA also made available the DSA industry guideline document: **INDUSTRY GUIDELINE - CONTROL OF LISTERIA MONOCYTOGENES FOR THE SA DAIRY INDUSTRY** which together with other DSA guideline documents are used in promoting amongst other good manufacturing and hygiene practices as well as effective pathogen control management.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 11 - Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA

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 first 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, revised standard operating procedures relating to inspection and sampling, budget and inspection fees. Other matters dealt with under this committee included: R260 dispensation regarding relaxation of certain clauses in R260 including standards for yoghurt shake and alternative spelling for Kefir/Kephir.

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;

SANS standards regarding The welfare of Dairy Cattle.

SARS Sugar Based Levies

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Maart 2018 - Statutere inkomste staat.pdf CORFIN090 Std Quaterly report - Project Advances - PRJ 0188 - March 2018.xlsx
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Quarterly summary report January to March 2018 - Copy.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