



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

(PRJ-0222-2019)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 2 2019/2019 (April 2019 till June 2019)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample runs for cycle 69 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	363
Butter	50
Cream	70
Cultured Cream	10
Total	493

7 Metropolitan municipalities, 38 district municipalities and (127 local municipality regions) participated in the sampling runs representing all provinces.

Samples were submitted to DSA laboratory as well as 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 Legal Metrology Act, 2014, (Act 9 of 2014).

Food safety non-conforming results obtained were assessed and communicated to the municipal health authorities for further action. Contact details of participating authorities as well as processors were updated as per standard procedure.

In respect of product compositional non-compliance, results as in the case of the previous

quarter, were not forwarded to the DAFF authorities in view of the legal dispute regarding the appointment of the assignee by the Minister of Agriculture. The categories packed unpasteurised, retail bulk pasteurised and unpasteurised milk continuously indicated a negative compliance rate in terms of food safety standards and compositional standards. The figures relating to this substandard products are significant low in relation to the total of fresh milk sold in South Africa. DSA however has initiated the process of renewal of Memorandums of Agreement with all municipal health authorities to assist in the process of monitoring and implementation of remedial action plans regarding the continuous problem mainly due to poor control measures (law enforcement).

DSA in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities (see project goal 6) also 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.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

The following complaint was received by the DSA:
Yogurt complaint – Shelf life and price.

The complaint was recorded and investigated.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

The project planning for conducting a *Listeria monocytogenes* investigation on high risk dairy products in the retail have been finalised and the investigation is to be initiated on 23 July 2019.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

Reports on non-conforming sample results as a result of the National milk monitoring program in collaboration with Health Authorities were forwarded to the respective health authorities at the end of Cycle 69. 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. 127 Quarterly reports forwarded to Health Authorities are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Province	Health Authority offices
MP	13
LP	18

WC	16
NW	19
GA	15
FS	19
NC	2
EC	12
KZN	13

The DSA national dairy monitoring program provides for the sampling of milk 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 relevant dairy industry members.

National and international food safety alerts for the second quarter of 2019 were monitored. Table 3 below reflects on the 25 international websites monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks that may have a public health risk on South African consumers:

REFERENCES:

1. Bill Marler - marler@marlerclark.com - Food Poison Journal
2. Centre for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) - cdc@service.govdelivery.com
3. Dairy Reporter.com
4. FACTSSA - marketing@factssa.com
5. Food Focus
6. Food Focus News
7. Food Safety Magazine - info@foodsafetymagazine.com
8. Food Standards Agency - food.standards.agency@notifications.service.gov.uk
9. FoodStuffSA - DrinkStuffSA
10. Health & Safety Laboratory - HSL@public.govdelivery.com
11. News 24
12. Medical Research Council - MRC@public.govdelivery.com
13. National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID) - niaid@service.govdelivery.com
14. National Institute for Communicable Diseases - www.nicd.ac.za
15. Product Safety Australia
16. SAAFFI (South African Association of the Flavour & Fragrance Industry)
17. United States Food & Drug Administration - fda@go.fda.gov
18. USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service - usfsis@public.govdelivery.com

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 were 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.

During C69 visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops in Gauteng (4), North West (20), Western Cape (1) and Limpopo (11). The DSA Retail Bulk Milk Guidelines and Information Guide of DSA were distributed.

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

As continuous activity DSA in a supportive role, assisted the industry members with queries relating to food labelling, food safety and food additive requirements as well as dairy technical matters. DSA on 30 April 2019 presented at the meeting of the work group of experts on antimicrobial residues (AMR) in foodstuffs of DOH and DAFF, which serves the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AMR. The identification of residues of Antibiotics of Critical Importance for both humans and animals constitutes a critical step in addressing the problem of AMR. Surveillance of antimicrobial use in food forms an integral part of the Ministerial Advisory Committee that was established by the Department of Health in 2014. DOH indicated that the sharing of the results emanating from an industry proposed project on the presence of antimicrobial substances in dairy products will be welcomed and appreciated by the Ministerial Advisory Committee.

b. Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities mainly focused on interpretation of food safety legislation and elements of law enforcement as per the health regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act with specific reference to retail unpasteurised and pasteurised bulk milk.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Following a directive by the Executive Officer of DAFF whereby all functions relating to the enforcement of R260/2015 and R78/2013 were delegated to the assignee, resulted to communications with inspectorate to be disrupted. Pending the high court application in the case between Woodlands and co-applicant Milk SA against the DAFF and the assignee, Cycle 69 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 only partly communicated to DAFF: FSQA.

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

Communication with FSQA regarding dairy product compositional matters and the interpretation of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products continued. Formal communication with DAFF: FSQA also continued regarding the circulation of the second draft amendment of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products as well as with industry via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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 was raised with NRCS in the second quarter.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

The implementation process of the latest PPECB SOP was halted by the DAFF Executive Officer due to concerns considered unjustified by the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA. Since the filing of papers in the High Court by the Woodlands/Milk SA joint application against matters relating to the latest appointment of an assignee, no further developments regarding the PPECB SOP regarding dairy export took place during the second quarter.

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. Extensive work was completed with regards to the SANS 10330 (HACCP). Outcomes where applicable were communicated to the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA. The first meeting of SABS/TC 034/SC05 Dairy Standards was convened on 30 May 2019.

Communication with other organisations

Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO

DSA attended the Milk SA AGM and 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, MPO Institute for Dairy Technology as well as the Co-ordinating Committee of the DSA, CEP and Research and Development Project of Milk SA. DSA participated and exhibited in the MPO Large Herds Conference held on 3 to 5 June 2019. DSA managing director as project manager of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA consulted regularly with the organised dairy industry via the with specific reference to the appointment of the DAFF Assignee and regulatory matters. Regular interaction between the project management and the Milk SA legal team took place during the second quarter.

The management committee of the Regulations and Standards Project continuously interacted via electronic correspondence with the members of the Regulations and Standards Advisory Committee and where applicable to the organised dairy industry requesting comments on regulations and standards. The revision of the DAFF regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products as well as matters relating to the Woodlands /Milk SA high court application received high priority. On request of the project manager DSA also contributed to the project work of the Milk SA Transformation Project by conducting a farm assessment regarding regulatory compliance on a dairy milk shed in the Badplaas district.

Milk SA funded DSA additional project: Standardisation of standards for calibration of laboratory equipment

Liaison with industry members continued regarding the Milk SA project relating to the standardisation of standards for calibration of laboratory equipment resulting in the following progress made. The inauguration of the DSA Lab Services took place on 22 May 2019. Follow up meetings with the responsible work group took place. Although the laboratory is fully functional, the official commissioning of the standardisation project is scheduled end September 2019.

CGCSA: FSI – DSA as member of the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) interacted on a regular basis with the management of FSI regarding matters relating to regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, Agricultural product Standards Act and the DAFF appointed Assignee. No meetings were attended during the second quarter.

IDF – DSA MD is a member of SANCIDF and of the IDF Standing Committee: Standards of Identity and Labelling and nominated to the IDF Standing Committee for food additives. The managing director serves as participant of the arranging committee for the IDF WDS 2010 in Cape Town and attended the meetings of SANCIDF during the second quarter of 2019.

SANCU - DSA as member of SANCU communicates with the SA National Consumer Union regarding dairy food safety and quality related and attend general meetings where applicable.

SASDT - DSA MD as member of the management committee of the Northern region participated in the SASDT management meetings and general meeting during the first quarter. DSA hosted the SASDT Northern region meeting held on 28 May 2019 at the offices of the DSA.

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS – DSA serves as a member of the Advisory Boards of the Departments of Environmental Health of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) 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 second meeting held by TUT was attended.

DSA Technical Committee

The Technical committee meetings held in the second quarter dealt with:

Project planning for the implementation of a *Listeria monocytogenes* investigation on high risk dairy products in the retail;

Investigation into a case study/survey relating the presence of antibiotic residues in milk as based on the Radox Infiniplex analytical method.

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 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:

a. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

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

Regulations relating to milk and dairy products R1555/1997 (draft to be presented to FLAG September 2019).

b. 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.

Draft regulations relating to fees;

Draft regulations relating to appeals.

c. Non-compulsory South African National Standards – SABS

SANS 10330: Food safety - Requirements for a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system.

SANS 10049:2019 Food safety management – Requirements for Prerequisite Programmes (PRP's)

d. Codex Alimentarius and ISO

Amendments to the "Codex General Standard for Food Additives" (GSFA, Codex STAN 192-1995)

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 national level. Session were held with the EHP staff complement of the Tshwane Metro on 28 May 2019 and 31 May 2019 with 22 students of University of Johannesburg. One session was held with final year veterinary students of UP on 26 June 2019 at the Onderstepoort Campus in conjunction with the MPO programme.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Three advertorials/advertisements relating to food safety and product composition were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media. The inauguration of the new DSA Lab Services was also well covered in the magazines namely Landbou Weekblad and Farmers Weekly.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The revision of the DSA Labelling Guide has been completed end June 2019, however due to changes to the current R260/2015 Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products further revision of the guide is foreseen during the fourth quarter.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 11 - Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project The project relates to dairy technical issues, regulations and standards and encompasses industry involvement regarding: [■] Deliberation of industry regulations relating food safety, product composition, metrological and related standards as well as voluntary industry related standards e.g. animal welfare and related matters. [■] Liaison with industry and statutory bodies in terms of draft, promulgated and repealed legislation and effective communication through the Milk SA organisational structures. [■] Liaison and consultation on an internal and external basis and comment within specified time frames via Milk SA organisational structures. [■] Report to industry via Milk SA structures.

Achievements

The management committee of the Regulations and Standards Project continuously interacted via electronic correspondence with the members of the Regulations and Standards Advisory Committee and where applicable to the organised dairy industry requesting comments on regulations and standards. The revision of the DAFF regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products as well as matters relating to the Woodlands /Milk SA high court application received highest priority.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	DSA PRJ-0222 Junie 2019 Jaar tot datum bestuurstate.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

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