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

(PRJ-0222-2019)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 4 2019/2019 (October 2019 till December 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 71 were completed as per the predetermined schedule and the amount of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Dairy Product	
Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk	269
UHT milk	49
Condensed milk	21
Dairy Deserts (Custard)	28
Evaporated Milk	2
Flavoured Milk	32
Milk Powder	11
Dairy Blend	11
Total	**423**

7 Metropolitan municipalities, 13 district municipalities and 46 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs representing all provinces.

Samples were submitted to DSA Laboratory Services 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).

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

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

2 Complaints were received and investigated by the DSA office.

1. Classification of yogurt products as per the product compositional standards under the Agricultural Product Standards Act.
2. Presence of antibiotics in retail milk sold in Western Cape.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

1. Listeria Monocytogenes

A total of 205 samples were analysed for the detection of presumptive Listeria spp. during the DSA's National Milk Monitoring Program for Cycle 70 between July 2019 and September 2019. Out of the 205 samples, eight tested positive for presumptive Listeria spp. This included raw milk and cheese samples and upon further analyses, three of these eight samples tested positive for presumptive L. monocytogenes which have been sent to the University of Pretoria for confirmation. A full report was submitted to the DSA Board for consideration in November 2019.

2. Antibiotic project: A comparison of methods for determining antibiotic residues in milk

The project was established as a collaborative effort together with the Milk SA Research and Development Project of Milk SA. The purpose of this investigation/study is to:
determine by using the Randox Infiniplex test kit, (that is unique in its ability to detect a variety different analytes, and different antibiotic compounds, anti-inflamma-tory compounds, a flukicide and four other potentially harmful residues) if the poten-tial risk exist of the presence of specific chemical residues not normally tested for and detected by means of conventional screen tests in milk for final consumption.
That if detected, such detected chemicals whether below or exceeding the maximum residue limits as prescribed by regulation as part of a formal report be used to sensitise industry regarding the prudent use of antimicrobial agents during milk production (IDF Guide 2103).
To share selected data in a confidential manner with the Department of Health workgroup of experts on antimicrobial residues (AMR) in foodstuffs, serving on the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AMR, known as MAC with the view of improved policy making.

The final testing was completed end December 2019 and a preliminary report is to be shared with the Milk SA Research and Development Project of Milk SA in January 2020 prior to finalising the above objectives.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

Reports on non-conforming test results following Cycle 71 monitoring activities of Project 1 were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of the cycle. 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. 83 quarterly reports were to Health Authorities on a national level.

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. 25 International websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks that may have a public health impact on South African consumers.

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 C71 visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops in Gauteng (9), Free State (27), North West (17), Eastern Cape (6) and Limpopo (2). Where appropriate 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

1. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

As a 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 liaison with DOH focused on the identification and surveillance of residues of antibiotics of critical importance for both humans and animals as well feedback on Codex Committee activities.

a. 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, certificates of acceptability.

b. Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Industry was informed regarding the temporary suspension of the assignee appointed under the APS Act by the Executive Officer and that the legal opinion to members of the dairy industry is upheld namely that:

"the non-payment of the fees of Nejahmogul for any services provided is not a criminal offence under the APS Act, however, the APS act imposes an obligation to pay fees lawfully to Nejahmogul and it can attempt to recover them in a civil court. Milk SA previously recommended that if and when a civil summons is issued each matter would need to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and members should consult with their own attorneys on whether a viable defence is available."

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 DALRRD: FSQA also continued regarding the publication of the latest Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products.

c. 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 raised with NRCS in the fourth quarter.

d. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

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 fourth quarter.

e. 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. Committee work resulted in the publication of SANS 10049 and the draft SANS 10330 (HACCP) for public comment. Outcomes were communicated via the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA to industry.

Communication with other organisations

Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO

DSA attended the 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 Project co-ordinating committee of the Milk SA (DSA, CEP and R&D Project of Milk SA).

The managing director with permission of the Board attended the European Dairy Quality conference in Amsterdam during 11 to 15 November 2019 as well as visited Qlip (Netherlands) who is the preferred supplier of international standards for the calibration of industry high frequency measuring equipment. A scheduled meeting also took place at the Wageningen University to establish a standing relationship on development of analytical methods with regard to food fraud detection in milk and other dairy products.

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 laboratory is fully functional, by supporting the DSA statutory monitoring project of milk and other dairy products. The delay experienced regarding the official commissioning of the standardisation project continued with issues relating to the issue of a master import permit from to be issued by DAFF veterinary offices due to a revised veterinary import procedure. Extensive work has been done regarding the extension of the DSA Lab Services in respect of the establishment of somatic cell count as well as diagnostic testing in the interested of the organised dairy industry

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.

EHEDG: European Hygienic Engineering and Design Group – DSA serves as committee member of the South African Regional Section of EHEDG. The EHEDG provides a balanced forum for food processing equipment manufacturers, users and legislators to discuss issues concerning hygienic design and to stimulate food safety and quality.

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 attended meetings as participant of the arranging committee for the IDF WDS 2020 in Cape Town.

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 fourth quarter.

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. No meetings were held during the fourth quarter.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organisations

Achievements

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 milk and dairy products R1555/1997
Global standards for food additives
Codex Commitee comments on Food Hygiene

2. DALRRD

Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990)
Publication of the Regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in RSA (R1510/2019)

3. Non-compulsory South African National Standards – SABS

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

4. Codex Alimentarius and ISO

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

5. DSA Technical Committee

Technical committee meetings held in the fourth quarter dealt with:
Case study/survey relating the presence of antibiotic residues in milk as based on the Randox Infiniplex analytical method
Survey of chemical composition and somatic cell count of South African goats milk for the purpose of updating criteria relating to industry legal standards.

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, and other professions such as veterinary and Bsc Agric students. Information sessions were completed during the third quarter at 6 respective tertiary institutions respectively.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Two advertorials/advertisements relating to food safety and product composition were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The revision of the DSA Labelling Guide was completed end June 2019, however revision work on the project was again initiated in December following the publication of the latest R1510/2019 Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products. Work on the update of the DSA Code of Practice for Milk Producers with specific reference to biosecurity as well as animal welfare following the publication of the latest SANS 1694, the Welfare of dairy cattle continued in the fourth quarter. DSA audit criteria based SANS 1694 has been developed in support of the dairy industry compliance with animal welfare criteria. The updating work of the DSA Code of Practice for the Secondary Industry as a result of amendment of the latest SANS 10049 and latest R1510/2019 continued during the fourth quarter for the purpose of completion in the first quarter of 2020.

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 Project management of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA consulted regularly with the organised dairy industry 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 continued during the fourth quarter.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	Desember Maandstate 2019 - Bl 1-5.pdf Desember Maandstate 2019 - Bl 11.pdf Desember Maandstate 2019 - Voorblad.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

DSA Statutory popular report Oct to Dec 2019 - 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