



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

(PRJ-0252-2020)

**Dairy Standard Agency NPC**

**Quarter 1 2020/2020** (January 2020 till March 2020)

**Project goals**

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**Achievements**

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**Achievements**

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**Achievements**

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

**Achievements**

The quarterly sample runs for cycle 72 were completed as per the predetermined schedule and the number 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	232

Cultured milk	75
Cultured Buttermilk	24
Drinking Yoghurt	54
Yoghurt (plain/fruit)	73
Dairy desert / snacks	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>

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Metropolitan municipalities, 13 district municipalities and 52 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). Testing for Enterobacteriaceae was included as an analysis on all milk samples submitted. Enterobacteriaceae are a large family of Gram-negative bacteria that includes several pathogens such as Klebsiella, Enterobacter, Citrobacter, Salmonella, Escherichia coli, Shigella, Proteus, Serratia and other species. By inclusion of this analyses as a standard analysis for milk and other dairy products the scope of risk identification is broaden.

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 were forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD).

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

Unverified claims made by processor on public platform regarding the quality of their yoghurt as per the product compositional standards under the Agricultural Product Standards Act. Illegal selling of raw milk in KZN as well as health claims made on the label of the product.

## ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

### **Goal 3 - Special investigations**

#### ***Achievements***

Besides the ongoing work on the establishment of an analytical method for test of milk powder and constituents of milk in powder in UHT, the special investigations as planned for 2020 are scheduled for the second quarter of 2020.

## ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

### **Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification**

#### ***Achievements***

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 fermented dairy products were communicated to the respective dairy industry members during Cycle 72.

#### **Reporting 1.4.1**

Reports on non-conforming test results following Cycle 72 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. Reports on product results of samples bought at national retail outlets were also communicated to the departments responsible for food safety and quality of the specific retail groups. The numbers of quarterly reports forwarded to authorities are 149 and 6 to retail groups.

#### **1.4.2 MIS upgrading**

In support of the DSA projects a significant amount of work has been completed to upgrade the functionality of the DSA Management Information System.

#### **1.4.3 Food Safety Alerts**

National and international food safety alerts for the first quarter of 2020 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 impact on South African consumers:

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. Bill Marler - [marler@marlerclark.com](mailto:marler@marlerclark.com) - Food Poison Journal
2. Centre for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) - [cdc@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:cdc@service.govdelivery.com)
3. Dairy Reporter.com
4. FACTSSA - [marketing@factssa.com](mailto:marketing@factssa.com)
5. Food Focus
6. Food Focus News
7. Food Safety Magazine - [info@foodsafetymagazine.com](mailto:info@foodsafetymagazine.com)
8. Food Standards Agency - [food.standards.agency@notifications.service.gov.uk](mailto:food.standards.agency@notifications.service.gov.uk)
9. FoodStuffSA - DrinkStuffSA
10. Health & Safety Laboratory - [HSL@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:HSL@public.govdelivery.com)
11. News 24
12. Medical Research Council - [MRC@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:MRC@public.govdelivery.com)
13. National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIAID) - [niaid@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:niaid@service.govdelivery.com)
14. National Institute for Communicable Diseases - [www.nicd.ac.za](http://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](mailto:fda@go.fda.gov)
18. USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service - [usfsis@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:usfsis@public.govdelivery.com)

Data collected from reports indicated no 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***

##### **1.5.1 Remedial action – Food Safety and Quality**

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 C72 visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops in Gauteng (7), and North West (2). The Information Guide of DSA and DSA Lab Services were distributed. In total 9 facilities were visited for the period January 2020 – March 2020.

##### **1.5.2 Remedial action – Product label verification and guidance.**

As part of the remedial action program assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 17 Labels were verified and full feedback reports on each label communicated to processors. The labeling website was also updated with the latest applicable regulations to ensure that it is integrated into the program.

## ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

### **Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations**

#### ***Achievements***

##### **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 Codex Committee activities continued as well as invited to the SPS Thematic Session on Voluntary Third-Party Assurance as part of the National SPS Control Systems, during which DSA the md would present on behalf of the South African organised dairy industry the topic: "Ensuring legal compliance of dairy in South Africa – a collaborative initiative between local health authorities and the organised dairy industry". Due to the virus pandemic the

session was cancelled and a meeting was scheduled with the Director: Food Control to visit the offices and laboratory of DSA as well as a dairy farm operation. The opportunity places emphasis on the strong relationship between DOH and the DSA as part of the Milk SA organisational structure as well as the confidence shown by the Department of Health and Minister of Health in the DSA.

##### **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.

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

##### **a. Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)**

Cycle 72 results regarding infringements in terms of the Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products, as a result of the DSA mandate were restricted to communication with the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Control in light of the pending court case

between Woodlands Dairy and Milk SA and the DALRRD respondents.

b. 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 possible revisions of the latest R1510 of 2019 Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy.

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 lodged with NRCS in the first 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 first quarter. DSA engaged with PPECB senior inspectorate during the DSA calibration of standards workshop that was held in February 2020, attended by PPECB

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. Planned Zoom meetings are however scheduled to continue in the second quarter as a result of the lockdown.

### **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) that was held on 6 February 2020.

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 in the first quarter with a scheduled meeting that took place on 9 January 2020 in Port Elizabeth.

#### **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 continued during the first quarter 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. Structural changes to the building was completed and the equipment were installed during February 2020. Commissioning work will continue following the end of the lockdown period.

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. The FSI Compliance Committee meeting was attended on 19 February 2020.

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. The first meeting and symposium for March 2020 was cancelled due to the lockdown period.

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. Electronic participation with the respective standing committees and action teams continued

during the first quarter. As member of the arranging committee for the IDF WDS 2020 notice was taken of the cancellation of the WDS that was scheduled to take place in Cape Town.

SAATCA – DSA as member attended the AGM held on 6 March 2020.

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 planning of the symposium on 26 March 2020. The symposium was postponed as a result of the national lock down.

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 first 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 Committee comments on Food Hygiene

#### **DALRRD - 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 (R1510/2019)

#### **Non-compulsory South African National Standards – SABS**

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

SABS TC 034 SC 17 - Hygiene practices in the food industry : SANS 10156:202X-Ed2 Handling of chilled and frozen foods

#### **Codex Alimentarius and ISO**

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

#### **DSA Technical Committee**

No technical committee meetings were held in the first quarter.

## ***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 B.Sc. Agric students. Scheduled sessions are only to start once information has been received from the institutions following the end of the lockdown period.

Two highly successful workshops were held during 25 and 27 February 2020 at the offices of the DSA and Stellenbosch University with guest speakers from France, Netherlands and South

Africa addressing the topics:

- ISO standards overview in the dairy field, validation & verification process of alternative methods and regulatory approach
- Taking Dairy into the future with alternative testing methods
- Environmental monitoring in dairy processing facilities:
- The use and calibration of testing equipment for fat, protein, lactose and MUN (Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)).

The workshops were attended by 134 industry members.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

#### **Goal 9 - Media communication**

##### ***Achievements***

Two advertorials/advertisements relating to DSA support services and animal health were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media and one national radio interview was conducted.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

#### **Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation**

##### ***Achievements***

The revision of the DSA Labelling Guide was completed including revision work relating to the latest R1510/2019 Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy. 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 first quarter. DSA audit criteria-based SANS 1694 has been developed in support of the dairy industry compliance with animal welfare criteria. The revision 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 has been completed and integration of the latest SANS 10330 is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2020.

### ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

## **Income and expenditure statement**

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">Kwartaal verslag Maart 2020 - PRJ-0252.pdf</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

## **Popular Report**

[DSA Quarterly popular report January to March 2020.pdf](#)  
[Annexure A DSA Lab Services Report Jan-Maart 2020.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