



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

**(PRJ-0252-2020)**

### **Dairy Standard Agency NPC**

**Quarter 2 2020** (April 2020 till June 2020)

#### **Project goals**

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

#### **Achievements**

*Due to the Covid-19 national lockdown the second quarter program for the National Dairy monitoring program in collaboration with Health Authorities had to be rescheduled and amended. The schedules and scope of sampling were combined for Cycle 73 and Cycle 74. The collection and analyses of samples started on the 2nd of June and the cycle will end on the 9th of September 2020.*

*All Covid-19 regulations and risks had to be considered during re-planning of routes. All personnel involved in sample collection was provided with the necessary safety gear as well as instructions on handling of samples. 164 samples were collected in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and North West.*

*Several challenges were experienced thus far including but not limited to the following: Environmental Health Practitioners not able to do sample-collections due to Covid-19 responsibilities (overseeing funerals, tracing of people exposed to virus). Several authorities were unable to participate due to budget cuts on expenditure like collecting and buying of samples.*

*Some Municipalities could not participate due to strikes and protest actions.*

*The above restrictions were managed as far as possible through sampling by area DSA personnel where possible.*

*3 Metropolitan municipalities, 4 district municipalities and 12 local municipalities participated in the sampling run. Table 1 reflects on the number of samples collected and analysed thus far.*

**Table 1**

Dairy Product	Total
Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised, and unpasteurised retail bulk milk	73
Butter, Cream, Cheese	91
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>

*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 a test 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 these analyses as a standard analysis for milk and other dairy products, the scope of risk identification was broadened.***

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

***DSA in terms of its project protocol and relationships with the relevant authorities (see project goal 6) continued to liaise with the relevant law enforcement bodies, providing support through dairy technical information 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 complaints were received and investigated by the DSA office:

Packaging integrity of dairy dessert

Milk that has a chemical taste (possible chemical contamination)

Absence of yoghurt cultures in yoghurt

Misleading labeling of drinking yoghurt

Quality defect of butter

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

## **Goal 3 - Special investigations**

### ***Achievements***

Testing for the presence of psychrotrophic organisms (*Pseudomonas*) in milk was included as a standard test done on all milk sampled and analysed as part of the National Milk Monitoring Program. This work supports the Risk Identification Project of DSA and also supports the proposed work of the Milk SA Research and Development Project as part of an action plan to further conduct research on the scope of presence of the organism in milk resulting in quality defects(flocculation) in processed milk.

In total 73 milk samples were analysed during June and another 127 samples are earmarked for analyses in the next three months. A full report on the presence of psychrotrophic organisms in milk will be made available after the completion of Cycle 73 at the end of September.

***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, cream, butter and cheese are in the process of being communicated to the relevant dairy industry members as tests are completed.

Participating municipalities in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and North West received quarterly reports on the analyses 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. Full reports will be available at the end of Cycle 73.

### **Food Safety Alerts**

25 National and international food safety alerts for the second quarter of 2020 were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks that may have a public health impact on South African consumers. No food safety threats were reported during the second quarter.

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

## **Goal 5 - Remedial action programs with the processors and distributors**

### **Achievements**

Due to the limited shelf life of most dairy products, the prompt corrective action of non-conforming products by the parties involved, is required. The activities of projects 1 and 5 provide for a system whereby information regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions are effectively communicated to the industry members whose product/s reflect non-compliance.

During C73 no visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops due to Covid-19 National Lockdown however electronic communication and consultation continued in this regard.

### **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. 27 Labels were verified and a full feedback report on each label was communicated to processors. The labeling website was also updated with the latest applicable regulations to ensure that it is integrated into the labelling guide.

***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 a continuous activity, DSA in a supportive role assisted industry members with queries relating to food labelling, food safety and food additive requirements as well as dairy technical matters. Additional communication relating to chemical residue and food additive regulations took place.

#### **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, certificates of acceptability.

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

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle results of the DSA monitoring programmes 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.

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

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. No formal complaints were lodged with NRCS in the second quarter.

e. Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB)

Limited liaison took place between DSA and PPECB in the second quarter.

f. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Due to the lockdown scheduled electronic meetings of the virtual technical committees were attended by DSA on which it serves namely TC 034 SC 17, SC034/05 and SC 034/10.

**Communication with other organisations**

**Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO**

DSA interacted on a regular basis with the project managers of the Milk SA Consumer Education Project and SAMPRO, MPO as well as the Project Coordinating Committee of the Milk SA (DSA, CEP and R&D Project of Milk SA) of which one scheduled meeting took place in the second quarter.

The Project management of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA consulted regularly with the organised dairy industry with specific reference to the actions of the appointment DALRRD Assignee and regulatory matters.

Liaison with DALRRD Veterinary offices continued and the DSA master import permit to import international standards was only received end June 2020. Extensive work continued during the second quarter regarding the extension of the DSA Lab Services in respect of the establishment of somatic cell count as well as diagnostic testing service in the interest 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 DALRRD appointed Assignee.

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 second quarter.

SASDT - DSA MD as member of the management committee of the Northern region participated in the SASDT management meetings as well as electronic symposium (Talk Shop).

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 second.

***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:

#### **1. 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

#### **2. 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).

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

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

#### **4. Codex Alimentarius and ISO**

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

#### **5. DSA Technical Committee**

One electronic technical meeting was held to discuss to use the term “vintage cheese” in R1510/2019 of which the proposal was circulated to industry for comment.

***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.

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

## **Goal 9 - Media communication**

### ***Achievements***

Two advertorials/advertisements relating to DSA laboratory support services and animal welfare were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media and one participation (presentation) interview on a national media platform was conducted.

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

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

## Achievements

The conversion of the DSA Labelling Guide to serve 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 second quarter. DSA audit criteria-based SANS 1694 has been developed in support of the dairy industry compliance with animal welfare criteria.

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

## Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">Kwartaal verslag - Junie 2020 - CORFIN173 - PRJ0252.pdf</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

## Popular Report

[DSA Milk SA Quarterly popular report April to June 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