



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

(PRJ-0252-2020)

Dairy Standard Agency NPC

Quarter 4 2020/2020 (October 2020 till December 2020)

Project goals

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

Achievements

Operational activities due to the Covid-19 restraints continued to affect the DSA project activities and more specifically the National Dairy monitoring program in collaboration with Health Authorities. Combining of sample cycle activities and operational logistics (rescheduling and planning of routes) resulted in optimised project outputs in the circumstances given.

Challenges such as the limited availability of Environmental Health Practitioners to conduct sample collections due to Covid-19 responsibilities (overseeing funerals, tracing of people exposed to virus) and reallocation of resources continued. DSA personnel where possible managed to assist with sampling in various provinces.

Table 1

Milk (Packed pasteurised, packed unpasteurised, bulk pasteurised and bulk unpasteurised)	199		
UHT milk	65		
Sterilised milk	2		
Flavoured milk	35		
Sweetened condensed milk	29		
Evaporated milk	17		
		Milk total	347
Dairy powder			11
Dairy dessert			37
		Products total	48
		Total overall	395

5 Metropolitan municipalities, 11 district municipalities and 40 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs in all 9 provinces.

Samples were submitted to DSA Laboratory Services per standard procedure and the 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). The inclusion of Enterobacteriaceae testing as part of the standard analyses for milk was established and increased the scope of risk identification, towards pathogen detection and control.

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

5 Complaints were received and investigated by the DSA office.

Shelf life of fermented dairy products sold nationally

Incorrect labeling of dairy products sold by retail (Lactose free and UHT products)

Packaging integrity – dairy desert

Composition and labelling of yoghurt and dairy snacks

Watery milk.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

1. Investigation into the continuous sale of incorrectly labelled dairy snacks

Investigation into the composition of yoghurt and dairy snacks in the retail as a result of dispensation repealed by the Directorate of Food Safety and Quality assurance of the Department of Agriculture.

2. Milk Powder addition to fresh and UHT milk.

The DSA is working in close cooperation with a competent laboratory to develop a sustainable test method to scientifically proof adulteration of fresh and UHT milk. Screening methods for the purpose of qualitative testing prior to confirmatory tests were investigated.

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.

1. Reporting

Participating municipalities 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.

Reports on non-conforming results 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. 110 Quarterly reports forwarded to Health Authorities are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2

Province	Health Authority offices
MP	13
LP	16
WC	16
NW	18
GA	15
FS	17
NC	1
EC	5
KZN	9

2. Management information system (MIS) upgrading

Conversion of the current MIS platform to be compatible with the Microsoft latest platform started and updating of parameters on by products to be aligned with R1510 was completed. Implementation of new platform to maintain changes started. Functionalities and tests have been conducted to convert to the use of tablets instead of hard copies during field work activities (factory and farm visits/audits).

3. Food Safety Alerts

19 National and international websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks relating to dairy, that may have a public health impact on South African consumers. No further actions were required based on the monitoring activities.

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 follow-up of non-conforming products as to ensure appropriate action by the parties involved, requires prompt action. The activities of projects 1 and 5 provide for an opportunity whereby information regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions is effectively communicated to the industry members with whose product/s reflect non-compliance. EHP's were also requested to communicate all test results to relevant parties. During the fourth quarter 41 facilities mainly focussing on Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Limpopo and the Western Cape.

As part of the remedial action program assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 23 Dairy product labels were reviewed and comprehensive feedback reports on each label were communicated to processors. The labelling website was also updated with the newest 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

a. 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. Additional communication related to the participation of the DSA MD in the WTO SPS Committee Thematic Session on Voluntary Third-Party Assurance as part of National SPS Control Systems which took place on 3 November 2020

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 fourth quarter. Interaction took place by means of a webinar regarding fraudulent activities (SANS 289 – under filling and misleading practises by means of oversized packaging materials)

e. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Virtual work group technical committees were attended by DSA on which it serves namely TC 034 SC 17, SC034/05 and SC 10. DSA actively participated in the review and development of a draft SANS 10156: Handling of chilled and frozen foods on 12 December 2020.

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 a scheduled meeting took place in the fourth quarter. DSA participated as judge in the MPO Stewardship Awards programme and also presented during MPO Dairy School webinar sessions on 27 and 28 October as well as attended the MPO National Congress on 4 November and CEP Webinar on 18 November 2020.

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 and Agricultural product Standards Act as well as new Regulations in terms of the National Environmental Management Waste Act, 2008.

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 in webinars as well as respective standing committees and action teams continued during the fourth quarter.

SASDT - DSA MD as member of the management committee of the Northern region participated in the SASDT management meetings.

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 third quarter.

The European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG) – DSA is a member of the SA steering committee - DSA is a member of the SA steering committee and participated in the meeting held on 30 September 2020.

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 – Milk SA approval of funding for appointment of consultant was finalised, to assist with the revision process in 2021.

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). An industry workshop was held on 8 December 2020 in support of the liaison on legislation project activities, in preparing proposals to industry for comment.

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, ISO and IDF

Latest IDF Codex General Standards for the Use of Dairy Terms

5. DSA Technical Committee

Extensive work was done in preparation of the industry meeting on imitation dairy and the use of dairy terms on plant-based beverages and products (R1510/2019) that took place during the fourth quarter. The work is to continue in the first quarter of 2021.

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. All scheduled EHP presentations were dealt with by the end of the third quarter. Scheduled sessions are only to start in 2021 once notification has been received from the institutions subject to Covid19 lockdown periods. In the interim copies of DSA presentations were made available to all lecturers for the attention of students. On 13 October 2020 an electronic webinar was held with the BSc Agric Animal Sciences students of the University of Pretoria.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Three advertorials/advertisements relating to DSA laboratory support services and food safety/hygiene were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media and one radio interview on a national radio station was conducted.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

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 during the fourth quarter. Validation of the DSA audit criteria based on SANS 1694 is to take place in 2021 with the registration of a Milk SA project and assistance of the Milk SA R&D project.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	PRJ-0252.pdf
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