



Improvement of the quality of milk and other dairy products

(PRJ-0281-2021)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 1 2021/2021 (January 2021 till March 2021)

Project goals

Goal 1 - National monitoring of milk and other 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.

The quarterly sample run for cycle 75 was completed as per schedule and the amount of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Milk total	Products total	Total
170	310	480
Milk (Packed pasteurised)		87
Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)		36
Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)		41
Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)		6
Cultured milk (Amasi)		91
Buttermilk cultured		32
Drinking yoghurt		51
Yoghurt w/ added foodstuffs		70
Dairy snack (Dairy dessert)		29
Yoghurt plain		37

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

Five Complaints were received and investigated by the DSA office:

Butterfat % of milk sold in GA / Incorrect labeling

History report was drawn from DSA database

Resampling and analyses of products were conducted

Communications of non-conformance to processors were completed

Corrective action reports were received from two suppliers

Follow-up sampling by DSA and verification of effective corrective action were completed

Incorrect labeling and marketing of various dairy snacks under Product Type Yoghurt based Dairy Snack – Various role players

Official notice was sent to various role players and applicable departments at the Department of Agriculture

Non-conformance of product against R1555

Product was analysed and report was compiled and communicated to processor.

Verification of corrective actions will be done during C76.

Selling of expired foodstuffs in the informal market.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

The project focused on the identified was identified during the first Project meeting.

Aflatoxin M1- procurement of DSA Lab equipment to conduct investigation work has been completed in the first quarter and the project is to be commissioned in full in the second quarter.

Psychrotrophs in milk - procurement of the required laboratory incubator to assist with the project has been completed and the project is to be commissioned in full in the second quarter.

Addition of milk powder to various types of milk (Pasteurised, ESL, UHT and sterilised milk – work on this project has been initiated in 2019 and the work has been outsourced to an external specialist laboratory to develop the analytical method currently not in existence. The work is still in progress.

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.

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

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.

Improvements on product classification were done. Design of result reports were changed in order to be more user friendly and reflect a wider range of tests conducted.

Food Safety Alerts

National and international food safety alerts during the first quarter were monitored.

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 programmes with producers/processors and processors/distributors (PD's)

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 first quarter 25 facilities mainly focusing on Mpumalanga, Gauteng, North West and KZN.

Table 3

Province	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	3	21	7
Mpumalanga	6	8	0
Free State	0	11	7
North West	9	23	1
Northern Cape	0	1	0
Western Cape	0	21	1
Eastern Cape	0	2	0
Limpopo	0	7	5
KwaZulu Natal	7	8	0

As part of the remedial action program, assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 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 authorities and other organizations

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. Technical matters such as the incorrect issue of certificates of acceptability in terms of health regulations in particular received attention.

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. In support of Project 1, a letter was forwarded to SALGA (South African Local Government Authorities) encouraging the continuous participation in the DSA National Dairy Monitoring Programme.

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

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 dysfunctional status of the assignee and judgement by the High Court in the case between

Woodlands Dairy and Milk SA and the DALRRD respondents.

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. A scheduled meeting to this effect took place on 9 March 2021

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.

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 continued participation in the review and development of a draft SANS 10156: Handling of chilled and frozen foods.

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 first quarter. The Sampro general meeting was attended on 17 March 2021 and DSA progress report delivered.

GCSA: 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 and the 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. The SANCIDF meeting was attended on 31 March 2021 and reports in respect of the above were submitted. IDF electronic webinars regarding animal welfare were attended.

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 first 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. The first meeting in April could not be attended.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities and other organizations

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 – Milk SA approval of funding for appointment of consultant was finalised, and the first phase of the project was completed in March 2021

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). A draft was compiled and forwarded to the industry technical workgroup for comments first week in April 2021.

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.

SANS 298 – Labelling requirements for prepackaged products and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control

Codex Alimentarius, ISO and IDF

IDF Draft of the latest General Standards for the Use of Dairy Terms

IDF draft document on Front of Pack Nutritional Labelling

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) during the first quarter of 2021.

Assistance for the development of the DRDC research project regarding the development of a rapid test method for the early detection of psychrotrophic bacteria at farm level were rendered.

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. EHP presentations for student EHP's were scheduled with the respective tertiary institutions. The project operations have been amended so as to engage with the institutions more through electronic communication, where possible. To this effect, the scope of the audiences are also widened to cover other interest parties as well. The first webinar was held on 31 March 2021 with the subject "Understanding the complexities of the dairy regulatory landscape". The purpose of the presentation was to bring more clarity to the integral role of acts and regulations and standards in respect of compliance and 111 people attended.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Three advertorials/advertisements relating to food safety/hygiene, animal welfare and DSA Lab Services 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 first 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-0281.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Milk SA popular report Jan to March 2021.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