Improvement of the quality of milk and other dairy products

(PRJ-0281-2021)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 3 2021/2021 (July 2021 till September 2021)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample run for cycle 77 was completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below.

6 Metropolitan municipalities, 13 district municipalities and 38 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs representing all 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).

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 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.

Table 1.

Dairy Product	Total
Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk	247
Milk (Packed pasteurised)	129
Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	5
Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	48
Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	65

Other Dairy Products - Cheese	281
Hard Cheese	55
Semi-Hard Cheese	89
Semi-Soft Cheese	6
Soft Cheese	8
Processed Cheese / Spreads	65
Cream Cheese	21
Cottage Cheese	20
Imported Cheese	15
Unspecified Cheese	2
Total	**528**

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

1 Complaint relating to imported UHT milk was received and investigated by the DSA office. The matter was brought to the attention of the retail group as well as DALRRD and import agency. Importation was halted and the complaint was closed out.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

- Psychrotrophs in milk - the project was commissioned during the second quarter and will continue until end 2021. Assistance continued during the third quarter by DSA in the Milk SA R&D project relating to the development of a rapid test method for detection of psychrotrophic organisms in raw milk registered by the University of the Free State.
- Addition of milk powder to various types of milk (Pasteurised, ESL, UHT and sterilised milk) – Development of a suitable analytical method for the identification of differential modifications between UHT milk and UHT milk adulterated with milk powder continued and

is to continue into the fourth quarter.

- Establishment of a suitable sterility test for UHT and sterile product – the necessary equipment has been obtained and equipment was set up. First trials were successful, and the project is to be initiated during the fourth quarter.

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.

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.

Reporting:

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective health 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. 109 reports forwarded to Health Authorities as per Table 2.

Table 2

Province	Health Authority Offices
MP	13
LP	16
WC	16
NW	18
GA	14
FS	17
NC	1
EC	5
KZN	9

Food Safety Alerts:

National and international food safety alerts during the third 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. 14 international alerts were detected which required no further actions in respect of South Africa.

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 food safety and related risks as well as recommendations for corrective actions are effectively communicated to the industry members. EHP's were also requested to communicate all test results to relevant parties. In total 34 facilities were visited for the period 1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021.

Province	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	14	58	14
Mpumalanga	0	14	0
Free State	29	13	3
North West	3	10	1
Northern Cape	0	2	0
Western Cape	0	53	11
Eastern Cape	0	10	7
Limpopo	1	18	5
KwaZulu Natal	0	13	0

As part of the remedial action program, assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 24 companies were assisted label queries.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with authorities and other organizations

Achievements

Communication with authorities and other organisations

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. Technical consultation during the revision meeting of R1555 of 1997 supported the Technical Workgroup of the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project managed by 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 and the encouragement of continuous participation in the DSA National Dairy Monitoring Programme.

b.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 dysfunctional status of the assignee and judgement by the High Court in the 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. Inputs from FSQA were also addressed during the Technical Workgroup meetings held during the third quarter by the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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 third quarter.

d. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Virtual meetings of the TC07034/SC04 Sale of Goods and TC070 Legal Metrology were attended by DSA.

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 third quarter. DSA MD has been nominated to the DRDC project of Milk SA and subsequently participated in the meetings of the DRDC and Management committee.

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 in particular the latest developments regarding the Front of Pack Labelling that continued into the third quarter in collaboration with the Milk SA Consumer Education Project.

IDF – DSA Managing Director 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 webinars of the IDF were attended where possible as well as commenting on documents relating Front of pack labelling, General Standards for the use of dairy terms and IDF comments on Codex Standards on Fats and Oils.

SASDT - DSA Managing Director 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. One meeting was held during the second quarter.

The European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG) – DSA serves as a member of the SA steering committee. No meetings were held in the third quarter.

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 end March 2021;

Rendering of comments to DOH in preparation of the South African contribution towards the Codex Committee on Food Additives meetings (CCFA 52) as well CCFO in September 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). The second meeting regarding the revision of R1510/2019 was held on following comments received from industry and inputs from DALRRD: FSQA.

South African National Standards – SABS

The MD of DSA serves as chair person of the SABS TC 34/SC 05 regarding Milk and Milk Products. As chair person of the TC34/SC05 DSA Managing Director has been appointed on behalf of the SABS and industry on the African Organisation for Standardisation ARSO/TC 04, Milk and milk products. Three ARSO meetings were attended attended during the third quarter.

Codex Alimentarius, ISO and IDF

As representative of the SANCIDF DSA MD participated in the work relating to the General Standards for the Use of Dairy Terms, Front of Pack Nutritional Labelling and IDF comments on Codex standards. Codex standards preparation meetings were attended and comments on food additives as well as fats and oils relating to “plant butter” were rendered.

DSA Technical Committee

The work of this project also supports the project work of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA as well as the Research and Development Project of Milk SA.

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 continued.

Technical inputs continued in support of the Milk SA Regulations and Standards project relating the revision of R1555 of 1997.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information end 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 was widened to cover other interested parties as well. The following successful webinars with 687 attendees took place:

7 July 2021 – Milk Sampling – 101 attendees

18 August 2021 – Dairy laboratory testing – 117 attendees

19 August – Student webinar on Introduction to dairy quality and safety in the dairy industry – 396 students

15 September 2021- Cleaning and sanitising in the dairy industry – 73 attendees.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Three advertorials/advertisements relating to food safety/hygiene and DSA Lab Services were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media magazines.

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 continued during the third. Work on the validation of the DSA audit criteria based on SANS 1694 continued and the project to be implemented in October 2021 in collaboration with the Milk SA R&D project.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	CORFIN173 - PRJ0281.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

DSA Statutory Popular Report July to September 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