



Improvement of the quality of milk and other dairy products

(PRJ-0281-2021)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 4 2021/2021 (October 2021 till December 2021)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The quarterly sample run for cycle 78 was completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below.

4 Metropolitan municipalities, 12 district municipalities and 44 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/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.

Table 1.

| Dairy Product | Total |
|---|--------------|
| Fresh milk in the categories named packed pasteurised and unpasteurised, pasteurised and unpasteurised retail bulk milk | 228 |
| Milk (Packed pasteurised) | 119 |
| Milk (Packed Unpasteurised) | 3 |
| Milk (Bulk Pasteurised) | 39 |
| Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised) | 67 |

| Other Dairy Products | | 266 |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------|
| UHT Milk | | 106 |
| Sterilised Milk | | 8 |
| Flavoured Milk | | 52 |
| Sweetened Condensed Milk | | 21 |
| Evaporated Milk | | 15 |
| Dairy powder | | 11 |
| Dairy Liquid Blend / Mix/ Dessert | | 53 |
| Total | | 494 |

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

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

Achievements

3 investigations were conducted by the DSA.

3.1 Milk adulteration (Possible addition of water to milk sold in Gauteng province)

3.2 Milk sour before expire date (off taste)

3.3 Adulteration of butter (Modified butter sold as salted butter)

All investigations were closed out.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

- Milk SA project: Evaluation and validation of methods for the detection of psychrotolerant bacteria and proteolytic enzymes in milk. Logistical assistance was provided to the Milk SA project and the final samples were submitted to the University of the Free State end November 2021.

- 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 2022.

- 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 carried over into the first quarter of 2022.

- A national survey was conducted regarding the presence of Aflatoxin M1 in fresh milk sold

in SA during the fourth quarter. A total number of 473 milk samples were tested of which 4.4% samples exceeded the maximum residue limit of > 50 ppm.

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.

1.4.1 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 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. 60 reports forwarded to Health Authorities.

1.4.2 Food Safety Alerts

National and international food safety alerts during the third quarter were monitored on 15 national and international websites on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks relating to dairy, that may have a public health impact on South African consumers. No alerts were detected which required further actions in respect of South Africa. The outcome of the presence of the aflatoxin M1 will be further investigated during the first quarter of 2022.

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 stakeholders in a confidential manner. During Cycle 78 visits were paid to processors, PD's and Milk Shops in Gauteng (5), Mpumalanga (6), North West (15) and Limpopo (4). 30 facilities were visited for the period 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021

As part of the remedial action program, assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 15 Requests for label evaluation were received and finalised during the 4th quarter of 2021

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with authorities and other organizations

Achievements

Communication with authorities and other organisations

a. Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

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 consultation during the revision meeting of R1555 of 1997 supported the Technical Workgroup of the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project managed by DSA.

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 and the encouragement of continuous participation in the DSA National Dairy Monitoring Programme.

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 dysfunctional status of the assignee and judgement by the High Court in the case between Woodlands Dairy and Milk SA and the DALRRD respondents. Progress regarding the appointed assignee is reported on under the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA quarterly report.

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. Support from FSQA regarding enquiries on compositional and labelling matters were well received in an attempt to assist industry members with technical matters.

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 third quarter.

e. South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Virtual meetings of the TC07034/SC04 Sale of Goods and TC070 Legal Metrology were attended by DSA as well as monthly ARSO work group meetings relating to the TC 05, Milk and Milk Products

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 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 in the fourth quarter and will continue in 2022 in collaboration with the Milk SA Consumer Education Project. Discussions are critical to ensure dairy products are specifically protected from harmful warning signs regarding fats and sugars on front of pack labelling regulations, to the detriment of the industry and the consumer.

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 attended during the fourth quarter.

The European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG) – DSA serves as a member of the SA steering committee. DSA could not attend the electronic meeting scheduled in the fourth 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:

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 – Revision continued through the appointed Technical Workgroup and three phases of development of microcriteria has been worked through. What is outstanding is the compilation of criteria for composite dairy products of which the work is scheduled for the first quarter of 2022 following which restricting requirements will be revised and completed. It is envisaged that the final draft will be circulated by the end of the second quarter of 2022.

Participation in Codex feedback meetings arranged by the SA Codex contact point regarding Codex Committee on Food Additives meetings (CCFA 52) as well Codex Committee on Fats and Oils took place.

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). Following the second meeting held during the third quarter regarding the revision of R1510/2019 a further document was compiled for the Technical Workgroup's consideration. The work is to continue during the first quarter of 2022.

3. 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 was appointed on behalf of the SABS and industry on the African Organisation for Standardisation ARSO/TC 04, Milk and milk products. Three ARSO workgroups were established to address compositional standards for milk and other dairy products of which the MD of DSA was nominated as WG 1 convener. All ARSO meetings for TC 04 were attended during the fourth quarter.

4. 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. Following the third quarter further Codex standards comments were rendered on 13 October 2021 towards the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils. A Codex feedback session on food additives (CCFA 52) was attended as presented by the SA Codex Contact point.

5. 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 to the revision of R1555 of 1997 as well as R1510 of 2019.

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 through electronic communication. 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.
- 13 October - Cold chain in dairy – 63 attendees
- 10 November - Packaging and Labelling in the dairy industry – 60 attendees

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

Two 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 fourth quarter with the launch of the Code to take place during the first quarter in 2022. In addition, the work on the validation of the DSA audit criteria based on SANS 1694 was completed end November 2021 in collaboration with the Milk SA R&D project. The outcomes of this work also gave direction on the completion of the Code of Practice for Milk Producers.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Income and expenditure statement | PRJ-0281 December 2021 Financial Reports.pdf |
| Unnecessary spending during period | No |

Popular Report

[DSA Popular Statutory Report October to December 2021.pdf](#)

Additional documentation

No file has been uploaded

Statement

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|---|-----|
| 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 |