



MilkSA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2022

(PRJ-0317-2022)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 3 2022/2022 (July 2022 till September 2022)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 81) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for C81 was Milk (Raw and Pasteurised), Cream Cheese, Cottage Cheese, Cheese and Cheese with added Foodstuffs, Processed cheese and Cheese spreads.

Table 1 Number of samples per product collected

Fresh Milk (A-D)	267	Total
Products total (E - M)	265	532
A	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	135
B	Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	8
C	Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	46
D	Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	78
E	Hard Cheese	61
F	Semi-Hard Cheese	84
G	Semi-Soft Cheese	7
H	Soft Cheese	4
I	Processed Cheese / Cheese Spread	50
J	Cream Cheese	22
K	Cottage Cheese	20
L	Imported Cheese	5
M	Unspecified Cheese	11
N	Other (Butter)	1
	Total	532

During Cycle 81, 7 Metropolitan municipalities, 12 district municipalities and 45 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.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Handling of quality problems in respect of product compliance with legal standards

Achievements

The following matters were addressed by the DSA office:

The following complaints were received and investigated by the DSA office:

Compositional non-compliance of fresh milk sold in Gauteng. Five(5) brands of different compositional classes were investigated. Investigation is completed and reports communicated to applicable processors.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

3.1 Aflatoxin M1

A national survey was conducted regarding the presence of Aflatoxin M1 in fresh milk sold in South Africa during the third quarter of 2022 (C81). A total number of 267 milk samples were tested of which 7% of samples exceeded the maximum residue limit of >50 ppm and 3% tested positive (below the maximum residue limit) for the presence of Aflatoxin M1 but <50ppm.

25 positive samples out of 267 samples tested:

>50 ppm = 18 samples

<50 ppm = 7 samples

The ongoing phenomenon of the seasonal presence of Aflatoxin M1 in milk destined for human consumption is of great concern and the combined report of quarterly testing will be finalised in the third quarter for the attention and intervention by the National Health Authority. DSA project activities already make provision for the communication of results to processors as well as municipal authorities.

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, and other dairy products were communicated to the relevant dairy industry members as tests were completed.

4.1 Reporting

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. The total cycle reports forwarded to health authorities for C81 are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2 Total cycle reports

Province	Health Authority offices
MP	11
LP	11
WC	8
NW	17
GA	13
FS	9
NC	2
EC	5
KZN	12
TOTAL	88

4.2 Management information system (MIS) upgrading

The compatibility of the DSA current MIS platform with the Microsoft latest platform was initiated. Improvements on product made was as follow:

Bug fixing

Upgrading of the MIS and LAB systems – Cheese reporting and classification system finalised.

Upgrade Android Audit Application

The Report Server to be extended to include all DSA reporting requirements continue:

Internal Reports currently done through the MIS system

External Reports such as auditing, consulting etc.

CSV export file amendments.

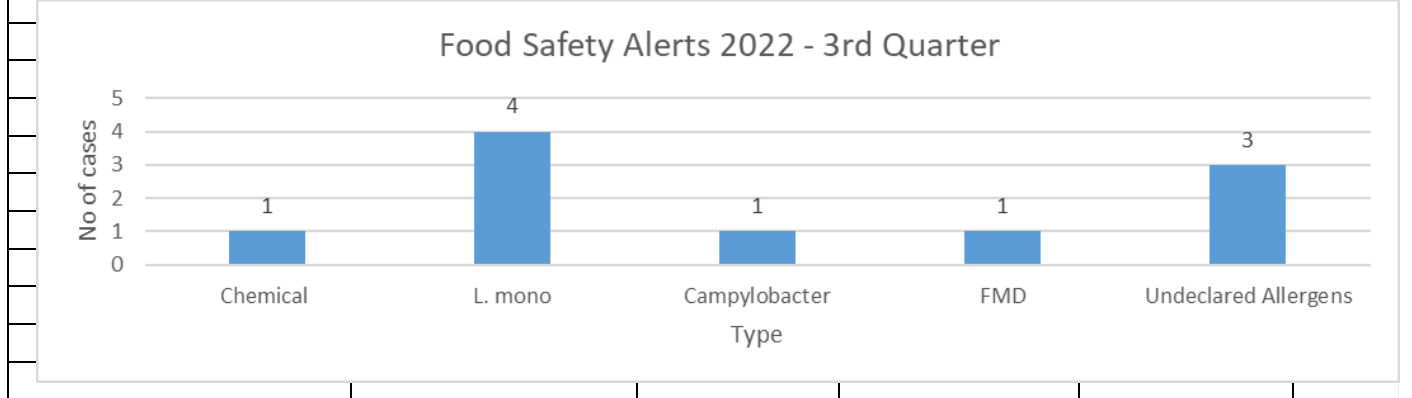
Setup of https web-based platform for Reporting service to clients.

4.3 National and international food safety and recall monitoring

National and international food safety alerts during 2022 were monitored. Approximately 20 national and international websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks relating to dairy during this year, that could have a public health impact on South African consumers. On average 50 international alert are received of which 10 was dairy related. No further actions were required based on the monitoring activities.

Relevant information regarding food safety and compositional standards for milk and other dairy products were communicated to the dairy industry and other organisations.

	FOOD SAFETY ALERTS - 2022 - THIRD QUARTER				
Total # of Reported Cases	Chemical	L. mono	Campylobacter	FMD	Undeclared Allergens
10	1	4	1	1	3



Relevant information regarding food safety and compositional standards for milk and other dairy products were communicated to the dairy industry and other organisations.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial programs with producers, processors and distributors

Achievements

The perishability of most dairy products requires prompt action regarding follow-up of non-conforming products as to ensure appropriate action by the parties involved. The data obtained from project 1, were used and effectively communicated to industry members. EHPs were also requested to communicate all test results to relevant stakeholders in a confidential manner.

DSA technical personnel visited the respective processors, producer/distributors, and retailers (milk shops) to discuss the test results (already received) and to assist with possible causes of the non-conformances and give recommendations to rectify the non-conformances.

In case of no non-conformances courtesy visits were paid to establish and build the role of DSA in a

supporting function.

During the third quarter of 2022 (cycle 81) sample runs, 37 visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in 3 provinces (Table 3).

DSA technical personnel also visited the associated EHPs from the respective government departments of the processors, producers/distributors and retailers (milk shops) visited to give support and guidance in the execution of project 1.

Table 3 Visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops

Province	Companies visited	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	29	31
Mpumalanga	0	0
Free State	0	5
Northwest	1	4
Northern Cape	0	0
Western Cape	0	6
Eastern Cape	0	2
Limpopo	0	2
KwaZulu-Natal	7	0
Total	37	50

As part of the remedial action program, assistance was given to processors on the verification of compliance of product labels against national standards. 12 company's dairy product labels were reviewed and comprehensive feedback reports on each label were communicated to processors. The updated labelling website was promoted during the visits.

Label Queries - 3rd Quarter 2022

Number	Query	Feedback Sent	Report Generated
1	Nutritional information for Lactose Free Milk	04-Jul-22	E-mail reply
2	Plant-based dairy labelling requirements	11-Jul-22	E-mail reply
3	Query re Boerenkaas	21-Jul-22	E-mail reply
4	Soy Milk Label	25-Jul-22	✓
5	Letter sizes	29-Jul-22	E-mail reply
6	Nutritional Table	08-Aug-22	E-mail reply
7	Asiago Cheese Label	31-Aug-22	✓
8	Gorgonzola Cheese Label	31-Aug-22	✓
9	Claims re Jersey Milk	14-Sep-22	E-mail reply
10	UHT Milk Label	14-Sep-22	✓
11	Discussion: UHT Milk Label	19-Sep-22	Telephonic
12	Nutritional Information	22-Sep-22	E-mail reply

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Labelling of Foodstuff were on going.

6.2 Municipal health authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities focused on interpretation of food safety legislation and elements of law enforcement as per the health regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act.

6.3 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 (because of the DSA mandate) were restricted to communication with

the Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance. Since the revocation of the assignee and interim deployment of the Department inspectors, communication with Directorates FSQA and Inspectorate regarding collaborative initiatives may be reconsidered subject to a transparent consultation process between Milk SA and DALRRD.

Progress regarding the appointed assignee is reported on under the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

ii. Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA):

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 the FSQA continued regarding the revision of the latest R1510 of 2019 - Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products, the industry process to review R1510/2019, requirements for the marketing of A2 milk, and the Agricultural Product Standards Amendment Bill and Codex Standards relating to dairy.

6.4 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 of NRCS. No formal complaints were lodged with NRCS during the second quarter.

6.5 South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

The MD of DSA was re-elected as chairman of the SABS TC 34/05 and the scheduled meeting was postponed during the 3rd quarter due to the IDF WDS.

6.6 Communication with other organisations

6.6.1 Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO

DSA interacted on a regular basis with the project managers of the Milk SA's Consumer Education Project, SAMPRO, MPO, Coordinating Committee of Milk SA (DSA, CEP and R&D project of Milk SA). The Milk SA Dairy R&D Committee (DRDC) and management committee meeting were attended, and Sub-committee: Sustainability in respect of animal welfare.

Milk SA matters were attended to in respect of industry queries and technical as well as contractual issues as well amendment to the Milk SA Guide to Dairy Farming in SA. The Milk SA coordinating Committee meeting was attended on 26 July 2022.

Sampro – the general meeting of Sampro was attended on 28 July 2022 and the work of DSA was reported on. DSA support services were regularly rendered to Sampro members as was the case with all Milk SA levy payers.

MPO – discussions with the Institute of Dairy Technology and completion of a service level agreement to collaborate regarding food safety management training to certificates took place as well as discussions with MPO management regarding the revision of R1510 of 2019 in July 2022.

Milk SA Research and Development – The mancom and general meeting were attended in August 2022.

6.6.2 Consumer Goods Council of South Africa: Food Safety Initiative (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:

Agricultural Product Standards Act and Amendment Bill, Foodstuffs Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act (developments regarding the front-of-pack labelling and healthy food options programme) as well as food loss and waste program, together with the Milk SA Consumer Education Project.

6.6.3 European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

DSA is a member of the South African steering committee and liaised with EHEDG by means of an electronic webinar.

6.6.4 International Dairy Federation (IDF)

DSA managing director attended the business meetings of the IDF as well as World Dairy Summit from 9 to 15 September 2022 in Greater Noida, Delhi. The following business meetings were attended:

9 Sept	IDF National Committees (by invitation only)
9 Sept	IDF SC on Microbiological Hygiene
9 Sept	IDF SC on Residues and Chemical Contaminants
10 Sept	IDF SC on Standard of Identity and Labelling
10 Sept	IDF SC on Food Additives
10 Sept	IDF SC on Nutrition & Health and SC on Standard of Identity and Labelling
10 Sept	IDF SC on Animal Health and Welfare
11 Sept	IDF SC on Dairy Science and Technology
12-15 Sept	IDF World Dairy Summit

Standing committee matters and electronic meetings and engagements were attended where possible as well as participation as member in the SC Animal Welfare new work item: Guidelines for a novel approach to manage milk quality on farm.

6.6.5 South Africa National Consumer Union (SANCU)

DSA attended and presented on 28 September 2022 at the SANCU's AGM on the topic "A regulatory perspective on plant-based products"

6.6.6 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

DSA managing director and staff members serve on the management committees of the Northern and Western region and participated in the SASDT management and National strategic planning meetings during the third quarter as well as SASDT webinar on 28 July and student evening on 25 August 2022.

6.6.7 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 (EHPs). Physical meetings and workshops took place as indicated under project 8 and the project manager attended the meeting of the Academic Advisory Committee for Environmental health on 26 August 2022.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities

Achievements

DSA continued to liaise with the authorities regarding the following legislation and standards:

7.1 Department of Health: Directorate: Food Control

Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972)

Revision of the regulations relating to milk and dairy products (R1555/1997). The revision work is still in progress because of the priority work of the Milk SA workgroup finalising the regulations relating to product composition of DALRRD as well as other related regulatory work.

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

Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990)

Revision of the regulations relating to the classification, packing and marking of dairy products and imitation dairy products intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa (R1510/2019). After comments received from industry, same were collated and dealt with by the technical work group. The second draft was forwarded to the industry with the closing date for comments on 21 October 2022 following which the Milk SA working

group will collate the final work prior to further communication to industry and DALRRD.

DSA participated in the review of the draft regulations relating to the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin used on agricultural products intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa.

7.3 South African National Standards (SABS) and African Standardisation Organisation (ARSO)

No SABS meetings were attended during the third quarter other than monthly ARSO workgroups 1, 2 and 3 as well as plenary meetings, with the assistance of the DSA appointed contractor.

7.4 International Dairy Federation (IDF), Codex Alimentarius and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and European Union (EU)

As representative of the SANCIDF, the managing director of DSA participated in the IDF communication and commented where applicable on standing committee activities.

IDF comments on 2022 Codex preparatory meetings were shared with the Codex Contact Point office for South Africa, situated at the office of the Department of Health.

As previously indicated the DSA MD attended the IDF World Dairy Summit and business meeting during which a lot of information was gained on Codex as well proposed EU regulation.

7.5 Dairy Standard Agency Technical Committee (DSA TC)

Assistance by the DSA TC in respect of R1510/2019 as well as R1555 of 1997 continued during the second quarter. The work of this committee project also supports the Research and Development Project of Milk SA. One main area of focus includes a new project application to Milk SA namely proposed establishment of validated test methods for the accelerated determination of numbers and activities of psychrotolerant bacteria in milk.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education

Achievements

DSA presents information sessions based on the DSA Codes of Practice and related guideline materials to professional environmental health practitioners (EHPs) as well as student EHPs, and other professions such as veterinary and B.Sc. Agric students.

On the **28th of July 2022** the Dairy Standard Agency participated in the **MPO UP-Dairy School for veterinary students** by presenting a webinar session attended by **80 attendees**.

Dairy Information sessions for student EHPs were presented at the respective institutions as follow:

5 September 2022 at **TUT** with **64** students attending
14 September 2022 at **MUT** with **30** students attending
15 September 2022 at **DUT** with **18** students attending

With the presented webinars in 2021 the scope of the audiences was widened to cover other interest parties and due to the positive rating of the webinars and on popular demand another 10 webinars were lined up for 2022.

The fifth webinar, on 16 August 2022 was attended by 111 people and the topic was “An introduction to biofilms in the dairy industry”.

The sixth webinar, on 26 August 2022 with topic “Foot-and-mouth disease: practical considerations” was attended by 282 people.

“Key areas of hygienic design-discover the importance of these critical aspects to food safety in the dairy industry” was the topic of the seventh webinar on 30 August 2022 and attended by 48 people.

The 3rd quarter of 2022 was concluded with the eighth webinar on “Reduce the risks of retail bulk milk” that was presented on the 27th of September 2022 and attended by 30 people.

Effectively the project reached 663 people on dairy technical information matters via formal platforms. Recordings of all the webinars on the Dairy Standard Agency’s website are useful to re-cap or for interested parties not able to attend the webinars. These recordings are made available on the DSA website.

Other interesting topics that will be presented during the remainder of the year include E.coli, from a One Health perspective and a final presentation on cleaning or pasteurisation.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

DSA signed contractual agreements with Agri Connect and Plaas Media. Four (4) advertorials/advertisements and two articles relating to DSA services to the industry and other were published in the Dairy Mail and Plaas Media during the third quarter. DSA advertising is also done through the 10 annual scheduled webinars and website.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

Following the successful implementation of the Code of Practice for Milk Producers (COP), the work on the development of a generic documentation system for milk producers, required for the successful implementation of a Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) system on farms and aligned with the COP (focussing on food safety, animal welfare, environmental sustainability and biosecurity) was initiated and the target date for completion the draft was reached by the end the third quarter. The document is now to be introduced and discussed with a workgroup consisting of milk producers and milk buyers before final implementation end 2022.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 11 - To successfully manage the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA which is registered as an additional project with Milk SA

Achievements

The Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA relates to participation in the formalisation of draft regulations and standards and comments on regulatory matters, as well as communication through Milk SA structures in the interest of the dairy industry and other stakeholders.

A separate 2022 report on the activities of the Milk SA Regulations and Standards Project is prepared for Milk SA.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	PRJ-0317.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Popular report July to Septembers 2022.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