



Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2023

(PRJ-0351-2023)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 1 2023/2023 (January 2023 till March 2023)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 83) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for C83 was Milk (Raw and Pasteurised), Fermented products: Cultured milk/Amazi, cultured buttermilk, yoghurt (plain & with added foodstuffs), drinking yoghurt, dairy snacks.

Table 1 Number of samples per product collected.

Fresh Milk (A-D)	177	Total
Products total (E - K)	319	496
A	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	85
B	Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	3
C	Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	30
D	Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	59
E	Cultured Milk	93
F	Cultured Buttermilk	22
G	Drinking Yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	43
H	Yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	49
I	Dairy Snacks	58
J	Yoghurt (Plain)	49
K	Strained Yoghurt (Plain)	4
M	Strained yoghurt w/added foods	1

During Cycle 83, 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

- a. Adulteration / dilution of fresh milk sold in WC/Knysna area. Two brands were investigated, and the outcomes concluded.
- b. Investigation into food safety risk of hard cheese sold in KZN. Investigation is ongoing and action taken in collaboration with the District Health Authority will continue in the second quarter.
- c. Investigation regarding the addition of culture to fresh milk to function as a preservative (*Lactobacillus rhamnosus*). Investigation ongoing.
- d. Investigation into fermented product compliance (kefir) to national microbiological and quality standards. Investigation in process.
- e. Labelling complaint – the use of images on labels of drinking yoghurt sold in the WC. Investigation in process.
- f. Protein content of Greek style yoghurt sold in SA lower as claimed on label. Investigation ongoing

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

1.3.1 Aflatoxin M1

Comparison between the outcome of different tests used for the detection of Aflatoxin M1 in pasteurised milk. Test samples were analysed by using 3 different types of test methods. The outcome of the investigation led to the conclusion that not all aflatoxin M1 screening tests are suitable for Aflatoxin M1 detection in pasteurised milk.

The matter is currently further investigated to ensure the most suitable analytical methods are used for both raw and pasteurised milk destined for human consumption.

1.3.2 Psychrotrophs in milk

Milk SA project: Evaluation and validation of methods for the detection of psychrotolerant bacteria and proteolytic enzymes in milk. The project was commissioned during the second quarter. Assistance was rendered by DSA in the Milk SA Research and Development Project (Milk SA R&D) 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. A test method was developed, and DSA laboratory services are in the process of sourcing equipment and the establishment of the method as part of the ongoing effort to

broaden the services provided to the industry and the projects of MilkSA.

1.3.3 Addition of milk powder to various types of milk (Pasteurised, ESL, UHT and sterilised milk)

Internal trials were run using upgraded adulteration detection software installed on the Milkoscan to detect the addition of various types of milk powder to different types of milk. The data collected was sent to the University of the Free State for interpretation and final results are awaited.

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.

1.4.1 Reporting of results to Health Authorities

Reports on non-conforming results were forwarded to the respective government departments at the end of each cycle. Each participating municipality received a quarterly report on the analysis done of all 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 C83 are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2 Total cycle reports

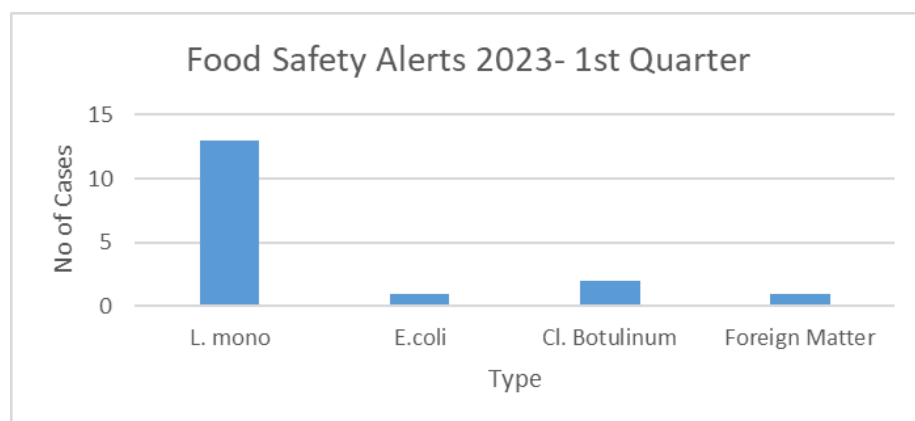
Province	Health Authority offices
MP	11
LP	11
WC	8
NW	16
GA	10
FS	9
NC	2
EC	7
KZN	12
TOTAL	85

1.4.2 Management information system (MIS) upgrading

The extension work on the Report Server to include all DSA reporting requirements was finalised:
The website for the communication of test results updated.
Addition of customized reports fit for customer requirements was completed.
Integration of MIS reporting system on milk with Lab system was completed.
Bug fixes on mobile audit app was done.

1.4.3 National and international food safety and recall monitoring

National and international food safety alerts during 2023 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. Twenty international dairy related alerts were received. No further actions were required based on the monitoring activities.



No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial programs with producers, processors and distributors

Achievements

The data obtained from project 1, was 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 first quarter of 2023 (cycle 83) sample runs, 26 visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in 4 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	2	11
Mpumalanga	12	0

Free State	11	2
Northwest	0	0
Northern Cape	0	0
Western Cape	0	2
Eastern Cape	0	4
Limpopo	0	3
KwaZulu Natal	0	1
Total	25	23

As part of the remedial action program, assistance was given to a cheese processor in KZN regarding risk identification inside processing facility as well as the implementation of PRP's and a food safety management system.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

1.6.1 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 with the directorate during the revision meeting of R1555/1997, supported the technical workgroup of the Milk SA Regulations and Standards project managed by DSA, continued during 2023 of which the work is to be completed in 2023.

1.6.2 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 municipal authorities in the continuous participation in the DSA national dairy monitoring programme.

1.6.3 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 considering 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 was reported on under the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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 the FSQA also continued regarding possible revisions of the latest R1510 of 2019 - Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products, which initiated the industry process to review R1510/2019.

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

1.6.4 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 2023.

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

1.6.5 South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

DSA participated as member in the activities of the Technical Committee SABS/TC 070/SC 04, Legal Metrology - Sale of goods, as well as the SABS/TC 034/SC 17, Food products – hygiene practices in the food industry and technical committee.

A virtual workgroup technical committees meeting was attended by DSA on which it serves namely TC 034/SC 17 / SC 034/05 and SC 10. DSA continued participation in the review and development of a draft SANS 10156: Handling of chilled and frozen foods.

Virtual meetings of the TC 070/SC 04, Sale of goods and TC 070, Legal Metrology were attended by DSA as well as monthly African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) workgroup meetings relating to the TC 05, Milk and milk products.

1.6.6 COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

1.6.6.1 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 as well as the Project Coordinating Committee of Milk SA (DSA, CEP and R&D project of Milk SA) of which scheduled meetings took place during 2023.

1.6.6.2 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:

- Regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act;
- Agricultural Product Standards Act and bill;
- GI Regulations
- Food loss and waste
- The latest developments regarding the Front of Pack Labelling.

Collaboration on the Front of Pack labelling initiative continued in 2023 together with the Milk SA Consumer Education Project and industry members in respect of the proposed use of warning signs on dairy products regarding fats and sugars on front of pack labelling regulations - to the detriment of the industry and the consumer.

1.6.6.3 European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

DSA is a member of the South African steering committee. One meeting was held with the SA Committee Manager during the first quarter of 2023.

1.6.6.4 International Dairy Federation (IDF)

DSA managing director is a member of the South African National Committee of the International Dairy Federation (SANCIDF) and of the IDF Standing Committee: Standards of Identity and Labelling and nominated to the IDF Standing Committee for food additives and related action teams. Electronic SC meetings were attended where possible, as well as commenting on documents relating Front of pack labelling, E-commerce, food additives, questionnaires and related documents.

1.6.6.5 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

DSA managing director as member of the management committee of the Northern region participated in the SASDT management meetings, in preparation of the upcoming National Symposium in April 2023.

1.6.6.6 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). One meeting was attended.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities

Achievements

DSA continued liaison with the authorities regarding the following legislation and standards:

1.7.1 Department of Health: Directorate: Food Control

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

The publication of the incorrect version of the draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising foodstuffs on 31 January 2023 resulted in regular interactions between the DSA, DOH and industry members. Comments to Department of Health were withheld on anticipation of the withdrawal of the wrong version and republication of the correct one.

1.7.2 Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (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 the Republic of South Africa (R1510/2019).

The proposed draft regulation relating to dairy and imitation dairy products received attention during the first quarter in preparation of the next technical workgroup meeting for comments during the second quarter of 2023.

Other communication with the Department related to the deployment of working relations with the Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance and Directorate Inspection Services regarding law enforcement and interpretation of regulations.

1.7.3 South African National Standards (SABS)

The managing director of DSA serves as chairperson of the SABS TC 034/SC 05 regarding Milk and milk products. The first meeting for TC 034/SC 05 is scheduled in May 2023.

Interactions with SABS related to the administration and role of SA members and convener in the ARSO TC 04. ARSO monthly and the planetary meetings were well attended during the first quarter of 2023.

1.7.4 International Dairy Federation, Codex Alimentarius and International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

As representative of the SANCIDF, the managing director of DSA participated in the respective IDF SC meetings. IDF comments on front of pack nutritional labelling were followed through and used as part of the information forwarded to the South African Codex contact point for the purpose of discussion at the next South African preparation meeting of the Codex feedback sessions.

One Codex standards preparation meeting was attended and comments on food additives were rendered.

1.7.5 DSA Technical Committee

Preparation work on matters such as imitation dairy and the use of dairy terms on plant-based beverages and products (R1510/2019) that took place in 2022 continued during the first quarter in 2023. This work also supports the project work of the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA.

The work relating the revision of R1555 of 1997, in support of the Research and Development Project of Milk SA has been extended to May 2023.

The establishment of a rapid test method for the early detection of psychotropic bacteria at farm level continued is pending and funding for the procurement of laboratory equipment is to be finalised in the second quarter of 2023.

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.

Dairy Information sessions for student EHPs, veterinary and B.Sc. Agric students were scheduled with the respective tertiary institutions to commence in the second quarter of 2023.

Insightful dairy information workshops were presented to different role players (professional EHPs, milk producers, milk shops and milk processors) around the table. The workshops were presented at the municipalities below:

21 February 2023 at Ficksburg, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality with 8 attendees.

24 February 2023 at Clarens, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality with 8 attendees.

With the presented webinars in 2021 and 2022 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 2023, starting in April 2023.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

DSA signed a 2023 contractual agreement with Plaas Media which ensures DSA media related work are covered by a wide variety of platforms, also focussing the electronic media. The publication of advertorials and advertisements started in March 2023. Two radio talks on regional radio stations in collaboration with the Consumer Education Project of Milk SA.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The current work regarding the documentation development of milk producer's documentation system is ongoing.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	PRJ-0351.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA Popular report Jan to March 2023.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