



Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2023

(PRJ-0351-2023)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 2 2023/2023 (April 2023 till June 2023)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 84) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product are indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for cycle 84 was milk (raw and pasteurised), cream and butter.

Table 1 **Number of samples per product collected.**

Fresh Milk (A-D)	199	Total
Products total (E - K)	135	334
A	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	113
B	Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	2
C	Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	27
D	Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	56
E	Cream	63
F	Cultured/Sour cream	21
H	Butter	40
J	Butter modified	12

During cycle 84, 4 metropolitan municipalities, 13 district municipalities and 43 local municipalities participated in the sampling runs, representing all provinces.

Samples were submitted to the 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.

The 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 investigated:

- a. Food safety risk and labelling of cheese sold in KwaZulu-Natal. The investigation concluded and remedial steps taken in collaboration with the District Health Authority.
- b. Addition of culture to fresh milk to function as a preservative (*Lactobacillus rhamnosus*). The investigation to be referred as a special investigation.
- c. Fermented product compliance (kefir) and labelling sold in KwaZulu-Natal to legal food safety and quality standards. Investigation in process.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

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. Software updates were installed on equipment used by the DSA and Aflatoxin M1 testing program resumed.

3.2 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. Data was sent to the University of the Free State for interpretation. Await final feedback.

3.3 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 the 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. Based on the method developed, implementation will take place during the third quarter following the procurement of testing equipment as part of the ongoing effort to broaden the services provided to the industry and the projects of Milk SA.

3.4 Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging.

Special investigation on product labelling that might contain deceptive claims and that can be misleading to consumers. Focus will be on the correlation between what is printed on labelling and the content of the product. The first report on the matter will be available end of the third quarter 2023 and final project report on the matter will be available end of 2023.

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 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 cycle 84 are indicated in Table 2.

Table 2 Total cycle reports

Province	Health Authority offices
Mpumalanga	11
Limpopo	11
Western Cape	8
North West	16
Gauteng	10
Free State	9
Northern Cape	2
Eastern Cape	7
KwaZulu-Natal	12
TOTAL	85

4.2 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.

Goal 5 - Remedial programs with producers, processors and distributors

Achievements

Following the activities of project 1.1, project 1.5 provides for an opportunity whereby information regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions are effectively communicated to the *suppliers either by means of a telephone call, e-mail report, posted report or a visit to the facility. EHP's were also requested to communicate all test results to relevant parties.

During cycle 84 visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in Mpumalanga (4), North West (6), Western Cape (3), Eastern Cape (7), Limpopo (6) and KwaZulu-Natal (10). The DSA Lab Services Pamphlet was distributed.

The 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	Areas visited	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	0	0	47	5
Mpumalanga	2	4	10	0
Free State	0	0	10	1
North West	1	6	9	1
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	3	3	36	2
Eastern Cape	6	7	20	2
Limpopo	3	6	13	9
KwaZulu-Natal	6	10	23	0

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

6.1 Department of Health: Directorate Food Control

As a continuous activity, the 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 amendment of standards in legislation relating to the draft R3337 of 21 April 2023 received priority attention.

6.2 Municipal health authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities focussing on the interpretation of food safety legislation and implementation of R638 and R328 on law enforcement as per the health regulations under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, with specific reference to retail unpasteurised and pasteurised milk as well the sale of raw milk cheese took place. These engagements were followed up by means of radio talks about the health risks of substandard dairy products.

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 were still limited with the Directorate: Food Safety and

Quality Assurance although a previous scheduled meeting took place in December 2022. The matter is addressed with the respective parties.

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. The draft proposal for amendment of R1510 will be made available for industry comments during the third quarter of 2023.

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 second quarter of 2023.

6.5 South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

The DSA managing director serves as the chairman of the Technical Committee SABS/TC 034/SC 05: Milk and Milk Products. The first meeting took place in June 2023 and current attempts are made to improve industry participation in the technical meetings.

6.6 Communication with other organisations

6.6.1 Milk SA, MPO and SAMPRO

The 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.

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

The 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;

Food loss and waste; and

The latest developments regarding the front of pack labelling and the draft R3337

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 milkfat, sugar and salt on front of pack labelling regulations.

6.6.3 European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

The DSA is a member of the South African steering committee. One meeting was held with the South African committee manager during the second quarter of 2023 which resulted in a successful webinar on hygienic design of equipment during under project 8.

6.6.4 International Dairy Federation (IDF)

The 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 (SC) 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.

6.6.5 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

The DSA managing director as member of the management committee of the Northern region participated in the SASDT management meetings, in preparation of the national symposium in April 2023.

6.6.6 Tertiary institutions

The 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). Two meetings were attended.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities

Achievements

The DSA continued liaison 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)

The publication of R3337: The draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising foodstuffs on 31 January 2023 resulted in regular interactions between the DSA, Consumer Education Project of Milk SA and the task team, the Department of Health (DOH) and industry members for final comments in July 2023.

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 work on proposed draft regulation relating to dairy and imitation dairy products continued during the second quarter with the assistance of the Milk SA Technical Working Group. The date for industry comments is scheduled in July 2023.

7.3 South African National Standards (SABS)

The managing director of the DSA serves as chairperson of the SABS TC 034/SC 05 regarding milk and milk products. The first meeting for TC 034/SC 05 took place in June 2023. Dr Mark Chimes as the project manager of the Milk SA Sustainability Project: Animal Health and Welfare has also joined the working groups on “The welfare of Dairy Cattle and Transportation of Livestock”.

Interactions with SABS related to the administration and role of South African members and conveners in the ARSO TC 04. ARSO’s monthly and the planetary meetings were well attended during the second quarter of 2023.

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

As representative of the SANCIDF, the managing director of the DSA participated in the respective the IDF SC meetings. The 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. The management also requested the participation of South African delegates to present at the IDF SCIL meeting on the latest development of its draft R1510, Dairy compositional standards and the use of dairy terms.

One Codex standards preparation meetings were attended where possible and comments on relevant matters received from the IDF were also shared with the SA Codex contact point.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 8 - Information and education

Achievements

The 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.

A dairy information session for student EHPs was presented on:

24 April 2023 at University of Johannesburg with 32 students attending.

Insightful dairy information workshops were presented to different role-players (professional EHPs, members of the dairy industry). The workshops were presented as follow:

11 May 2023 at Mbombela, Ehlanzeni District Municipality with 36 attendees.

23 May 2023 on MS Teams, eThekweni District Municipality.

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, which started in April 2023.

The **first webinar**, on 5 April 2023 was attended by 175 people and the topic was “Sharpen your pencil on dairy legislation”.

The **second webinar**, on 26 April 2023 with topic “rBST – Friend or Foe?” was attended by 77 people.

“The Fear Factor in Microbiological Automated Test Methods” was the topic of the **third webinar** on 24

May 2023 and attended by 61 people.

The **fourth webinar**, on 28 June 2023 was attended by 33 people and the topic was “Design criteria and factors important for effective cleaning in place”.

Recordings of all the webinars on the Dairy Standard Agency’s website is useful to re-cap or for interested parties not able to attend the webinars.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 9 - Media communication

Achievements

The DSA media communication provided for the following during the second quarter:

Month of placement	Type of media	Product	Platform
26 April 2023	Radio	Interview: Uitvoere: Moontlike vestiging van residu-moniteringsprogram	Landbouradio
11 May 2023	Radio	Interview: Suiwel-uitvoere en noodsaaklike vestiging van nasionale residu-moniteringsprogram	RSG Landbou
May 2023	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Compliance	Stockfarm
May 2023	Print magazine	Article: Pre-employment and routine examinations of milk handlers	Stockfarm
May 2023	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Compliance	The Dairy Mail
May 2023	Print magazine	Article: How to manage food safety and risk at farm level	The Dairy Mail
20 June 2023	Radio	Interview: DSA Laboratoriumdienste	Landbouradio

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The initial project work on a desktop study, collecting and compiling of legal standards and listing active chemical substances for the purpose drafting an industry guideline took place in the second quarter by means of visits the National office Veterinary Public Health as well as the Western Cape Provincial State Veterinarian office. This guideline document is to coincide with the planned work of establishing a national chemical residue monitoring programme in collaboration with DALRRD. The work is to continue until the fourth quarter of 2023.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	June 2023 - CORFIN151-PRJ0351.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA quarterly popular report Q2 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