



Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2024

(PRJ-0366-2024)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 1 2024/2024 (January 2024 till March 2024)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 87) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for cycle 87 was milk (raw and pasteurised), fermented products: cultured milk/Amasi, cultured buttermilk, yoghurt (plain & with foodstuffs), drinking yoghurt and dairy snacks.

Table 1 Number of samples per product collected

	Fresh Milk (A-D)	167
	Products total (E - K)	288
A	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	79
B	Milk Packed Unpasteurised	3
C	Milk Bulk Pasteurised	25
D	Milk Bulk Unpasteurised	60
E	Cultured Milk	81
F	Cultured Buttermilk	32
G	Drinking Yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	37
H	Yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	62
I	Dairy Snacks	44
J	Yoghurt (Plain)	29
K	Strained yoghurt	2
M	Strained yoghurt water added Foodstuffs	1
	TOTAL	445

During Cycle 87, samples were collected from a total of 50 municipal offices.

The samples obtained during this cycle were submitted to the DSA Laboratory Services, following established standard procedures. The test results pertaining to milk and various other dairy products were subjected to benchmarking against legal standards in the domains of food safety, compositional analysis, and trade metrology. These standards respectively fall under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics, and Disinfectants Act of 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), the Agricultural Product Standards Act of 1990 (Act 119 of 1990), and the Legal Metrology Act of 2014 (Act 9 of 2014).

Of notable significance is the integration of criteria indicating possible food fraud testing into the standard suite of the analyses for milk. This strategic enhancement significantly broadened the scope of risk identification, specifically directed toward the detection and management within fresh milk products.

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 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

Matters dealt with under Project 2 included:

Complaint regarding the use of terms on labelling of yoghurt with special reference to the ***use of terms such as "Greek yoghurt"***: Complaint successfully investigated and closed out.

Contamination of milk carton with black substance on packaging. Testing for chemical substances on outer packaging does not fall within the scope of DSA testing and the complainant was referred to an external laboratory.

Quality and safety of goat products distributed in Eastern Cape: Complaint successfully investigated and closed out.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Aflatoxin M1 Analysis - 2024/Q1 - cycle 87

During the first quarter of 2024, Aflatoxin M1 in various samples were conducted. A total of 167 samples were examined to ascertain their compliance with the legal limits outlined in the regulations governing tolerances for fungus-produced toxins, as stipulated in the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act of 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972).

In conclusion, the analysis conducted during cycle 87 revealed that 1 out of 167 samples exceeded the established permissible limit of 50 ppt for Aflatoxin M1.

Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging

In the first quarter of 2024, comprehensive assessments were conducted on 25 product labels. Detailed reports for each evaluation were compiled and shared with the relevant stakeholders.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

The national dairy monitoring program by the DSA facilitates the sampling of various milk categories, including packed pasteurised and unpasteurised milk, as well as retail bulk pasteurised and unpasteurised milk, along with other dairy products. Sample results as well as interpretation material regarding food safety and compositional standards for milk and other dairy items were promptly conveyed to the appropriate government authorities and members of the dairy industry upon completion of tests. Critical non-compliance results lists were collated and disseminated to each province.

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 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.

4.2 Software development

Recent developments and ongoing projects in the realm of information technology and software development within the DSA:

a) Upgrades to the current Management Information System (MIS):

The upgrading of the DSA's existing Management Information System (MIS) were completed. These upgrades aimed to enhance the functionality, efficiency, and overall performance of the system, ensuring that it continues to meet our evolving operational needs. The development of a new version of our Management Information System (MIS) has been completed and the program is in the process of final testing and deployment. This project represents a forward-looking approach to ensure that the MIS remains technologically up-to-date and capable of meeting the evolving demands of our organisation.

b) Updates to the Laboratory program:

The DSA Laboratory program has undergone important updates to align reporting with requirements as stipulated in the pre-audit assessment to successfully comply with SANAS accreditation requirements. Work has also been done on the security of system and integration with MIS functionality.

c) Upgrades to the Audit app:

A project to upgrade the DSA Audit application, which plays a critical role in quality assurance and compliance efforts was initiated. These upgrades are intended to enhance the app's user interface, reporting capabilities, and overall usability. The project will commence in the second half of 2024.

Ongoing initiatives in IT and software development underscore the DSA's commitment to continuously improve its technological infrastructure and systems. These upgrades and developments are essential for maintaining efficiency, data accuracy, and compliance across various aspects of the operations. The DSA will continue to monitor and report on the progress of these projects in future updates.

4.3 National and international food safety and recall monitoring

National and international food safety alerts during the first quarter of 2024 were monitored. Twenty 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. Three national and sixteen international food safety-related alerts were received. No further actions were required based on the scope of the products involved.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial programs with producers, processors and distributors

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, required prompt action. Following the activities of project 1, project 5 provides for an opportunity whereby information regarding non-conforming test results as well as recommendations for corrective actions is effectively communicated to the suppliers either by means of a telephone call, e-mail report, posted report, or a visit to the facility. Environmental health practitioners (EHPs) were also requested to communicate all test results to relevant parties.

During cycle 87, fifty visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops in Gauteng (2), Mpumalanga (35), Western Cape (1), Eastern Cape (10) and KwaZulu-Natal (2).

The DSA technical personnel also visited the associated EHPs from the respective government departments of the processors, producers/distributors and retailers (milk shops) to render 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	2	2	56	15
Mpumalanga	13	35	11	0
Free State	0	0	13	4
North West	0	0	7	2
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	1	1	73	3
Eastern Cape	4	10	29	4
Limpopo	0	0	20	3
KwaZulu Natal	2	2	24	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

The DSA in a supportive role to industry, liaised with the directorate regarding 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 relating to amongst others the draft R3337 of 21 April 2023 as well as Codex standards.

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, took place. The above actions were a result of an action plan to make law enforcement officers aware of the dangers of non-compliant products in retail. These engagements were followed up by means of radio talks about the health risks of substandard dairy products as per project 8.

6.3 Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)

i) Directorate: Inspection Services (IS)

Cycle results of the DSA monitoring programs regarding infringements in terms of the regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products were limited by the Directorate: Inspection Services. This trend of the past 12 months is receiving priority attention, taking note of previous attempts by DSA to re-establish effective communication.

ii) Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA policy making)

Formal communication with the FSQA continued regarding the revision of R1510 of 2019 - Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products. A final industry proposal was submitted to FSQA for consideration and consultation and matters were dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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 first quarter of 2024.

6.5 South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Correspondence from the SABS in respect of South African National Standards as well as information from the International Standards Organisation (ISO) were appropriately dealt with and ballot papers on standards were attended to.

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 Milk SA's Consumer Education Project, SAMPRO, MPO as well as the Project Coordinating Committee of Milk SA of which the first meeting took place on 20 March 2024. DSA managing director serves as a member of the DRDC and its management committee and meetings were attended.

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

The DSA as a 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 – Front-of-Pack Labelling;

Agricultural Product Standards (APS) Act and bill;

Food loss and waste;

Follow-up discussions regarding assignees appointed under the APS Act.

6.6.3 European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

The DSA is a member of the South African Steering Committee. No interactions were planned for the first quarter.

6.6.4 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

The DSA managing director and 3 staff members participated in the SASDT management activity meetings.

6.6.5 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). One meeting was attended by Mrs J Odendaal, project manager of the DSA.

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)

Following the industry submission comments regarding the draft R3337: The draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs in 2023, no further feedback has been received. The DSA continued to liaise with the directorate in respect of the formal use of the Lactoperoxidase system (LPS) by the organised dairy industry under controlled conditions and favourable response was received during

the first quarter of 2024.

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 the proposed draft regulation relating to dairy and imitation dairy products was completed and submitted to DALRRD. Good progress was made during the first quarter, which included effective collaboration between the industry and DALRRD.

Progress regarding the establishment of a national residue program as well as compliance to export requirements to the EU and China continued with a follow-up meeting with DALRRD during March 2024.

7.3 South African National Standards (SABS)

Regular correspondence between DSA and the SABS occurred with formal comments addressed under the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA. The SANS 1694 and 1488 relating to the welfare of dairy cattle and the transport of livestock received priority attention in the preparation of comments to SABS and final submission to the standards writer is expected during the second quarter of 2024.

Interactions with SABS related to the administration and role of South African members and conveners in the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) TC 04. The ARSO's monthly and planetary meetings were well attended during the first quarter of 2024. Several dairy compositional standards have been drafted relating to various species of milk.

7.4 International Dairy Federation (IDF), Codex Alimentarius and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)

The SANCIDF and related IDF standing committee meetings were attended with comments on IDF drafts to Codex. Comments on IDF and Codex draft documents were also shared with the South African Codex contact point. Coordination and consultation between the DSA and the Milk SA Consumer Education as well as the Research and Development Project of Milk SA were very useful.

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.

Dairy information sessions for student EHPs were presented:

On the **6th of March 2024 at CPUT** with **37 students** attended

On the **8th of March 2024 at UJ** with **67 students** attended.

Monthly webinars to share relevant information with the dairy industry and interested roleplayers form part of the project plan. Due to the positive rating of the webinars and on popular demand another 10 webinars are lined up for 2024.

The **1st webinar**, on 28 February 2024 was attended by 106 people and the topic was "Recent development in the dairy regulatory landscape".

The **2nd webinar**, on 20 March 2024 with the topic "Understanding lameness in dairy cattle" was attended by 59 people.

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 first quarter:

Month	Type of media	Product
Jan 2024	Print magazine	Article: The raw milk dilemma
Jan 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Quality Club
Jan 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Quality Club
Jan 2024	Web	Article: Oordeelkundige gebruik van chemikalieë op die melkplaas
Feb 2024	Print magazine	Article: Judicious use of chemicals on a dairy farm
Feb 2024	Print magazine	Article: Oordeelkundige gebruik van chemikalieë op 'n melkplaas
Feb 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Code of Practice
Feb 2024	Radio	Interview: Korrekte gebruik van chemikalieë (Gerhard Verdoorn)
Feb 2024	Radio	Interview: Chemikalieë op die melkplaas (Gerhard Verdoorn)
Feb 2024	YouTube	Interview: Johan Heroldt, Nutrochem – Judicious use of chemicals
Mar 2024	Print magazine	Article: The role and purpose of the dairy industry ombud
Mar 2024	Print magazine	Article: Die rol en doel van die suiwelbedryf se ombudsman
Mar 2024	Print magazine	Article: Judicious use of chemicals on a dairy farm
Mar 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Lab Services
Mar 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Compliance
Mar 2024	Podcast/web	Interview: Raw milk
Mar 2024	Social media	Podcast share
Mar 2024	Radio	Interview: DSA Code of Conduct (Jompie Burger – volhoubaarheid)

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 legal standards and listing active chemical substances for the purpose of drafting an industry guideline continued during the first quarter. This guideline document coincides with the planned work of establishing a national chemical residue monitoring program in collaboration with DALRRD. The work will continue in the second half of 2024.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	CORFIN151 - PRJ0366 - March 2024.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA quarterly Popular report Q1 2024.pdf](#)

Additional documentation

No file has been uploaded

Statement

Levy funds were applied only for the purposes stated in the contract	Yes
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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