



**Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2024**  
 (PRJ-0366-2024)  
**Dairy Standard Agency**

**Quarter 2 2024** (April 2024 till June 2024)

**Project goals**

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

**Achievements**

The sample run activities (cycle 88) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for cycle 88 was milk (raw and pasteurised), cream and butter.

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

<b>Fresh Milk (A-D)</b>		<b>227</b>
<b>Products total (E - K)</b>		<b>157</b>
<b>A</b>	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	101
<b>B</b>	Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	5
<b>C</b>	Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	38
<b>D</b>	Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	83
<b>E</b>	Cream	73
<b>F</b>	Cultured/Sour cream	23
<b>G</b>	Acidified cream	0
<b>H</b>	Butter	40
<b>I</b>	Cultured Butter	7
<b>J</b>	Modified Butter	11
<b>K</b>	Culture modified Butter	2
<b>L</b>	Other - Yoghurt	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>384</b>

During cycle 88, samples were collected from a total of 65 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 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).

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***

Under Project 2, the following matters were addressed:

- a. Product composition of UHT milk.
- b. Misleading labelling of ice cream regarding its content.
- c. Microbiological analysis of soft serve sold in the Eastern Cape.
- d. Chemical analysis of raw milk and cheese sold in KwaZulu-Natal.
- e. Added water in milk sold in Gauteng.
- f. A comparison of coliform counts in raw milk between different laboratory results.

Five out of the six complaints were investigated and concluded. One complaint is still under investigation.

## ***No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported***

### **Goal 3 - Special investigations**

#### ***Achievements***

#### **3.1 Aflatoxin M1 Analysis - 2024/Q2 - cycle 88**

During the second quarter of 2024, Aflatoxin M1 testing in various samples were conducted. A total of 227 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).

Seven out of 227 samples exceeded the established permissible limit of 50 ppt for Aflatoxin M1 and one shows traces of Aflatoxin M1 below 50ppt.

#### **3.2 Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging**

In the second quarter of 2024, comprehensive assessments were conducted on 28 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 of 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 in collaboration with the municipal health authorities. 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. The percentages of non-conformance communicated to health authorities during the cycle 88 reports are indicated in Table 2.

**Table 2 Non-conformance: Indicated as percentage of samples analysed during cycle 88**

Province	% NC Micro Reported (Coliform, E.coli, TPC)	% NC Composition Reported (Butterfat, Protein, SNF)	% NC Food Fraud Reported (Added water, Underfilling)	% NC Food Safety Reported (Antibiotics, Phosphatase, CA)
Eastern Cape	50,00	4,17	18,75	0,00
Free State	50,41	11,38	3,66	2,44
Gauteng	34,38	10,94	0,78	4,69
KwaZulu-Natal	50,43	4,27	1,28	14,10
Limpopo	17,24	14,94	5,17	0,00
Mpumalanga	47,37	7,02	0,00	5,26
North West	78,86	13,01	9,76	2,44
Northern Cape				
Western Cape	22,22	9,52	4,76	2,38

#### 4.2 Software development

Recent developments and ongoing projects in the realm of information technology and software development within the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA):

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

Development of a new version of our Management Information System (MIS) has been completed and the program is deployed. Minor bug fixes and functional improvements are a continues process. 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 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. Functional upgrades are continuing process to improve functionality.

*c. Upgrades to the DSA Audit application:*

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 application'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

Twenty national and international websites were monitored on a weekly basis for possible food safety risks relating to dairy during this quarter, that could have a public health impact on South African consumers. Three national and sixteen international food safety-related alerts were reported on. No further actions were required based on the scope of 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 1.1, project 1.5 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 88, a total of fifty-four visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops, of which in Gauteng (14), Mpumalanga (5), North West (3) Western Cape (1), Eastern Cape (5), Limpopo (7) and KwaZulu-Natal (19), were visited.

The DSA technical personnel also visited the associated EHPs from the respective government departments of the processors, producers/distributors and retailers (milk shops) 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	11	14	39	13
Mpumalanga	4	5	14	0
Free State	0	0	12	3
North West	1	3	7	2
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	1	1	55	1
Eastern Cape	4	5	27	2
Limpopo	2	7	16	2
KwaZulu Natal	10	19	17	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 2024 as well as Codex standards. Request for feedback regarding the use of the Lactoperoxidase system was received from the directorate so as to continue with possible application under controlled

conditions.

## **6.2 Municipal Health Authorities**

Communication with the municipal health authorities, focussing on the interpretation of food safety legislation under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, with specific reference to hygienic processing, packing and retail of milk as well the sale of raw milk and cheese, continued. The above actions were a result of an action plan to make law enforcement officers aware of the dangers of non-compliant product in the retail. These engagements were followed up by means of webinars and 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. Appropriate actions are still under investigation to improve the system of law enforcement in an effective and appropriate manner. In this regard the situation regarding possible/future appointment of a dairy assignee by the Minister of Agriculture is also noted.

### **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 end 2023 for consideration. Further consultations were dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA. No date has been provided towards completion of the work by FSQA

## **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 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 were appropriately dealt with and ballot papers on standards were attended to. Further consultations were dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA. The TC034/SC05 – Milk and Milk Products meeting was attended by Mr Burger as chairman of the meeting.

## **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, as well as the Project Coordinating Committee of Milk SA. The DSA managing director serves as a member of the DRDC and its management committee and meetings were attended. The MPO Large Herds conference was attended on 26 to 28 May 2024

### **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 draft regulation regarding management control systems;  
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 second quarter.

### **6.6.4 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)**

The DSA attended the SASDT national symposium on 16 May 2024 during which with Mr Burger presented on international regulatory matters. The DSA contributed to the preparation of upcoming events including the student evening at University of Pretoria planned for the third quarter.

### **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 with the next Nelson Mandela University meeting scheduled on 2 August 2024.

***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 other than that the first publication by the Department of Health is expected during the first quarter of 2025.

#### **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. No target date provided for the first publication by DALRRD.

Progress regarding the establishment of a national residue programme as well as compliance to export requirements to the European Union and China continued.

#### **7.3 South African National Standards (SABS)**

Regular correspondence between the DSA and the SABS occurred with formal comments addressed under the Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA. The SANS Standards Writer was approached by Dr Mark Chimes regarding SANS 1694 and 1488 relating to the welfare of dairy cattle and the transport of livestock. Confirmation was received from SABS that no date was finalised yet, for the first work group meeting.

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 plenary meetings were attended during the second quarter of 2024. Several draft standards have been published for comments in different stages of completion. Mrs Anneke van Niekerk has been appointed by the DSA to serve as South Africa's representative on behalf of the organised dairy industry.

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

**IDF** - Following the success of the first deep dive webinars on the General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms (GSUDT) covering France (including EU law), Australia, United States, India and Mexico, a third webinar was scheduled to explore additional countries. Mr Burger presented on the current regulations in South Africa concerning dairy product labelling together with Norway and Japan.

The IDF/ISO Analytical Week is an annual event, organised under the aegis of the IDF and ISO TC034/SC05 - Milk and milk products. The week provides the facility for dairy laboratory managers, dairy scientists and analytical professionals to network and exchange ideas on the latest developments in analytical solutions and the launching of new initiatives. This year the event took place from 24 to 27 June 2024 and was hosted by Zimbabwe. Mr Burger attended the following meetings:

SCAMC Standing Committee on Analytical Methods for Composition.

SCMDM Standing Committee on Methods for Dairy Microbiology.

SCLSQA Standing Committee on Laboratory Statistics and Quality Assurance.

As per the Milk SA contractual agreement all relevant correspondence and comments, where applicable, were shared with Milk SA and industry stakeholders as well as reporting to the South African National Committee of the IDF.

Comments on IDF and Codex draft documents were shared with the South African 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.

The **3<sup>rd</sup> webinar**, on 30 April 2024 was attended by 42 people and the topic was “DSA Lab Services... making a difference in the dairy industry”.

The **4<sup>th</sup> webinar**, on 15 May 2024 with the topic: “Fermentations that play a role in cheese making and cheese ripening”, was attended by 44 people.

After the 4<sup>th</sup> cheese fermentation webinar, the DSA received numerous requests for assistance with challenges experienced during cheesemaking.

It was well thought with the **5<sup>th</sup> webinar** to present a second cheese webinar with the topic: “Let’s troubleshoot cheesemaking and get solutions to your challenges”. This webinar was attended by 91 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 second quarter:

March 2024	Radio	Interview: DSA Code of Practice: Jompie Burger – volhoubaarheid)	Landbouradio
April 2024	Print magazine	Article: DSA Lab: Matema Mokoka: Making a difference, sample by sample	Stockfarm
April 2024	Print magazine	Article: DSA Lab: Die kundige oog agter die mikroskoop	Veeplaas
April 2024	Print magazine	Article: Developments in the dairy regulatory landscape	The Dairy Mail
April 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA Lab Services	Veeplaas
April 2024	Web	Article and banner: Industry update article (webinar) and DSA Compliance	Food Focus
May 2024	Print magazine	Article: Verwikkellinge in die suiwel-reguleringslandskap (Webinar)	Veeplaas
May 2024	Print magazine	Article: Industry update (webinar article)	The Dairy Mail
May 2024	Print magazine	Article: Developments in the dairy regulatory landscape	Stockfarm
May 2024	Print magazine	Article: Are there dangerous hormones in my milk?	Stockfarm
May 2024	Print magazine	Banner ad: DSA food safety/compliance	Stockfarm
May 2024	Radio	Interview: Verwikkellinge in die suiwel-bedryf – Jompie Burger	Landbouradio
June 2024	Print magazine	Article and banner: Toetse bevorder veilige suiwelprodukte	Veeplaas
June 2024	Print magazine	Article: Tests promote dairy safety	Stockfarm
June 2024	Print magazine	Article and banner: Tests promote dairy safety (webinar) and DSA Lab Services	The Dairy Mail

June 2024	Online magazine	Article and half page advert: DSA – where quality and food safety meet	Supermarket & Retailer
June 2024	Radio	DSA: Is SA se suiwelprodukte veilig? Jompie Burger <a href="https://clyp.it/eacsosgj">https://clyp.it/eacsosgj</a>	RSG Landbou
Jun/Jul 2024	Radio	DSA: The Dairy Quality Club – Jompie Burger	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 legal standards and listing active chemical substances for the purpose of drafting an industry guideline continued during the second quarter. This guideline document coincides with the planned work of establishing a national chemical residue monitoring program in collaboration with DALRRD. The work is to continue in 2024.

**DSA new website development** – The development of the DSA new website has made good progress and is to be launched end July 2024.

**No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported**

**Income and expenditure statement**

Income and expenditure statement	<a href="#">PRJ-0366.pdf</a>
Unnecessary spending during period	No

**Popular Report**

[DSA quarterly popular 2nd Quarter PRJ-0366.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