



Milk SA - Dairy Standard Agency Programme, 2024

(PRJ-0366-2024)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 3 2024/2024 (July 2024 till September 2024)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 89) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for cycle 89 was milk (raw and pasteurised), and all types of cheese.

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

Fresh Milk (A-D)	224
Products total (E - K)	237
Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	115
Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	8
Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	35
Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	66
Hard Cheese	56
Semi-Hard Cheese	73
Semi soft cheese	11
Soft Cheese	3
Processed Cheese / Cheese Spread	50
Cream Cheese	19
Cottage Cheese	14
Imported cheese	6
Unspecified cheese	5
Total # of samples	461

During Cycle 89, samples were collected from a total of 63 municipal offices. The collected samples were submitted to the DSA Laboratory Services, adhering to the established standard procedures. The test results for milk and cheese were benchmarked against legal standards in the areas of food safety, compositional analysis, and trade metrology. These benchmarks were based on the following legislation: **Foodstuffs, Cosmetics, and Disinfectants Act of 1972** (Act 54 of 1972)

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

Legal Metrology Act of 2014 (Act 9 of 2014)

Non-conforming results related to food safety were reviewed and communicated to the participating municipal health authorities for necessary follow-up actions. Additionally, the contact details of the participating authorities and processors were updated according to standard procedures.

In line with project protocols and existing relationships with relevant authorities (as outlined in Project 6), the DSA continued its collaboration with law enforcement agencies. The DSA provided support through the dissemination of dairy technical information and guideline documents, aimed at curbing the sale of non-conforming products. Work relationship agreements are currently being revised and signed.

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. Complaint: Contaminated UHT milk
- b. Adulteration of raw milk: Northwest
- c. Adulteration of raw milk: Gauteng
- d. Label complaint: Health claims made

All four complaints were investigated and concluded.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

Report: Investigation into chlorates and perchlorates in milk and dairy products

3.1 Background and objective

An investigation was initiated to assess the potential risk of chlorates and perchlorates in milk and dairy products in South Africa. The primary objective of the study was to evaluate this risk by sampling retail milk, with samples selected based on estimated market share. The total sample population was limited to 60 samples.

3.2 Sampling process

First sampling period:

A total of 30 samples were collected by the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) between July and September, following standard protocols. These samples were geographically representative of all 9 provinces.

The collected samples were submitted for analysis using ultra-performance liquid chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC-MS/MS) at an FDA-accredited laboratory.

Future sampling:

The remaining 30 samples will be collected and analysed during Cycle 90.

3.3 Data analysis and reporting

The results of the sample analysis will be subjected to statistical verification by a competent statistician during the last quarter of 2024. Following this, a final scientific report will be produced by the Dairy Standard Agency and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

During Cycle 89, the DSA's national dairy monitoring program continued to facilitate the sampling of various milk categories, including:

Packed pasteurised and unpasteurised milk
Retail bulk pasteurised and unpasteurised milk
All available categories of cheese

This sampling was conducted in collaboration with municipal health authorities. Upon completion of testing, the results, along with interpretations related to food safety and compositional standards, were promptly communicated to relevant government authorities and industry stakeholders. Comprehensive analyses of the results highlighted non-conformances, underperformance, and associated risks. Lists of critical non-compliance results were compiled and disseminated to each province for further action.

4.1 Reporting of results to health authorities

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 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 Labelling evaluation

Six label evaluation requests were received, evaluated and reported on:

Class Designation: Greek Yoghurt Label
Labelling of Imitation Cheese
Indication of Class Designation
Smoked Cheeses
Full Cream Kefir Drink
Smoothies

4.3 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):

The development of a new version of our Management Information System (MIS) has been completed, and the program has been successfully deployed. The current focus is on utilizing the captured data to generate actionable extracts for data analysis. A forward-looking approach is being adopted to ensure the MIS stays technologically up-to-date and continues to meet the evolving needs of our organization.

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. This work was successfully completed.

c) Upgrades to the DSA Audit application:

Project initiation

A project to upgrade the DSA Audit application, which is integral to the organisation's quality assurance and compliance efforts, was initiated in the first half of 2024. The objective of the upgrade was to improve the application's functionality, focusing on enhancing the user interface, reporting capabilities, and overall usability.

Project completion

The project was successfully completed by the end of September 2024, meeting the planned timelines. The upgraded application is now better equipped to support DSA's audit processes and ensure continued efficiency in quality assurance and compliance monitoring.

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.

4.4 National and international food safety and recall monitoring

Twenty (20) 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

5.1 Supplier overview

- Suppliers of dairy products intended for human consumption include a range of entities such as:
- Producer distributors (farmers selling dairy products directly to consumers)
- Producer distributor processors (farmers adding value to dairy products and selling to consumers)
- Milk shops (retail outlets selling dairy products)
- Milk shop & processors (retail outlets adding value to dairy products and selling to consumers)
- Processing facilities (facilities adding value to dairy products and distributing through retail channels)
- Distributors (facilities responsible for distributing value-added dairy products)

5.2 Project 1.5 implementation

Building on the activities of Project 1.1, Project 1.5 provides a structured approach for effectively

communicating test results to suppliers. Results were shared via email or WhatsApp reports, ensuring timely and transparent communication. Additionally, environmental health practitioners (EHPs) were requested to communicate all test results to the relevant parties, further supporting the dissemination of critical information.

5.3 Supplier Visits

Visits to suppliers were conducted based on their compliance status. The objective of a visit is to recommend corrective actions and maintain relationships and ensure continued compliance.

5.4 Cycle 89 Visits

During Cycle 89, a total of 42 visits were conducted across various provinces:

Table 2: Visits were paid to processors, PD's and milk shops

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	17	25	56	28
Mpumalanga	0	0	18	3
Free State	0	0	10	2
Northwest	0	0	7	4
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	1	6	67	2
Eastern Cape	0	0	27	1
Limpopo	2	3	12	6
KwaZulu Natal	4	8	25	17

5.5 Collaboration with environmental health practitioners (EHPs)

In addition to supplier visits, the DSA technical personnel worked closely with EHPs from the respective government departments. These engagements were aimed at providing support and guidance in the execution of Project 1.5, ensuring consistent enforcement of food safety standards and compliance across the dairy supply chain.

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.

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 took place 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. 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 third 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. Further consultations were dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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 following meetings were attended:

Milk SA Project Coordinating Meeting: 9 July 2024

Milk SA Research and Development Mancom: 29 July 2024

SAMPRO General meeting: 1 August 2024

Milk SA Regulation and Standards Project meeting: 8 August 2024

Milk SA Customs Duties and Market Access meeting: 13 August 2024

Milk SA Dairy Research and Development Committee meeting: 23 August 2024

Milk SA General meeting: 5 September 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.

On 14 August 2024, the CGCSA:FSI Compliance Committee meeting was attended and on 12 September 2024 the Assignee Forum meeting took place.

6.6.3 South African National Consumer Union (SANCU)

The DSA as member of SANCU, presented at the general meeting on 25 September 2024 a .ppt presentation on the actions of the DSA in respect of promoting the compliance of dairy (food safety, compositional and metrology) with legal standards in the interest of the industry and the consumer.

6.6.4 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

The DSA attended the SASDT student evening meeting at the University of Pretoria as well as the SASDT Western Cape meeting on 25 September 2024.

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 Mr J Burger at the Nelson Mandela University meeting on 2 August 2024.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 7 - Liaison on legislation with authorities

Achievements

The 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)

Response upon industry submission of comments in respect of draft R3337: The draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs in 2023 by Department of Health is only expected during the first quarter of 2025.

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

7.2.1 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).

No target date has been provided yet for the first publication by DALRRD with regarding of the draft.

Progress regarding the establishment of a national residue programme as well as compliance to export requirements to the EU and China continued during the third quarter.

7.2.2 Directorate Veterinary Public Health

Weekly Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD Technical and Trade) meetings were attended where possible and interaction with the director and team took place regarding the establishment of a field and PCR test as surveillance mechanism in the Eastern Cape FMD affected areas.

7.3 South African National Standards (SABS)

The SANS Standards Writer was approached regarding SANS 1694 and 1488 relating to the welfare of dairy cattle and the transport of livestock. SABS has yet to finalise the date 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 third quarter of 2024. Several draft standards have been published for comments in different stages of completion as the work of TC 04 is nearing the final stages of designated tasks.

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

IDF: Preparatory work of the standing committees for the 2024 IDF World Dairy Summit in France was continues during the third quarter

Codex: The preparatory Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) was held on 9 September 2024 and the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) on 10 September 2024.

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.

During the third quarter of 2024 the following dairy information sessions were presented to student EHPs at:

Mangosuthu University of Technology on the 6th of August 2024 with 109 students attending.

Durban University of Technology on the 8th of August 2024 with 21 students attending.

Tshwane University of Technology on the 3rd of September 2024 with 62 students attending.

Nelson Mandela University on the 9th of September 2024 with 21 students attending.

The DSA presents, with the assistance of Food Focus, monthly webinars to share relevant information with the dairy industry and interested role players.

The **6th webinar**, on 17 July 2024 was attended by 31 people and the topic was “Dairy Calf Welfare-Trends, suggestions and solutions”.

The **7th webinar**, on 22 August 2024 with topic “Safety aspects of pesticides on dairy farms” was attended by 39 people.

The **8th webinar** featured the topic “Let’s explore The Dairy Matrix” and was attended by 26 people on the 18th of September 2024.

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 third quarter:

The DSA Feedback Media Report is attached to the quarterly report as additional information.

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 third 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.

10.1 DSA new website development

The development work has been completed and the new website has been successfully launched.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Unnecessary spending during period	No
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Popular Report

[DSA Popular report Q3 2024.pdf](#)

Additional documentation

[DSA August social media feedback report - Final.pdf](#)

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