



Dairy Standard Agency Statutory Projects for Milk SA, 2025 (PRJ-0406-2025)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 1 2025 (January 2025 till March 2025)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 91) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for cycle 91 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)	228	Total
Products total (E - K)	357	585
A	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	105
B	Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	6
C	Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	35
D	Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	82
E	Cultured Milk	94
F	Cultured Buttermilk	30
G	Drinking Yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	57
H	Yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	75
I	Dairy Snacks	53
J	Yoghurt (Plain)	43
K	Strained yoghurt	5
M	Strained yoghurt w/added Foodstuffs	0

During Cycle 91, samples were collected from a total of 66 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 matter was addressed:

Product composition and safety of donkey milk sold to the public.
The complaint was investigated and concluded.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

1. Aflatoxin M1 Analysis - 2025/Q1 - cycle 91

During the first quarter of 2025, Aflatoxin M1 testing in various samples were conducted. A total of 228 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). 16 out of 228 samples exceeded the established permissible limit of 50 ppt for Aflatoxin M1.

2. Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging

During the first quarter of 2025, a total of nine product label enquiries were received. Detailed evaluation reports were compiled and shared with the relevant stakeholders for five of these enquiries, while the remaining four were addressed via email correspondence.

The enquiries were as follows:

Label Evaluation: 4 L Full Cream Maas

Label Query: Smoothies – Feedback provided and referred to the Department of Health (DOH)

Label Query: Maas Ingredients

Label Query: Kefir Whey

Label Evaluation: Farmers Cultured Yoghurt

Label Evaluation: 150 g Double Cream Strawberry Yoghurt

Label Evaluation: 150 g Double Cream Peach Yoghurt
Label Evaluation: 1 kg Double Cream Peach Yoghurt

Label Query: Regulations pertaining to Probiotics and Natural Claims

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.

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 total cycle reports forwarded to health authorities for cycle 91 were 65

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):

Report upgrades as well as schedule upgrades to make the program more functional were addressed.

b. Updates to the Laboratory program:

System upgrades are currently in progress, with a key focus on automating the import of adulteration report results generated by the Milkoscan. Furthermore, the integration of processes and reporting functionalities for the new Contagious Abortion Testing Laboratory is underway and has entered the coding and system testing phase. These enhancements aim to streamline data management and improve overall operational efficiency.

c. Upgrades to the DSA Audit application:

No actions taken.

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.

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 year, 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

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)

Project 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 are shared via email or WhatsApp reports, ensuring timely and transparent communication. Additionally, Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) are requested to communicate all test results to the relevant parties, further supporting the dissemination of critical information.

Supplier 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.

Cycle 91

Visits

During Cycle 91, a total of 55 visits were conducted across various provinces:

Mpumalanga: 28 visits

Western Cape: 6 visits

KwaZulu-Natal: 18 visits,

EC: 3 visits

Collaboration with Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs)

In addition to supplier visits, 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.

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	55	10
Mpumalanga	2	28	30	5
Free State	0	0	16	8
North West	0	0	10	1
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	4	6	156	2
Eastern Cape	2	3	19	4
Limpopo	0	0	18	7
KwaZulu Natal	5	18	38	2

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Communication with the authorities and other organisations

Achievements

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 food additives and Codex standards and attendance of the Codex Committee on Food Additives served as preparatory meeting served as priority.

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 is continuous. 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.

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.

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

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

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.

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 TC034SC05 – Milk and Milk Products meeting was attended by mr Burger as chairman of the meeting.

6. Communication with other organisations

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

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:

Food loss and waste;

South African food regulations relating to food additives

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.

6.4 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

DSA designated personnel serve on the management structures of the SASDT and respective meetings in the Western Cape and Gauteng were attended during the first quarter.

6.5 Tertiary institutions

The DSA maintained its membership on the advisory boards of the Departments of Environmental Health of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) as well as Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University for 2025. 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). Mrs J Odendaal, project manager of the DSA is the designated DSA person on the Boards.

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 directorate is still in the process of collating and review of the comments

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 EU and China is continuing.

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.

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 DSA to serve as SA representative on behalf of the organised dairy industry.

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

IDF - Comments on IDF and Codex draft documents were shared with the South African Codex contact point. Comments on draft standards and action teams drafts, where applicable were rendered.

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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.

Dairy Information sessions for student EHPs were scheduled with the respective tertiary institutions to commence in the second quarter of 2025.

The DSA took part in two workshops with professional EHPs and gave presentations on:

Milk shed inspections and training requirements on the 24th of February 2025 at the Tshwane Leadership and Management Academy where 78 people attended.

Dairy sampling and interpretation of results on the 27th of March 2025 at the SALGA summit held at The Ranch Resort, Polokwane were 104 people attended.

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

The 1st webinar, on 26 March 2025 was attended by 62 people and the topic was "Status quo of the dairy regulatory landscape".

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	Platform
Jan 2025	Print magazine	Die suiwelmatriks	Veeplaas
Jan 2025	Print magazine	Exploring the dairy matrix	Stockfarm
Jan 2025	Print magazine	DSA Compliance half-page	Stockfarm
Feb 2025	Print magazine	Hygienic design of dairy equipment	Stockfarm
Feb 2025	Print magazine	Higiëniese ontwerp van suiwel-infrastruktuur	Veeplaas
Feb 2025	Print magazine	DSA Compliance half-page	Veeplaas
Feb 2025	Radio	Brusellose – gevare vir mens en dier (Mark Chimes)	LandbouRadio
Feb 2025	Radio	Reëls vir Wes-Kaapse melkverwerkers (Jompie Burger)	RSG Landbou
Feb 2025	Web	Higiëniese ontwerp van suiwel-infrastruktuur	AgriOrbit
Feb 2025	Web	Code of practice – click banner	AgriOrbit
Feb 2025	YouTube	BEK-maatreëls vir produsente wat aan Wes- Kaapse uitvoermelkverskaffers lewer (Jompie Burger)	Plaas TV
Mar 2025	Print magazine	Somatic cell counts in dairy (Part 1)	Stockfarm
Mar 2025	Print magazine	Bestuur van SST in melk (Deel 1)	Veeplaas
Mar 2025	Print magazine	DSA Code of Practice strip ad	Stockfarm
Mar 2025	Radio	SSA se melkplaasoudits (Tania Blignault)	LandbouRadio
Mar 2025	Podcast/web	SSA-plaasoudits: Die melkprodusent se rigtingwyser (Tania Blignault)	AgriOnAir
Mar 2025	Web	Bestuur van SST in melk (Deel 1)	AgriOrbit

Links to web placements:

February: <https://agriorbit.com/higieniese-ontwerp-van-suiwel-infrastruktuur/>

March: <https://agriorbit.com/die-bestuur-van-somatiese-seltelling-in-melkbeeste-deel-1/>

Link to YouTube placements: Plaas TV

February: <https://youtu.be/QtqShrXpO9M>

Podcasts: AgriOnAir

March: <https://agriorbit.com/ssa-plaasoudits-die-melkprodusent-se-riotingwyser/>

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. 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 2025. The project work continued as a desktop study, collecting and compiling legal standards and listing active chemical substances for the purpose of drafting an industry guideline.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	March 2025 - CORFIN151 - PRJ0406.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA quarterly popular report Q1 2025.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