



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

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 2 2025 (April 2025 till June 2025)

Project goals

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

Achievements

The sample run activities (cycle 92) were completed as per schedule and the number of samples per product is indicated in Table 1 below. The product scope for cycle 92 was milk (raw and pasteurised), cream and butter.

Table 1 Number of samples per product collected

Fresh Milk (A-D)		223
Products total (E - K)		156
A	Milk (Packed Pasteurised)	112
B	Milk (Packed Unpasteurised)	4
C	Milk (Bulk Pasteurised)	31
D	Milk (Bulk Unpasteurised)	76
E	Cream	72
F	Cultured/Sour cream	16
G	Acidified cream	0
H	Butter	43
I	Cultured Butter	5
J	Modified Butter	19
K	Culture modified Butter	1
	TOTAL	379

During Cycle 92, 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

No formal complaints were investigated during cycle 92.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

3.1 Aflatoxin M1 Analysis - 2025/Q2 - cycle 92

During the second quarter of 2025, Aflatoxin M1 testing in various samples were conducted. A total of 223 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).

Six out of 223 samples exceeded the established permissible limit of 50 ppt for Aflatoxin M1.

A significant increase in the concentration levels of Aflatoxin M1 was observed in several milk samples. Although the number of positive samples recorded was 10 fewer than in the previous cycle, the contamination levels in certain cases were exceptionally high and raised serious concern.

In response, all DSA technical managers were requested to review their screening results and, where elevated levels of Aflatoxin M1 were detected, to issue an advisory communication to environmental health practitioners (EHPs) within their respective regions. This step aimed to raise awareness and prompt appropriate follow-up measures at municipal level.

3.2 Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging

During the second quarter of 2025, a total of twelve 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. These included evaluations of dairy product labels, class designation clarifications, and ingredient or claim-related inquiries.

The enquiries were as follows:

Dairy A submitted multiple yoghurt label evaluations. Reports were generated for all submissions, with feedback issued on 25 and 29 April 2025.

Dairy B, C and D raised individual queries related to labelling and claims. These were addressed via formal replies or email feedback.

Dairy E submitted duplicate queries regarding the class designation of imported "Danish Feta," both of which were handled via email correspondence.

Dairy F submitted an ingredient query for Amasi, also resolved via email.

Of the 12 total queries:

6 resulted in formal reports (mainly label evaluations),
5 were addressed through email replies, and
1 was resolved by direct email feedback without a report.

This demonstrates consistent support in ensuring compliance with labelling regulations and product classification requirements.

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 total cycle reports forwarded to health authorities for cycle 92 were 65. A high alert e-mail was sent out regarding Aflatoxin M1 levels in milk to all participating health authorities.

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):

Updates for the incorporation of somatic cell counts, compliance for SANAS accreditation and procedures and validation of information were focused on.

b. Updates to the Laboratory program:

System upgrades are currently in progress, with a key focus on compliance of the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) with SANAS requirements for accreditation purposes. The integration of processes and reporting functionalities for the new Contagious Abortion Testing Laboratory is completed and must undergo validation. These enhancements aim to streamline data management and improve overall operational efficiency.

c. Upgrades to the DSA Audit application:

The audit application software upgrade was completed and is scheduled for deployment by the end of July 2025. Updates to the audit criteria have been finalised, and **Version 9** of the Lactalis audit report has been completed. This latest version includes several newly introduced criteria, with a particular focus on

strengthening the assessment of best practices in **animal welfare** and **biosecurity**. These enhancements aim to align audits more closely with current industry standards and regulatory expectations.

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

During the second quarter of 2025, six international food safety alerts were issued involving dairy products contaminated or potentially contaminated with harmful bacteria, including *Listeria monocytogenes*, STEC (Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*), *Campylobacter*, and coliforms. Affected products - ranging from raw milk to cheese and butter - were recalled or subject to public health warnings across the United States, United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and Ireland. While most alerts reported no illnesses, a *Campylobacter* outbreak linked to raw milk in Pennsylvania resulted in consumer illness reports. These incidents underscore ongoing global food safety risks and highlight the importance of vigilant monitoring in the South African market, especially for imported dairy products and raw milk-based items, which could pose similar public health threats if not properly controlled.

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 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.

5.3 Supplier visits

Visits to suppliers are conducted based on their compliance status. The objective of a visit is to recommend corrective actions and maintain relationships and ensure continued compliance. During cycle 92, a total of forty visits were paid to suppliers, of which in Gauteng (1), Mpumalanga (21), North West (3), Western Cape (3), Eastern Cape (5) and Limpopo (7) were visited.

5.4 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.

Table 3 Visits were paid to processors, producer distributors and milk shops

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	1	1	43	6
Mpumalanga	12	21	13	0
Free State	0	0	13	1
North West	1	3	6	2
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	3	3	65	5
Eastern Cape	4	5	29	2
Limpopo	3	7	13	3
KwaZulu Natal	0	0	6	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 use of the Lactoperoxidase system was discussed during a formal meeting with the Department of Health: Director Food Control and other expertise of which a response is awaited.

6.2 Municipal health authorities

Communications with the municipal health authorities focussing on the interpretation of food safety legislation under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, with specific reference to interpretation of legal standards, 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 are followed up by means of webinars and radio talks about the health risks of substandard dairy products as per Project 8.

6.3 National Department of Agriculture (NDA)

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)

Formal communication with the FSQA continued regarding the revision of R1510 of 2019 - Regulations relating to dairy and imitation dairy products. Formal communication is currently being dealt with by the Project manager: 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 second quarter of 2025.

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 TC034SC05 – Milk and Milk Products meeting was attended and Mr Burger as

chairman completed his term, being replaced by Mrs Anneke van Niekerk as new chairperson for the next 3-year term.

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 general manager serves as a member of the Dairy Research and Development Committee (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:

Agricultural Product Standards (APS) Act and draft regulation regarding management control systems;

Food loss and waste;

Environmental challenges, climate change and shifting consumer needs, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) and retail sustainability transformation;

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 14 May 2025 during which Mr Burger presented on a DSA study regarding the presence of chlorates and perchlorates in the South African dairy value chain.

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). Meetings were attended by Mrs J Odendaal, designated 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)

Follow-up regarding progress on the draft R3337: The draft regulations relating to the labelling and advertising of foodstuffs in 2023. The matter is now dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA.

7.2 National Department of Agriculture (NDA)

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). Following submission of industry comments the matter is now dealt with under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA

Progress regarding the establishment of a national residue programme as well as compliance to export requirements to the European Union and China continued and the necessary submissions to fulfil General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) requirements have been submitted to the department.

Technical assistance at secondary level regarding the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak and

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)-requirements were rendered during industry meetings, where applicable.

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. This matter is now being dealt with under the Project management: Animal health and welfare of Milk SA.

Interactions with the 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 2025. 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 and feedback reports are submitted under the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA.

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

The IDF, Codex Alimentarius preparation meetings as well as ISO comments were attended and where applicable shared with the Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA and 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.

Dairy information sessions for student EHPs were presented on:

the 10th of April 2025 at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology with 27 students attending; and the 20th of May 2025 at the University of Johannesburg with 52 students attending.

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

The 2nd webinar, on 30 April 2025 was attended by 56 people and the topic was "A cost effective approach to contaminant reduction in dairy effluent".

The 3rd webinar, on 28 May 2025 was attended by 70 people and the topic was "Brucellosis-Know your enemy".

The 4th webinar, on 25 June 2025 with topic "Brucellosis test results... 'much more' than just a result" was attended by 79 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:

Month	Type of media	Product	Platform
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April 2025	Print magazine	Somatic cell counts in dairy (Part 2)	Stockfarm
April 2025	Print magazine	Somatiese seltelling in melk (Deel 2)	Veeplaas
April 2025	Print magazine	DSA Code of Practice strip ad	Veeplaas
April 2025	Print magazine	DSA Lab Services strip ad	SA Stud Breeder
April 2025	Radio	SSA se webinaarreëks (Jacqueline Odendaal)	LandbouRadio
April 2025	Web	Hygienic design of dairy equipment	Food & Bev Reporter
April 2025	Web	Bestuur van SST in melk (Deel 2)	AgriOrbit
May 2025	Print magazine	Kaasmaak met houttoerusting	Veeplaas
May 2025	Print magazine	Making cheese using wooden equipment	Stockfarm
May 2025	Print magazine	DSA Dairy Quality Club strip ad	Stockfarm
May 2025	Podcast/web	Oorsake van vreemde geure en reuke in suiwel	AgriOnAir
May 2025	Radio	Vreemde smake in suiwelprodukte (Jompie Burger)	RSG Landbou
May 2025	Radio	Suiwelbedryf: regulatoriese omgewing (J Burger)	LandbouRadio
May 2025	Online/web	Use of wood in cheese ripening	AgriOrbit
May 2025	Online/web	DSA Dairy Quality Club clickthrough banner	AgriOrbit
June 2025	Print magazine	Die suiwelbedryf se regulatoriese omgewing	Veeplaas
June 2025	Print magazine	Regulatory environment of the dairy industry	Stockfarm
June 2025	Print magazine	DSA compliance / services strip ad	Veeplaas
June 2025	Radio	Gebruik van hout in kaasmaakproses	LandbouRadio
June 2025	Online	Newsletter banner ad: DSA Quality Club	Food & Bev Reporter
June 2025	Online/web	Status quote of the dairy regulatory landscape	AgriOrbit

Links to web placements:

April: <https://agriorbit.com/die-bestuur-van-sst-in-melkbeeste-deel-2/>

April: <https://fbreporter.co.za/hygienic-design-of-dairy-equipment/> May: <https://agriorbit.com/use-of-wood-in-cheese-ripening/>

June: <https://agriorbit.com/status-quo-of-the-dairy-regulatory-landscape-2/>

Podcasts: AgriOnAir

May: <https://youtu.be/KLMIH08pYsk>

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 has been delayed during the first and second quarter due to incomplete data from private companies. Programme work will continue for the remainder of 2025.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	PRJ-0406 June 2025.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA quarterly report Q2 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