



Regulations and Standards Project of Milk SA
(PRJ-0407-2025)
Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 4 2025 (October 2025 till December 2025)

Project goals

Goal 1 - Deliberation of industry regulations relating to food safety, product composition, metrological and related standards as well as voluntary industry related standards e.g., animal welfare and related matters

Achievements

1. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – FOODSTUFFS, COSMETICS AND DISINFECTANTS ACT – Directorate: Food Control

1.1 Draft Regulations relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs (R.3337 dated 21 July 2023)

The Department has further indicated that, notwithstanding the extensive work completed to date, additional work remains outstanding. This includes the revision of certain draft provisions and the completion of an impact assessment. Further consultation is also required with selected stakeholders to obtain clarity on comments submitted, as well as engagement with universities that have undertaken research relevant to front-of-pack labelling. At this stage, it is not possible to determine a timeline for the conclusion of the amendment process.

1.2 Review of the “Regulations relating to Milk and Milk products” (R.1555 dated 21 November 1997)

The inputs and comments received following the circulation of the draft proposed amendment regulation within the dairy industry are currently being reviewed and incorporated prior to submission to the Department of Health. The microbial count standards specified in the draft proposed amendment were updated based on the outcomes of Milk SA-funded research conducted by a Dairy Standard Agency staff member. This research was based on a risk assessment assessing the significance of *E. coli* and coliforms as indicator organisms of hygiene and food safety in milk in South Africa.

2. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2.1 Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance

2.1.1 Draft Amendment of the Dairy and Imitation Dairy Regulation (R.1510 dated 22 November 2019)

The Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) has indicated that the processes of collating and responding to the comments received are currently underway. Certain proposed provisions are being considered for incorporation into the draft amendment regulation; however, a completion date for these processes has not yet been confirmed.

2.1.2 New Regulations relating to the Management Control System in respect of the Sale and Export of Certain Agricultural Products (R.6634 dated 19 September 2025)

The Directorate: FSQA has issued a request for the submission of applications for the registration of Management Control Systems in accordance with the Management Control Systems Regulation to stakeholders of regulated agricultural products who intend to make management control claims on their products. Although this Regulation will come into effect in September 2026, stakeholders are encouraged to submit their applications to the Office of the Executive Officer on or before 31 March 2026 to facilitate a smooth transition to regulatory compliance.

2.2 Directorate: Animal Health

2.2.1 Chemical residue monitoring programme for export to the European Union and China

The National Residue Monitoring Programme (NRMP) document submitted to the State Veterinarian within the Import/Export Policy Unit of the Directorate: Animal Health for review was further updated on 3 March 2025. The document specifies the formula for determining sample numbers, outlines the pre-established sampling plan, and lists the residue compounds or markers together with their permissible maximum residue levels required for the export of milk to China. The updated document has been circulated to exporting members of the dairy industry.

2.2.2 Veterinary Procedural Notice 20 (VPN 20)

VPN 20, as amended in November 2024, consists of a series of annexures, including the newly added Annexure E, which prescribes the requirements for the registration of dairy farms and facilities for the export of dairy and dairy-based products from South Africa specifically to China. The Annexure E also references the updated National Residue Monitoring Programme mentioned above, together with the Protocol between South Africa and China on the inspection, quarantine, and sanitary requirements for dairy products destined for China, signed on 2 September 2024.

2.2.3 Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak

In response to the escalating FMD situation, the Minister of Agriculture appointed the Ministerial Advisory Task Team on Animal Disease Prevention and Control. This team has developed a roadmap to achieve South Africa's primary objective of FMD-free status with vaccination, targeting 100% vaccination coverage in dairy cows and 90% coverage of animals in communal areas, commercial farms, and feedlot operations.

Dr. Mark Chimes, Milk SA's Animal Health & Welfare Programme Manager, serves as an active member of this Ministerial Advisory Task Team.

According to a media statement issued by the Department of Agriculture on 18 December 2025, active FMD cases were reported in all provinces except the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape.

3. CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (CGCSA)

The Dairy Standard Agency, as a member of the CGCSA, intends to actively participate in the Illicit Economy Project, launched on 1 December 2025. The project aims to restore integrity to South Africa's Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector and safeguard the country's economic future from the damaging effects of illicit and counterfeit trade.

The project comprises seven sector-specific task forces, representing the following categories: tobacco, liquor, food, clothing and textiles, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and toys. Each task force will operate across six work streams:

Communication: Awareness and perception change

Research

Stakeholder Engagement: Public-private collaboration

Enforcement and Border Control

Legal and Criminal Sanctions

Industry Self-Regulation: Code of conduct

Within the dairy industry, examples of illicit trade include:

Adulteration: Adding substances such as bicarbonate of soda, corn starch, vegetable fat, water, urea, or sugar to milk.

Counterfeit branding or mislabelling: Imitation of reputable products, including PGI and PDO dairy

products.

Illegal sale of raw milk: Distribution in municipalities where such sales are unauthorized.

Production in unapproved or unhygienic facilities: Posing serious health risks to consumers.

This initiative provides a structured approach to combating illicit activity, ensuring consumer protection, and supporting the integrity of the formal dairy sector.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS (SABS)

The SABS/TC 0034/SC 17 on “Hygiene Practices in the Food Industry” has posted the following documents for ballot voting by technical committee members, with a closing date of 20 January 2026:

SANS 22002-1ED1; Prerequisite programmes on food safety – Part 1: Food manufacturing.

SANS 22002-4ED1; Prerequisite programmes on food safety – Part 4: Food packaging manufacturing.

SANS 22002-6ED1; Prerequisite programmes on food safety – Part 6: Feed and animal food production.

SANS 22002-7ED1; Prerequisite programmes on food safety – Part 7: Retail and wholesale.

Meanwhile, the SABS Technical Committee **TC 034/SC 05** on *Milk & Dairy Products* posted the following documents for ballot voting, with a closing date of **30 November 2025**:

SANS 1735ED1; Cheese and processed cheese products, caseins and caseinates — Determination of fat content — Gravimetric method

SANS 315,318 & 2450 ED2; Milk, dried milk products and cream — Determination of fat content — Gravimetric method

SANS 5537ED2; Dried milk and dried milk products — Determination of moisture content (reference method)

SANS 8261ED1; Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Preparation of test samples, initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination Part 5: Specific rules for the preparation of milk and milk products

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Liaison with industry and statutory bodies in terms of draft, promulgated and repealed legislation and effective communication through the Milk SA organisational structures

Achievements

Industry members were informed, through the established communication system, of the request for the submission of applicants for the registration of the Management Control Systems by the Department of Agriculture of manufacturers of regulated agricultural products, such as dairy products, whose labels will be carrying claims related to Management Control Systems (e.g. “Organic”, “rBST-free”, etc.) when the Management Control System Regulation comes into operation in September 2026.

The Department of Agriculture is encouraging affected manufacturers to submit their registration applications to the Office of the Executive Officer on or before 31 March 2026, to ensure a smooth compliance transition when the regulation comes into force.

The following documents from the Department were also circulated:

A letter outlining the request for industry applications for the registration of Management Control Systems. Annexure A, which may be used as a template for applications.

The Regulations for Management Control Systems (No. R.6634 of 19 September 2025).

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Liaison with international bodies e.g., African Organisation for Standardisation, Codex Alimentarius and International Dairy Federation

Achievements

1. AFRICAN ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION (ARSO)

The ARSO Technical Committee TC 04 on Milk and Milk Products circulated the following DARS Final Draft African Standard for a 30-day balloting period on 10 October 2025, with a deadline for comments of 10 November 2025:

Reference	Title	WG
FDARS - ARS 1084:2025	Cream and prepared creams - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1085:2025	Blend of Evaporated Skimmed Milk and Vegetable Fat - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1086:2025	A blend of sweetened condensed milk and vegetable fat - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1087:2025	Dairy fat spreads - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1088:2025	Dairy permeate powders - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1089:2025	Milkfat products - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1090:2025	Sweetened Condensed Milks - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1091:2025	Whey powders - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1093:2025	Butter - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1353:2025	Edible casein products - Specification	WG 3
FDARS - ARS 1034:2025	Dairy Industry - Glossary of Dairy Terms	ALL WGs

The following DARS were circulated for comments on 10 October 2025 with a deadline of 10 December 2025:

Reference	Title	WG
DARS 1040:2025	Feta Cheese - Specification	WG 2
DARS 1048:2025	Dairy ice cream - Specification	WG 2
DARS 1049: 2025	Ultra Heat Treated (UHT) milk	WG 1
DARS 2130:2025	Tilsiter Cheese - Specification	WG 2
DARS 2131:2025	Cottage Cheese - Specification	WG 2
DARS 2132:2025	Gouda Cheese - Specification	WG 2
DARS 2133:2025	Brie cheese - Specification	WG 2
DARSXXX:2025	Guidelines for generic certificate	ALL WGS

The status summary of ARSO TC 04 as of November 2025 is as follows below:

WG1	WG2	WG3	ALL WGs	Total
1 Council	13 Council	3 Council	-	17 Council
-	-	10 FDARS	-	10 FDARS
2 DARS	23 DARS	-	2 DARS	27 DARS
3 CDs	3 CDs	-	-	6 CDs
Total: 6	39	13	2	60 standards under discussion in TC

2. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

The South African Codex Contact Point in the Department of Health circulated the following documents for comments, in preparation for the 55th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) meeting:

Guidelines for the safe use and reuse of water in food production and processing (CXG 100-2023): Proposed draft Annex III on Milk and milk products and Annex IV on Water fit-for-purpose assessment, safety management, and technologies for recovery and treatment of water for reuse (Step 4).
Proposed draft revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food (CXG 79-2012) (Step 4).

Proposed draft revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of Listeria monocytogenes in foods (CXG 61-2007) (Step 4).

3. INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF)

The following IDF Standing Committees circulated documents for comments:

- a. Standing Committee on Standards of Identity and Labelling (SCSIL) circulated the revision of bulletin of the Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms Its nature, intent and implications.
- b. Standing Committee on Analytical Methods for Composition (SCAMC) circulated the ISO/DIS 24223 | IDF 253 - Milk and milk products — Guidance on sample preparation for physical and chemical testing.

As per the Milk SA contractual agreement all relevant correspondence and comments, where applicable, were shared with Milk SA and industry stakeholders.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Liaison and consultation on an internal and external basis and comment within specified time frames via Milk SA organisational structures

Achievements

Consultation with key role-players and liaison with relevant stakeholders were undertaken through Milk SA's established organisational structures.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Report to industry via Milk SA structures

Achievements

Project management activities were communicated to the industry in a clear and effective manner through Milk SA's communication strategy and, where applicable, by means of the SAMPRO and MPO platforms.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 6 - Liaison with government, departments regarding legislation and policies within the scope of the project, that may affect the Milk SA strategic goals

Achievements

Maintaining effective and collaborative relationships with relevant parastatals remains essential to advancing Milk SA's overarching strategic objectives and mitigating potential project risks. The continued commitment of the project team has resulted in consistent recognition from government structures and industry associations beyond the Milk SA organisation, contributing both directly and indirectly to the achievement of Milk SA's strategic objectives and those of the respective government bodies.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	PRJ-0407 Nov 2025.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[RS popular report Q4 2025 - 6 Jan 2026.docx](#)

Popular report and Additional documentation

[Annexure-E of VPN 20.pdf](#)

[National Residue Monitoring Programme.xlsx](#)

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