



Improvement of dairy quality and safety

(PRJ-0424-2026)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 2 2026 (April 2026 till June 2026)

Project goals

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

Achievements

Through Project 1 monitoring, the DSA collected selective samples from targeted regions, ensuring representative coverage. No routine product sampling and laboratory analyses for pasteurised milk, raw milk, cream and butter were undertaken during Cycle 96 (April–June 2026). The planned monitoring cycle was postponed because of budget constraints associated with laboratory analytical costs.

To optimise the available programme budget while maintaining the integrity of the annual monitoring programme, it was decided to defer this sampling cycle. The cream and butter monitoring activities originally scheduled for Cycle 96 will be incorporated into the final monitoring cycle of 2026, subject to the availability of funding.

As no routine samples were collected during this reporting period, no laboratory analyses were conducted under Project 1 and, consequently, no compliance assessment against applicable South African food safety, compositional or legal metrology requirements were performed for pasteurised milk, raw milk, cream or butter during the quarter, causing a major setback in terms of the DSA risk identification programme.

Despite the temporary suspension of routine product monitoring activities, the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) continued to maintain communication with participating municipal health authorities, dairy processors and other stakeholders. Contact information was updated where necessary to ensure operational readiness for the resumption of routine monitoring activities.

The DSA also continued to provide technical support to the relevant regulatory and law enforcement authorities, in accordance with established project protocols and the collaborative framework described under Project 6. This support included the provision of dairy technical advice, interpretation of analytical results from other investigations where applicable, and guidance documents to assist authorities in addressing food safety and regulatory compliance matters.

The postponement of Cycle 96 necessitated operational adjustment due to funding limitations however does not constitute a change to the objectives or long-term implementation strategy of Project 1. Routine monitoring activities will resume once funding permits, with priority given to completing the planned annual product scope.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 2 - Investigations regarding quality problems in respect of product-compliance with legal standards

Achievements

Under Project 2, one complaint relating to the composition of Amasi was received. An official investigation was initiated, which included a review of historical analytical results, the issuance of a formal notice to the manufacturer requesting corrective action, and notification of the Department of Agriculture. Four product samples were submitted for analysis, with one duplicate sample referred to an independent SANAS-accredited laboratory for confirmatory wet chemistry testing. The confirmatory results demonstrated compliance with the compositional requirements of Regulation R1510, and the investigation was concluded with formal feedback provided to both the complainant and the manufacturer.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 3 - Special investigations

Achievements

3.1 Aflatoxin M1 Analysis - 2026/Q2 - Cycle 96

During the reporting period, no Aflatoxin M1 analyses were conducted under Project 1, as no routine milk samples were collected following the postponement of the Cycle 96 product monitoring programme due to budget constraints.

Consequently, no assessment of compliance with the legal maximum limit for Aflatoxin M1 prescribed under the regulations promulgated in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972), was undertaken during this quarter.

Routine Aflatoxin M1 monitoring remains an integral component of the DSA product monitoring programme. Since its incorporation into routine screening, the programme has enabled the DSA to establish comprehensive baseline data, identify high-risk geographical areas and production systems, and support targeted remedial interventions aimed at strengthening food safety and regulatory compliance within the South African dairy industry. Routine monitoring will resume once Project 1 sampling activities recommence.

3.2 Labelling and advertising on dairy product packaging

During the second quarter of 2026, the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) responded to **17 industry enquiries** relating to dairy product labelling, regulatory interpretation and technical compliance. The majority of enquiries concerned label claims, including:

- protein content claims;
- probiotic claims (BB-12);
- class designation requirements;
- compositional declarations; and
- the evaluation of product labels prior to market release.

Additional requests included:

- technical guidance on rBST;
- microbiological requirements for Gouda and Cheddar cheese;
- UHT flavoured milk specifications;

applicable legislation;
dairy volume forecasting; and
water quality requirements in terms of SANS 241.

Responses were provided primarily by email, with one enquiry addressed telephonically. Through these advisory services, the DSA continued to support dairy processors by providing scientifically sound and legally aligned guidance, thereby promoting regulatory compliance, consistent product labelling and informed decision-making within the South African dairy industry.

Table 1 Label queries – 2nd Quarter 2026

Number	Query	Feedback Sent	Report Generated
1	Label Query: Protein call out claim	06.05.2026	E-mail reply
2	Info Request: rBST information	04.05.2026	E-mail reply
3	Label Query: Class Designation	11.05.2026	Telephonic reply
4	Info Request: Dairy volumes forecasting	01.06.2026	E-mail reply
5	Info Request: Gouda and Cheddar Micro	10.06.2026	E-mail reply
6	Label Query: BB-12 claim	17.06.2026	E-mail reply
7	Info Request: UHT Flavoured Milk Specification	11.06.2026	E-mail reply
8	Info Request: UHT Flavoured Milk Specification (continued)	12.06.2026	E-mail reply
9	Info Request: Regulations (Fertilisers... & Medicines Act)	12.06.2026	E-mail reply
10	Info Request: Water Testing SANS 241	18.06.2026	E-mail reply
11	Label Query: High Protein Claim	19.06.2026	E-mail reply
12	Label Query: Amasi - Total Solids	22.06.2026	E-mail reply
13	Label Query: Amasi - Total Solids Calculation	23.06.2026	E-mail reply
14	Label Query: Protein call out claim	23.06.2026	E-mail reply
15	Label Query: Claims	29.06.2026	E-mail reply
16	Label Query: Claims	30.06.2026	E-mail reply
17	Label Evaluation: Cheddar with Black Pepper Label	30.06.2026	

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 4 - Milk and other dairy product risk identification

Achievements

The national dairy monitoring programme 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. This work was severely impacted due to budget constraints during the second quarter.

4.1 Reporting of results to health authorities

As no routine product sampling was undertaken during Cycle 96 due to budget constraints, no non-conforming analytical results were generated for reporting during the quarter. Consequently, no routine compliance reports were issued to participating government departments, municipalities or dairy processors under Project 1. The DSA nevertheless maintained communication with relevant regulatory authorities and industry stakeholders to ensure operational readiness for the

resumption of routine monitoring activities once funding becomes available.

4.2 Software development

During Cycle 96, only minor enhancements were implemented to the DSA Management Information System (DSAMIS) and the DSA Laboratory Information Management System (DSALIMS). Development efforts were primarily focused on Phase 1 of the DSA's integrated data and artificial intelligence (AI) strategy. This phase involves the design and development of the underlying data architecture, including the creation of relational database tables, the standardisation of data structures, and the establishment of relationships between data fields across the various DSA operational systems. This foundational work will serve as the central data platform for Microsoft Power Pivot, enabling the integration of data from multiple sources into a single analytical model. Once completed, the platform will support advanced reporting, interactive dashboards, automated analytics, and the future deployment of secure, private Microsoft AI solutions to transform operational data into meaningful management information, predictive insights, trend analyses, and decision-support tools. This strategic initiative represents a significant step towards establishing a fully integrated business intelligence environment that will strengthen evidence-based decision-making, regulatory oversight, operational efficiency and service delivery across all DSA programmes.

4.3 National and international food safety and recall monitoring

During the second quarter of 2026, the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) continued to monitor international and local food safety alerts to identify emerging risks relevant to the South African dairy industry. A total of 22 international dairy-related food safety alerts were recorded during the reporting period, with no local dairy food safety alerts reported in South Africa. International incidents were dominated by the cheese category, which accounted for 15 (68%) of all alerts, followed by milk powder (3), raw milk cheese (2), infant formula (1) and UHT milk (1). Pathogenic contamination remained the primary cause of product recalls, with *Listeria monocytogenes* responsible for 12 reported incidents, while *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli*, undeclared allergens and organoleptic defects accounted for the remaining alerts. Most incidents originated from the United States, followed by France, Italy and Canada, highlighting continued international trends in dairy food safety risks. The DSA reviewed these alerts to assess their relevance to the South African dairy sector and to support ongoing risk assessment, surveillance planning and the provision of technical guidance to industry and regulatory stakeholders. See Annexure A for the full report.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Remedial programs with producers, processors and distributors

Achievements

The postponement of the National Dairy Monitoring Programme (NDMP) Cycle 96 sample run during the second quarter of 2026, because of budget constraints, resulted in the absence of routine analytical results for communication to participating suppliers. Consequently, no routine remedial actions arising from Project 1 product monitoring were initiated during the reporting period.

Despite the suspension of routine sampling activities, the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) continued to engage proactively with dairy suppliers through on-site technical support visits. A total of 39 supplier visits were conducted during the quarter, comprising 27 visits in Mpumalanga, 6 in Limpopo, 4 in the Western Cape, 1 in the Eastern Cape and 1 in KwaZulu-Natal. These visits focused on providing technical guidance, reinforcing good manufacturing and hygiene practices, supporting regulatory compliance, and maintaining communication with industry stakeholders in

preparation for the resumption of routine monitoring activities.

In addition, DSA technical personnel continued to provide technical support and guidance to Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) from the relevant government departments responsible for supplier oversight. Assistance was provided through technical consultations, interpretation of dairy regulatory requirements, and support for Project 1 activities, thereby strengthening collaboration between the DSA and regulatory authorities despite the temporary suspension of the routine monitoring programme.

Although routine analytical feedback could not be provided during the quarter, the DSA remained committed to supporting suppliers and regulatory authorities through preventative technical engagement, ensuring continued industry readiness and promoting ongoing improvements in dairy quality, food safety and regulatory compliance.

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

Province	Areas visited	Companies visited	E-mails	DSA further assistance provided
Gauteng	0	0	0	2
Mpumalanga	15	27	0	0
Free State	0	0	0	2
North West	0	0	0	0
Northern Cape	0	0	0	0
Western Cape	3	4	0	0
Eastern Cape	1	1	0	4
Limpopo	6	6	0	5
KwaZulu Natal	1	1	0	1

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

Subsequent to the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) engaged with the Directorate: Food Control regarding the possibility of a time-bound increase in the legal somatic cell count limit for raw cow's milk in response to the impact of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak on animal health and milk quality and a formal joint written request by the Project Managers of the Milk SA Animal Health and Welfare Programme and the Regulations and Standards Project. The Project Manager of the Milk SA Animal Health and Welfare Programme clarified that the proposed increase to 700,000 cells/ml would be a temporary measure applicable only at farm level. Dairy processors would be permitted to receive such milk for a maximum period of 12 weeks from day zero, after which the prescribed legal limit would again apply. It was further clarified that the temporary concession could be withdrawn earlier should the FMD situation improve to the extent that it no longer constitutes a widespread national concern.

6.2 Municipal Health Authorities

Communication with the municipal health authorities focussed 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. 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. During the second quarter planning on the assistance to the Eastern Cape municipal authorities Buffalo City and Nelson Mandela Metro continued in collaboration with SAAFOST.

6.3 Department of Agriculture: Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA)

The DSA liaised with the Directorate to propose the inclusion of a provision in the draft Dairy Regulations that would facilitate alignment with the Management Control System (MCS) Regulations, thereby ensuring that the two regulatory instruments can be interpreted and implemented harmoniously. In addition, DSA submitted a formal written request to the Directorate for a 30-day extension of the public commenting period on the published proposed Methods of Production. The extension was requested to allow sufficient time for meaningful consultation with the dairy industry stakeholders and the preparation of comprehensive, evidence-based submissions.

Department of Agriculture: Directorate Animal Welfare – import and export policy and Veterinary Public Health

DSA continued to liaise extensively with the NDA regarding the chemical residue monitoring programme and residue monitoring programmes for export to China and UAE. The residue programmes remain a major stumbling block in the process as progress is hampered due to no progressive movement by the department, approving the required residue sampling grids and programme roll-outs.

6.4 National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS): Legal Metrology

In accordance with the standard reporting procedure, a quarterly report is to be provided on metrology-related infringements. No formal complaints were lodged with the NRCS during the second quarter of 2026.

6.5 South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

Correspondence received from both SABS/TC 0070/SC 4 (Sale of Goods) and SABS/TC 0034/SC 05 (Milk and Milk Products) was attended to accordingly, including the review of technical documents and the submission of ballots within the prescribed timeframes.

6.6 Communication with other organisations

6.6.1 Consumer Goods Council of South Africa: Food Safety Initiative (CGCSA: FSI)

The DSA engaged with the Food Safety Initiative (FSI) on several occasions during the quarter to review the technical position summaries against the full technical submissions, with the objective of identifying the dairy industry's non-negotiable issues and priority areas. This process contributed to the development of a clear and consolidated industry position, enabling the Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) delegation, representing the CGCSA members, to participate effectively in the formal tabling of the draft Regulations relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs (R.3337 of 21 July 2023) at NEDLAC.

6.6.2 European Hygienic Engineering & Design Group (EHEDG)

The DSA is a member of the South African steering committee. Interaction included a presentation by EHEDG on DSA arranged webinar on 29 April 2026.

6.6.3 South African Society of Dairy Technology (SASDT)

The DSA attended the "From Flaw to Score: A Guide to Cheese Assessment" workshop, which focused on the application of structured sensory evaluation as a key component of cheese quality management. The workshop covered the principles of cheese quality scoring, sensory assessment methodologies, and the establishment of cheese assessment panels in accordance with applicable ISO guidelines, thereby enhancing technical knowledge and promoting best practices in dairy quality evaluation.

6.6.4 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). As project manager of the DSA, Mrs J Odendaal attended scheduled meetings during the second quarter.

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)

The Department of Health has completed the review of stakeholder comments and incorporated relevant submissions into the second draft of the proposed Labelling Regulations (R.3337). A structured consultation process has commenced through the NEDLAC Trade and Industry Chamber, with the first meeting held on 25 June 2026. Further engagements will continue to refine the draft regulation and promote the development of a balanced, evidence-based, and implementable regulatory framework.

7.2 Department of Agriculture (DoA)

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

The Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) has concluded stakeholder consultations on the draft Regulations relating to Dairy and Imitation Dairy Products. The review and incorporation of relevant stakeholder comments have been completed, and the amendment process has advanced to the World Trade Organization (WTO) notification stage. Publication of the final amended regulation in the Government Gazette is anticipated later this year.

7.3 South African National Standards (SABS)

The corrigendum published by SABS/TC 0070/SC 4 (Sale of Goods) to update Annex E, Table E.1, item 3(a)(2) of SANS 289, Edition 2, was noted. In addition, the SANS and ISO standards received from SABS/TC 0034/SC 5 on "Milk and milk products" for balloting were attended to accordingly. The correspondences from the ARSO Technical Committee TC 04 on Milk and Milk Products was attended to accordingly i.e. the 4 Draft African Standard (DARS) and 10 Final Drafts (FDARS) circulated for balloting.

7.4 Dairy Federation (IDF), Codex

Alimentarius and International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

The DSA personnel participated in the IDF Standing Committee on Residues and Chemical Contaminants meeting and attended the IDF webinar on "Protecting Dairy Integrity in a Changing Landscape", which focused on the Codex General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms.

In addition, the IDF comments on the draft guidelines for the development of a standard for foods for older infants and young children under the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) were shared with the Department of Health's Directorate: Nutrition, in its capacity as the South African Codex Contact Point, for information and consideration.

Note: DSA serves as Project Manager of the Milk SA Regulation and Standards Project. Many activities of the Regulation and Standard Project of Milk SA find its origin in the initial work of DSA before escalated to the Milk SA project, hence the notion of duplication of work. Please note that a separate quarterly report is submitted regarding regulatory affairs by the project manager of the Milk SA Regulation and Standards Project.

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 22nd of April 2026 at Cape Peninsula University of Technology with 44 students attending; and the 26th of May 2026 at University of Johannesburg with 72 students attending.

On the 6th of May 2026 the DSA presented a lecture “Promoting dairy quality and safety” to the 5th year undergraduate veterinary (BVSC) students at Onderstepoort where 80 students attended the lecture. The role of the Dairy Standard Agency, in promoting dairy quality and safety, was explained with the requested focus areas of processing of milk and laboratory testing.

The Ethekwini Municipality expressed their gratitude towards the Dairy Standard Agency after a presentation during their Virtual Dairy Registration and Compliance Workshop on the 23rd of June 2026 – “We are very grateful to the Dairy Standard Agency for always supporting us regarding our milk safety programme. The presentation is well received and enjoyed as it was concise and alerted us to a few issues that we are currently dealing with. We are quite excited to be collaborating with the DSA.”

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

The 3rd webinar, on 29 April 2026 was attended by 46 people and the topic was “Hygienic design-critical principles that underpin safe, efficient operations”.

The 4th webinar, on 27 May 2026 with topic “An overview of the SA dairy industry regulatory landscape and amendment process” was attended by 131 people.

“Troubleshooting dairy culture problems” was the topic of the 5th webinar on 24 June 2026 which was attended by 50 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

During the second quarter of 2026, the Dairy Standard Agency (DSA) continued to strengthen industry awareness and stakeholder engagement through a comprehensive communication programme utilising print, online, radio, YouTube and electronic media platforms. Technical articles addressing current dairy industry topics, including dairy quality and safety, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), somatic cell counts, water quality, and hygienic dairy facility design, were published in leading agricultural publications such as Veeplaas, Stockfarm and AgriOrbit.

The DSA further promoted its laboratory and dairy compliance services through banner advertisements in print and digital media, including Stockfarm, Veeplaas, SA Stud Breeder, Stamboek, Times and AgriOrbit. Radio interviews with DSA technical experts were broadcast on LandbouRadio, supported by two targeted radio advertising campaigns, while technical content was further extended through a YouTube interview on Plaas TV.

The integrated communication strategy ensured continued dissemination of scientifically sound information, enhanced industry awareness of emerging dairy quality and food safety issues, promoted DSA services, and reinforced the agency's role as an independent technical authority

supporting the South African dairy industry.

Table 3 DSA media communication provided for the following during the second quarter of 2026

Month	Type of media	Product	Platform	Amount
Apr 2026	Print magazine	Suiwelgehalte en -veiligheid vat die voortou	Veeplaas	R0
Apr 2026	Print magazine	Dairy quality and safety lead the way	Stockfarm	R0
Apr 2026	Print magazine	DSA Lab Services banner advertisement	Stockfarm	R3 511
Apr 2026	Print magazine	DSA Lab Services banner advertisement	SA Stud Breeder	R2 427
Apr 2026	Online	Suiwelgehalte en -veiligheid vat die voortou	Agriorbit	R0
Apr 2026	Online	Dairy compliance banner with URL	Agriorbit	R1 334
Apr 2026	Radio	Jompie Burger, somatiese seltellings	LandbouRadio	R0
May 2026	Print magazine	BEK in melk: Feite versus fiksie	Veeplaas	R0
May 2026	Print magazine	FMD in dairies: Centrifuging fact from fiction	Stockfarm	R0
May 2026	Print magazine	DSA Lab Services banner advertisement	Veeplaas	R3 830
May 2026	E-newsletter	DSA Lab Services half-page advertisement	Stamboek Times	R1 785
May 2026	Online	FMD in dairies: Centrifuging fact from fiction	Agriorbit	R0
May 2026	Online	DSA Lab Services banner with URL	Agriorbit	R1 334
May 2026	Radio	Dr Jan Myburgh: Watergehalte en melkerye	LandbouRadio	R0
May 2026	Radio	4 x 30-sec radio advertisements 12-15 May	LandbouRadio	R5 000
May 2026	YouTube	Dr Jan Myburgh: Watergehalte en melkerye	Plaas TV	R0
Jun 2026	Print magazine	Die impak van BEK op SST en melkgehalte	Veeplaas	R0
Jun 2026	Print magazine	Impact of FMD on SCC and dairy quality	Stockfarm	R0
Jun 2026	Print magazine	DSA Lab Services banner advertisement	Veeplaas	R0
Jun 2026	Print magazine	DSA Lab Services banner advertisement	Stockfarm	R3 511
Jun 2026	Online	Impact of FMD on SCC and dairy quality	Agriorbit	R0
Jun 2026	Online	DSA compliance banner with URL	Agriorbit	R1 334
Jun 2026	Radio	Peet Grobler: Hygienic design of dairy facilities	LandbouRadio	R0
Jun 2026	Radio	4 x 30-sec radio advertisements 9-12 June	LandbouRadio	R5 000

9.2 Links to web placements:

April: <https://agriorbit.com/suiwelgehalte-en-veiligheid-vat-die-voortou/>

May: <https://agriorbit.com/fmd-in-dairies-centrifuging-fact-from-fiction/>

June: <https://agriorbit.com/impact-of-fmd-on-scc-and-dairy-quality/>

9.3 Link to YouTube placements: Plaas TV

May: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ckdXXv01w4>

9.4 Links to radio interviews

April: <https://on.soundcloud.com/bjNhjyMfjsnaVa90G>

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 10 - Development of guideline documentation

Achievements

The development of the implementation of the chemical residue control with specific alignment to the National Chemical Residue Monitoring Programme (NCRP) is still in progress and subject to finalisation of the latest NRCP.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	PRJ-0424 2026 (2Q).pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[DSA quarterly report Q2 2026 Popular report.pdf](#)

Popular report and Additional documentation

[Annexure A_Q2 2026 Food Safety Alerts Report.pdf](#)
[DSA quarterly report Q2 2026 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