



Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA
(PRJ-0433-2026)
Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 1 2026 (January 2026 till March 2026)

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

Directorate: Food Control - Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act

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

In the additional work remains outstanding, the Department has been consulting selected stakeholders to obtain clarity on comments submitted including Milk SA. On 24 February 2026, the Department has indicated that it will engage and liaise with the NEDLAC Trade and Industry Chamber, following the request by the affected industry stakeholders for the intervention of NEDLAC in tabling in the draft amendment of this regulation. At this stage, it is still 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)

Additional input and comments have been received following the circulation of the draft proposed amendment regulation within the dairy industry. The review and incorporation of comments received is in progress prior to submission of the draft to the Department of Health.

1.3 Request for time bound increase of somatic cell count prescribed in R.1555 dated 21 November 1997

In collaboration with the Project Manager of Animal Health & Welfare Programme, a request has been made to the Department for an urgent temporary increase of the current prescribed 500 000 somatic cells/ml to 700 000 somatic cells/ml of raw cow's milk destined for further processing until the National Herd Vaccination programme is fully implemented.

This is to assist the dairy industry temporarily to reduce the impact of FMD on the industry wherein milk condemned and discarded will be lessened.

2. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance – Agricultural Product Standards Act

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

The Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA) held a closure meeting on 20 March 2026 to discuss the circulated FSQA's responses to the comments received and the 2nd draft amendment regulation with some of the comments received incorporated. Milk SA through extensive work done by the Dairy Technical Working Group managed to submit further comments affecting the organised dairy for consideration to the Department.

3. CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (CGCSA)

At the FSSI Compliance Committee the following were identified by various stakeholders as member needs and priorities:

1. Regulatory Compliance, Public Policy and Advocacy.
2. Food Security
3. Operational Efficiency across supply chain

The following pillars were identified as imminent:

(a) Environmental aspects in relation to the following:

Life Cycle Assessment

Enviro Labelling

Single Use Plastic

Waste (Organic/Food)

(b) Quality and Safety in relation to the following aspects:

Animal Health

Animal Welfare & Biosecurity

Counterfeit: Product safety/Data

Supply chain Transparency: Product Data

Traceability

Product Recalls

(c) Health and Nutrition in relation to the following matters:

Front of Pack Label

Ultra Processed Products

Healthy Diets

4. SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS (SABS)

The SABS/TC 0034/SC 5 on "Milk and milk products" has posted the following documents for ballot voting by technical committee members during the first quarter:

1. ISO/TS 17996:2023; Cheese – Determination of rheological properties by uniaxial compression at constant displacement rate
2. ISO 19344:2015; Milk and milk products – Starter cultures, probiotics and fermented products – Quantification of lactic acid bacteria by flow cytometry
3. ISO 22184:2021; Milk and milk products – Determination of the sugar contents – High performance anion exchange chromatography with pulsed amperometric detection method (HPAEC-PAD)
4. ISO 21187:2021; Milk – Quantitative determination of microbiological quality – Guidance for establishing and verifying a conversion relationship between results of an alternative method and anchor method results
5. ISO/DTS 27265: Heat-processed milk and dried milk products - Enumeration of thermoresistant spores of thermophilic bacteria

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 following:

1. Request for comments on the *Proposed Regulations Relating to the Farm Feeds Amendment* (R.6998 of 16 January 2026) of the Department of Agriculture.
2. Publication of the amended Regulations Relating to Maximum Levels of Mycotoxins in Foodstuffs (R.7091 of 6 February 2026) by the Department of Health. This amended regulation will come into operation in February 2028.
3. Request for comments on the *ISO/DIS 24223 | IDF 253: Milk and milk products - Guidance on sample preparation for physical and chemical testing*, circulated by the International Dairy Federation.

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 with a deadline for comments of 17 February 2026:

1. FDARS 1037:2025, Domiati cheese - Specification
2. FDARS 1038:2025, Karish cheese - Specification
3. FDARS 1039:2025, Limburger cheese - Specification
4. FDARS 1042:2025, Butterkase cheese - Specification
5. FDARS 1043:2025, Harzer cheese - Specification
6. FDARS 1044:2025, Romadur cheese - Specification
7. FDARS 1045:2025, Labneh - Specification
8. FDARS 1046:2025, Blended Mozzarella cheese - Specification
9. FDARS 1047: Blended Ice Cream - Specification
10. FDARS 1074: 2025, Cheddar cheese - Specification
11. FDARS 1075: 2025, Edam cheese - Specification

12. FDARS 1077: 2025, Emmental cheese - Specification

13. FDARS 1057:2025, Yoghurt - Specification

2. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

The South African Codex Contact Point in the Department of Health circulated the documents for comments in preparation for the 56th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) meeting, the following comments supporting some of the Final EWG Proposals were submitted:

1. The use of Jagua blue:

Maintain Adopted Provision at 160 mg/kg with Note 52 and 601 (without XS243) for use in flavoured fluid milk drinks (category no. 01.1.4).

Maintain Adopted Provision at 120 mg/kg with Note 600 and 601 (without XS 243) for use in dairy-based desserts e.g. fruit or flavoured yoghurt (category no. 01.7).

Justification

The use of Jagua blue has recently gained increasing regulatory approval from the FDA, EFSA, and Codex Alimentarius. Jagua blue is a stable, acid-resistant, and high-performance blue colourant, which makes it particularly suitable for use in the dairy industry, for example in the yoghurt production.

2. The lowering of the use of polyglycerol esters of fatty acids in the various listed dairy categories as an emulsifier and/or stabilizer for the texture and stability enhancement.

3. INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF)

The IDF Standing Committees circulated documents for comments:

1. *Standing Committee on Standards of Identity and Labelling (SCSIL)* circulated the Codex Circular Letter CL 2025/47-PR-RVDF, requesting for comments on harmonization of food descriptors for commodities of animal origin used by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF).

2. *Standing Committee on Standards of Identity and Labelling (SCSIL)* circulated the second consultation paper for the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) work on the draft guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling (PAL).

All relevant correspondence and comments, where applicable, as per the Milk SA contractual agreement were shared with Milk SA and industry stakeholders as well as reported to the South African National Committee of the IDF.

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. Additionally providing clarity from a regulatory perspective on the use of the method of production claim "A2 milk", also outlined the rules and regulations that govern labelling laws of all general food items vs the dairy products.

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 governmental departments is of paramount importance in advancing Milk SA's overarching strategic objectives and mitigating potential project risks in the interest of the organised dairy industry. 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	March 2026 Monthly Statements - CORFIN173-PRJ0433.pdf PRJ-0433 2026.pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[RS popular report Q1 2026 - 14 April 2026 .docx](#)

Popular report and 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