



Regulation and Standards Project of Milk SA

(PRJ-0433-2026)

Dairy Standard Agency

Quarter 2 2026 (April 2026 till June 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)

The Department of Health confirmed that it has completed the process of collating and responding to stakeholders' comments received on the draft Regulations relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs (R.3337), as well as incorporating relevant comments into the second draft regulation. The Department further expressed its willingness to engage affected industry stakeholders through the NEDLAC Trade and Industry Chamber to deliberate on the submitted comments and the revised draft regulation. The first engagement meeting was held on 25 June 2026, marking the commencement of a structured consultation process. Further meetings will be convened on a regular basis to interrogate and refine the provisions of R.3337 with the objective of developing a balanced, science-based regulation that is practical and implementable.

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

The process of reviewing comments received from internal stakeholders and incorporating the relevant submissions into the proposed draft amendment regulation is ongoing. Once this process has been concluded, the revised draft regulation will be submitted to the Department of Health for consideration and possible incorporation into the regulatory amendment process.

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

Following a request submitted by the Project Manager of the Animal Health & Welfare Programme to the Department of Health, an urgent temporary amendment was proposed to increase the prescribed maximum somatic cell count for raw cow's milk destined for further processing from 500,000 cells/ml to 700,000 cells/ml. The proposed temporary concession is intended to mitigate the impact of the ongoing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak on the dairy industry by

reducing the volume of milk that would otherwise be condemned and discarded.

At the request of the Department of Health, further clarification was provided 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 accept such milk for a maximum period of 12 weeks from day zero, after which the prescribed limit would again apply. It was also clarified that the concession could be withdrawn earlier should the FMD situation improve to the extent that it no longer presents a widespread national challenge. The Department of Health's response to this urgent request is still awaited.

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) circulated the draft Regulations relating to Dairy and Imitation Dairy Products on two occasions during the second quarter to obtain stakeholders' comments. No further rounds of consultation are anticipated. The review of submissions and incorporation of relevant stakeholders' comments into the draft regulation have been concluded. The amendment process has progressed to its final stage, with the revised draft currently undergoing notification at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Publication of the final amended regulation in the Government Gazette is anticipated later this year.

3. CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (CGCSA)

3.1 NEDLAC consultation process on the Labelling Regulation Amendment (R.3337)

The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA), under the leadership of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA), requested NEDLAC to formally table the proposed Regulations relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs (R.3337) at the NEDLAC Trade and Industry Chamber. In preparation for the consultation process, the review of the technical position summaries against the full technical submissions was completed to identify non-negotiable issues and priority areas across the affected industries. This exercise enabled the BUSA delegation representing CGCSA members to participate with a clear and consolidated mandate. The initial NEDLAC meeting focused on establishing and adopting the Terms of Reference (TOR) to guide the consultation process. The objective of the engagement is to provide stakeholders with a meaningful opportunity to assess the scientific and policy evidence presented by the Department of Health, propose practical amendments where necessary, and contribute towards the development of a balanced, evidence-based, and implementable regulation. Subject matter experts may be invited to provide specialised technical input on specific issues. The consultation process is expected to continue for at least six months.

3.2 South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative (SA FLWI)

During the quarter, the South African Food Loss and Waste Initiative (SA FLWI), led by the CGCSA in collaboration with government and other key stakeholders, launched the *Food Donation Best Practice Guidelines*. The guideline promotes best practices relating to food safety, food donation, and the reduction of food loss and waste. It aims to raise awareness and support the implementation of practical measures that contribute to national priorities and international commitments on reducing food loss and waste while ensuring the safety of donated food.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS (SABS)

4.1 The SABS/TC 0070/SC 4 on "Sale of goods" published a corrigendum to update SANS 289 Edition 2 - Labelling requirements for prepackaged products (prepackages) and general requirements for the sale of goods subject to legal metrology control, Annex E Table E.1, item 3 a), 2) prescribed quantities as follows:

FROM:

Any quantity up to and including 50 mL, 200 mL, 250 mL, 300 mL, 375 mL, 500 mL, 750 mL, 1 L then 150 L and integral multiples of 1 L above 150 L.

TO:

Any quantity up to and including 50 mL, then 200 mL, 250 mL, 300 mL, 375 mL, 500 mL, 750 mL, 1 L then 150 L and integral multiples of 1 L above 150 L.

4.2 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 second quarter:

1. SANS 5537: ED2, Dried Milk and Dried Milk Products - Determination of moisture content (Reference Method).
2. ISO 14501:2021, Milk and milk powder - Determination of aflatoxin M1 content - Clean-up by immunoaffinity chromatography and determination by high-performance liquid chromatography.
3. ISO 6091:2010, Dried milk - Determination of titratable acidity (Reference method).
4. ISO/TS 17193:2011, Milk - Determination of the lactoperoxidase activity - Photometric method (Reference method).

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 amended “List of Waste Management Activities That Have, or Are Likely to Have, a Detrimental Effect on the Environment” (Notice No. 7461 of 12 May 2026), in terms of the “National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008” (NEMWA), by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). Additionally circulated a document on the implications of the proposed List of Waste Management Activities for the dairy industry.
2. Request for comments on the various proposed methods of production as Management Control Systems under the “Regulations relating to the Management Control System in respect of the Sale of Certain Agricultural Products” (R.6634 of 19 September 2025) that the Department of Agriculture intends to register.
3. Updated of the formal tabling of the proposed “Regulation Relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs” (R3337 of 21 April 2023) at the NEDLAC Trade and Industry Chambers.

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 for balloting during the second quarter:

(a) 4 Draft African Standard (DARS):

DARS 1092: 2026, Blended processed cheese with vegetable oils and fats - Specification

DARS 1354: 2026, Dairy Ices, Dairy ice lollies and ice lollies - Specification

DARS 2134: 2026, A blend of Cream and Vegetable Fat

DARS 2215:2026, Guidelines for Generic certificate

(b) 10 Final Drafts (FDARS):

FDARS 1033:2026, Pasteurized milk - Specification

FDARS 1035:2026, Sterilized milk - Specification

FDARS 1036:2026, Code of hygienic practices for milk and milk production - Specification

FDARS 1040:2026, Feta cheese - Specification

FDARS 1048:2026, Dairy Ice Cream - Specification

FDARS 1049:2026, UHT milk - Specification

FDARS 2130:2026, Tilsiter cheese - Specification

FDARS 2131:2026, Cottage cheese - Specification

FDARS 2132: 2026, Gouda cheese - Specification

FDARS 2133: 2026, Brie cheese - Specification

2. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

The South African Codex Contact Point in the Department of Health held an online feedback meeting on 56th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the main outcomes of interest for the dairy industry are the following:

1. Four additives, including ascorbyl palmitate (INS 304), ascorbyl stearate (INS 305) and gellan gum (INS 418(ii)) relevant to dairy food categories, were identified for the Codex General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) inclusion/revision and referred to the GSFA EWG.

2. Revisions to polyglycerol esters (INS 475) were agreed, reflecting the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) advice on exposure. Most dairy provisions were maintained, with some revisions forwarded to CAC for adoption.

3. The proposal to classify microcrystalline cellulose (INS 460(i)) as a colour will be forwarded to the GSFA EWG for further assessment and to defer its inclusion in the INS pending evaluation of its potential impacts and necessary GSFA amendments.

3. INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF)

3.1 The IDF Standing Committee on Standards of Identity and Labelling (SCSIL) circulated the following for comments:

1. Draft guidelines on the application of food labelling provisions in emergencies under the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL). The purpose of these guidelines is to provide guidance through principles and general decision-making criteria for the consideration and flexible application of food labelling requirements in emergencies that cause significant supply chain disruptions, and to ensure that the food labelling flexibilities applied by competent authorities in such emergencies are temporary, justified, proportionate, and risk-based to maintain food safety and fair-trading practices in uncertain situations.

2. Draft Guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud under the Codex Committee on Food Export and Import Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS), 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).

3.2 The IDF/ISO Standard released the ISO/TS 27265 | IDF/RM 228: 2026 - Heat-processed milk and dried milk products - Enumeration of thermoresistant spores of thermophilic bacteria during the second quarter.

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 through Milk SA's established organisational structures were undertaken to ensure that the dairy industry's positions through stakeholders' comments were solicited, consolidated, and submitted within prescribed timeframes to government departments, standards bodies, and other relevant organisations.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Goal 5 - Report to industry via Milk SA structures

Achievements

By providing regular reports to the dairy industry through Milk SA communication structures, ensuring that stakeholders remained informed of regulatory developments, project progress, emerging risks, and key decisions affecting the industry. Updates are presented through industry communication platforms, enabling timely dissemination of information, promoting transparency, and facilitating coordinated industry responses to legislative and standards-related matters.

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 continuous liaison and constructive engagement with relevant government departments and regulatory authorities to monitor legislative and policy developments affecting the dairy industry and Milk SA's strategic objectives. Through formal submissions, technical consultations, participation in regulatory forums, and ongoing stakeholder engagement, the project

represents the interests of the dairy industry by providing science-based input on proposed legislation and policies. These engagements promote alignment with national and international standards and safeguard the local dairy integrity.

No Non-achievements / underperformance has been reported

Income and expenditure statement

Income and expenditure statement	June 2026 Monthly Statements - CORFIN151-PRJ0433 (002).pdf June 2026 Monthly Statements - CORFIN173-PRJ0433 (002).pdf
Unnecessary spending during period	No

Popular Report

[RS popular report Q2 2026 \(002\).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