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**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY ETIENNE TERRE'BLANCHÉ,
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE MILK PRODUCERS' ORGANISATION**

Agri Inspec blocks unlawful imports

Agri Inspec, the monitoring service of the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO), has made good progress in respect of the control of the irregular importation of various dairy products.

Agri Inspec's main focus is monitoring cross-border trading in various agricultural commodities. It also has a dairy desk that specialises in dairy issues.

"Some of our recent successes were especially aimed at imported dairy products of which the labels or packaging did not comply with local standards," said Dr Hennie Kleynhans, managing director of Agri Inspec.

Among others, these successes include the seizure of a consignment of baby formula and milk drinks for older babies. The load, which was shipped from Korea, was confiscated in Durban harbour due to non-compliance with local packaging requirements. Agri Inspec's agents also impounded a shipment of imported casein powder that tested positive for melamine.

Butter imported from the USA was also seized. The butter, which was imported at a relatively low price of R33,80 per kilogram, did not comply with local minimum quality standards.

A consignment of evaporated and condensed milk imported from Singapore, was confiscated due to non-compliance with labelling laws. The case was reported to the department of agriculture. The information on the packaging is misleading, as the products contain vegetable fats and oils.

"By strictly monitoring dairy imports in cooperation of the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and the department of agriculture, the local dairy market is to a large extent

protected against imported dairy products that do not comply with applicable import tax, quality or packaging regulations,” said Etienne Terre’Blanché, managing director of the MPO.

Apart from monitoring all dairy imports and exports on behalf of the MPO, Agri Inspec also sees to it that samples are taken for analysis when necessary. Market information and trends are also assimilated and analysed to present a macro outlook on the South African dairy market place.

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