

Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
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Not for publication. No rights can be derived from these criteria. Document may be subject to adjustments and inaccuracies.

Better Life cattle (beef): is (derived from) cattle that has been kept in accordance with the Better Life criteria for cattle. A calf kept under the Better Life criteria for calves must be legally designated as beef at the time it is more than one year old, but if it does not meet the Better Life criteria for beef cattle as listed below, it cannot be marketed as Better Life beef.

Exclusion criteria

UIT01	Other activities	No other activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy are carried out on the farm.	<p>Activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeping fur animals for production purposes; - Keeping laying hens in enriched cages (permitted in the Netherlands until 01-01-2021) and colony systems (successor of the enriched cage and the only permitted form of "battery hen farming" in the Netherlands as of 2021). The identification code stamped on the egg starts with the number 3; - Keeping wild animals for production purposes; - Keeping geese or ducks for the production of goose or duck liver; - The breeding of endangered species, such as eel; - Keeping beef cattle with a double muscled factor, having a high incidence of Caesarean sections, for instance Belgian Blues and Verbeterd Roodbonts; - Other activities that are (or may be) contrary to the policy of the Animal Protection Society. 	Check whether the business carries out any other activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy.	Exclusion
UIT03	Genetically modified animals	There are no genetically modified animals on the farm (UBN or EU registration number).	<p>A genetically modified animal is adapted with gene technology. Genetic or gene technology is a form of biotechnology by which the DNA of an organism is directly adapted by extra genes to introduce the required characteristics in an animal. The classic methods by which the DNA of an organism is indirectly adapted, such as the crossing, selecting and breeding of certain breeds is permitted.</p>	Check whether there are any genetically modified animals on the farm (UBN or EU registration number).	Exclusion

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UIT05	Standard for mega-enclosures	The cattle is not held in a mega-enclosure. The definition of a mega-enclosure is one location, unique farm number (UBN or registration number) with 330 Livestock Units (LU's) or more cattle.	<p>When determining the number of LUs from a cattle holding, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 young male cattle (younger than 1 year) = 0.165 LU 1 young female cattle (younger than 1 year) = 0.148 LU 1 beef bull/oxen (from 1 year) = 0.165 LU 1 beef cow (from 1 year) = 0.141 LU 1 suckling cow (incl. calf) = 0.250 LU <p>For example, the following farms (UBN or EU registration numbers) are classified as mega-enclosure for the Better Life label, and are excluded from participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - beef bull farm with more than: 2000 beef bulls (>330 LU) - meat and pasture farm with more than: 2340 beef cows (> 330 LU) - suckling cow farm with more than: 1320 suckling cows (>330 LU) <p>The term 'mega enclosure' should not be confused with the term 'mega farm'. While a mega enclosure is one location (UBN or EU registration number), a mega farm is a farm business with pens at several locations (UBN or EU registration numbers). The farm as a whole has a very large number of animals, but at the different locations the number of animals can be comparable to conventional farms.</p> <p>Not applicable in existing farms (UBN or EU registration numbers) who already participated in the Better Life label before 01/09/2016 (date on which exclusion criteria were set). These farms (UBN or EU registration numbers) may maintain the number of animals kept per 01/09/2016. In the case of new construction or reconstruction, the number of animals kept will not be further increased.</p>	<p>Check that the company (UBN or registration number) does not exceed the limit for the maximum operating size. Record the average number of LUs present on the farm (UBN or EU registration number) in the previous year.</p> <p>Not applicable in existing farms (UBN or EU registration numbers) who already participated in the Better Life label before 01/09/2016 (date on which exclusion criteria were set). These farms may maintain the number of animals kept per 01/09/2016. In the case of new construction or reconstruction, the number of animals kept will not be further increased.</p>	Exclusion
UIT06	Stacked enclosure	Only the ground floor is used for keeping animals.	<p>pens with several storeys/floors/tiers are excluded from participation in the Better Life label.</p> <p>This criterion came into effect on 01/09/2016 (date of the determination of exclusion criteria).</p> <p>New companies with a tiered pen that register for the Better Life label after this date are not eligible for the Better Life label.</p> <p>Not applicable to existing pens that already participated in the Better Life label before 1/9/2016. However, these farms may not build or add any new tiers after 1/9/2016.</p>	<p>Check that the farm (UBN or EU registration number) only keeps animals on the ground floor. If the farm (UBN or EU registration number) does include a tiered pen, check whether the farm (UBN or EU registration number) was participating in the Better Life label prior to 01/09/2016, and whether no new tiered pens have been built (added) after this date.</p>	Exclusion
UIT07	Supply chain manager	The farm is registered with at least one supply chain manager that is approved by the Better Life Foundation.	<p>A chain manager is, for example, a slaughter house or intermediary party who registers the farms for the Better Life Foundation and monitors the farms within the chain in question. In addition, the chain manager connects the various links of the chain to each other, from the farm to processors/sellers and all of the links in-between, and manages all the farms that are part of his chain.</p>	<p>Check that the farm (UBN or EU registration number) is registered with at least one supply chain manager that is approved by the Better Life Foundation. Record the supply chain manager(s).</p>	Exclusion
UIT08	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to grant inspectors who perform Better Life inspections on behalf of the Certification Body or the Better Life Foundation access to the business and to give full cooperation.	<p>If the inspectors are refused access to the company premises (UBN or EU registration number) or full cooperation with the inspectors is not forthcoming, then the company will be excluded from participation unless the company can invoke force majeure.</p>		Exclusion

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UIT09.1	All cattle present meet the criteria of the BL label	All cattle (including calves) present on the farm (UBN or EU registration number) meet the criteria of the Better Life label Cattle 1 star.	Animals such as double-muscled cattle (including crossbreeds) or beef cattle that do not meet the criteria of the Better Life label are not permissible on the farm (UBN or EU registration number).	Check that there are no non-BL label cattle present on the farm (UBN or EU registration number).	Exclusion
General					
A01	Reporting obligation	The BL label participant is obliged to immediately notify the Certification Body and the supply chain manager in writing of any change that may affect the participation in the Better Life label or the Better Life certificate.	Changes are, but are not limited to: a. (Temporary) termination of the company, regardless of the reason. b. Transfer of the company to a new legal entity/owner c. Change of UBN or EU registration number d. Loss of an accreditation or certificate as a result of which the applicable BL label criteria can no longer be met f. Etc. The supply chain manager forwards the changes to the Certification Body and the Better Life Foundation.	Check whether changes that affect the participation in the BL label from the previous year have been reported to the CB and the supply chain manager.	AR
A02A	Knowledge & skills	The farmer and his own staff have at least: - completed an intermediate level agricultural education in animal husbandry, OR - at least 1 year of work experience in beef farming, OR - work under the responsibility of someone with the abovementioned qualifications.	It must be demonstrated that the farmer and his staff have the necessary knowledge and skills in animal health, animal welfare and animal behaviour and in various animal husbandry systems. E.g. professional diplomas and certificates are present at the farm. A record is kept of this.	Check the knowledge and qualifications of the farmer and staff and whether they meet the requirements. Note the training/experience.	Warning
A02C	Course human-animal interaction	The manager/operator of each cattle location participating in Better Life has followed a course in human-animal interaction approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Conditions for courses on human-animal interaction 1. The course is provided by an experienced expert in the field of cattle wellbeing and health from the beef meat sector and with experience in the keeping of meat cattle, 2. At least 3 hours of the training is filled with practical examples (in the pen and/or with video and photo material) where the student learns to translate signals in the animal behaviour or appearance into concrete positive or negative causes of this behaviour or appearance, 3. Attention for the effects of the carer's behaviour on the animals to be cared for, 4. Attention for the positive consequences of a good human-animal interaction on financial and production results. See (in due time) the website of the Better Life label for a list of courses in human-animal interaction that have been approved by the Animal Protection Society.	Check whether the manager/operator has obtained a certificate of participation in a course that has been approved by the Dutch Animal Protection Society.	Warning
A03	Copies of the cattle passports	A copy of the cattle passport of imported cattle shall be kept in the records.	This also applies to imports from another EU member state. These copies are kept for at least 1 year after arrival at the farm.	Check whether there is a copy of the cattle passport in the administration for imported cows (up to a year ago).	RI
Nutrition					
V01A	Roughage	Feeding to much concentrated feed (stamp feeding) is not allowed.	At least 60% (based on dry matter) of the daily ration must consist of (energy-rich) roughage, e.g. fresh grass, silage grass, silage maize, hay, straw, alfalfa. Roughage: foods with a structure value higher than 1.10/kg DM. The structure value is assessed on the basis of the structure values as shown in the CVB feed tables, see www.cvbdiervoeding.nl / Products for the most current CVB feed tables, also available in English. Grazing in nature reserves is regarded as roughage.	Record the daily ration, kilos per feed material, that are provided daily. Determine the structural value for each feed material on the basis of the CVB tables, and whether the feed material falls under concentrates or roughages on the basis of the structural value. Calculate the percentage of roughage on this basis. Record the percentage of roughage.	Suspension

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V01B	Concentrated feed	A maximum of 40% of the daily ration may be concentrated feed.	<p>Concentrated feed: foods with a structure value of less than or equal to 1.10/kg DM. Roughage: foods with a structure value higher than 1.10/kg DM.</p> <p>The structure value is assessed on the basis of the structure value as shown in the CVB feed tables, see www.cvbdiervoeding.nl for the most current CVB feed tables. The following foods are considered concentrated feed: Corn Cob Mix (CCM), maize crop silage / maize crop shredding (MKS), beet pulp, beer bristle, potato fibres, grass and alfalfa pellets.</p> <p>The following foods are considered roughage: fresh grass, silage grass, silage maize, hay, straw, alfalfa.</p> <p>On order to thrive with max. 40% concentrated feed, large part of the roughage in the ration should consist of energy-rich roughage, i.e. fresh grass, silage grass, silage maize or other, comparable, energy-rich roughage. Another comparable, high-energy cattle feed must contain at least the same amount of VEVI (Feed units for meat production) per kg as silage maize. This is assessed on the basis of the CVB feed tables on www.cvbdiervoeding.nl.</p> <p>In the case of cattle that is put out in the fields all year round, it can be assumed that this criterion is met.</p>	Determine the structural value for each feed material on the basis of the CVB tables, and whether the feed material falls under concentrates or roughages on the basis of the structural value. Calculate the percentage of concentrated feed on this basis. Record the percentage of concentrated feed.	RI
V01C	Storage cattle feed	Storage of cattle feed takes place in such a way that contamination is prevented.	<p>The storage is well-maintained.</p> <p>In the case of silage, measures have been taken to keep the feed clean and dry all year round. E.g. covered with foil and measures in place to ensure proper drainage. Cattle feed and cattle feed storage are free from heat generation and moulding. If the feed is compromised by heat generation or moulding, this must be removed before loading/feeding. This way, no heated or moulded feed is given to the animals. Feed residues are removed so that no feed residues remain for longer periods of time.</p> <p>Feed storage is free of waste or toxic substances. For example, no pesticides or other toxic substances/materials are used near the feed storage facility. Bait boxes with pest control products are located in a safe place.</p> <p>Feed contamination is prevented, for instance contamination with cover film.</p>	Check that the feed storage has been properly maintained, that the storage is clean and dry, that there is no moulding or heating, that old feed residues have been removed, that the feed storage is free of waste or toxic substances and free of contamination from e.g. cover film, etc.	AR
V01D	GMP+	Purchased feed is certified by GMP+ or a similar quality system.	<p>A similar quality system is an animal feed chain that has obtained certification for all links/companies (including transport) from a quality system that has been assessed as similar by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p> <p>See the website of the Better Life label for a list of quality systems that have been declared equivalent by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p>	Check the feed and record the name and location of the feed supplier. In case of a similar quality system, record the quality system(s) the various links in the chain comply with.	AR
V02A	Feeding place	With unlimited feeding there is 1 feeding place for every 2 animals		Check if there is unlimited feeding, if yes check whether 1 feeding place per 2 cattle is available. Note your findings. Not applicable in case of limited feeding.	RI

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V02B	Feeding place	In case of limited feeding, there will be one feeding place for each animal.		Check if there is limited feeding, if yes check whether 1 feeding place is available for each animal. Note your findings. Not applicable in case of unlimited feeding.	RI																																										
V02C	Feeding place	A feeding place is at least 75 cm wide.		Check the size of the feeding place. Record the width.	RI																																										
V04A	Drinking water	All animals must have permanent access to drinking water.	Can also be surface water (river, stream, etc.) in case of outdoor grazing or nature grazing.	Check and record whether the animals have permanent drinking water.	RI																																										
V04B	Drinking water	The drinking water is clean.	The drinking water is clear and does not contain any contamination.	Check and record whether the drinking water is clean.	RI																																										
V04C	Analysis of drinking water quality from own source	If the company uses its own spring water system, the quality of this system is sampled once a year at animal level at the drinking stations and analysed chemically and bacteriologically by an accredited laboratory.	The analysing laboratory must be NEN-ISO / IEC 17025 accredited. Not applicable in case of tap water or surface water (river, stream, etc.)	When using the farm's own well water installation, check whether the annual drinking water test on chemical and bacteriological values has been performed, and write down the latest water test date and name of the lab. Not applicable in case of tap water or surface water (river, stream, etc.)	AR																																										
V04C1	Analysis of drinking water quality of the farm's own spring water installation	The analysis shall demonstrate that the water from the spring water system is of sufficient quality for the cattle because it complies with the drinking water standard for cattle.	In the case of cattle, the following limits for suitability as drinking water apply. The values in the 'good' column can be considered as safe for the relevant animal species. The values in the column 'abnormal' are considered (serious) risks for the relevant species, and do not meet this criterion. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Parameter:</th> <th>Good</th> <th>Abnormal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>pH:</td> <td>5 to 8</td> <td>< 4 & > 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ammonium (mg/L):</td> <td>< 2</td> <td>> 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrite (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0,1</td> <td>> 1,0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrate (mg/L):</td> <td>< 100</td> <td>> 200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chloride (mg/L):</td> <td>< 250</td> <td>> 2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sodium (mg/L):</td> <td>< 800</td> <td>> 1500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iron (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0,5</td> <td>> 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manganese (mg/L):</td> <td>< 1</td> <td>> 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sulphate (mg/L):</td> <td>< 100</td> <td>> 250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hardness (°dH):</td> <td>> 4 & < 15</td> <td>> 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yeasts and fungi moulds:</td> <td>-</td> <td>> 10.000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. coli (kve/ml):</td> <td>< 10</td> <td>> 100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total aerobic plate count (kve/ml):</td> <td>< 10,000</td> <td>> 100,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Source: Dutch Animal Health Service If the result is different, the farmer should, as a matter of urgency, take measures to improve the water quality and have a further sample examined until it is shown that the water complies with the above limit values.	Parameter:	Good	Abnormal	pH:	5 to 8	< 4 & > 9	Ammonium (mg/L):	< 2	> 10	Nitrite (mg/L):	< 0,1	> 1,0	Nitrate (mg/L):	< 100	> 200	Chloride (mg/L):	< 250	> 2000	Sodium (mg/L):	< 800	> 1500	Iron (mg/L):	< 0,5	> 10	Manganese (mg/L):	< 1	> 2	Sulphate (mg/L):	< 100	> 250	Hardness (°dH):	> 4 & < 15	> 25	Yeasts and fungi moulds:	-	> 10.000	E. coli (kve/ml):	< 10	> 100	Total aerobic plate count (kve/ml):	< 10,000	> 100,000	Assess test results and record whether the spring water is suitable as drinking water for cattle. If the water is unsuitable, check that remedial measures have been taken and samples have been analysed again.	AR
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V04C2	Number of indoor watering locations RECOMMENDATION	For each group of up to 20 animals there are at least 2 working drinking locations that are evenly distributed over the enclosure, for each subsequent 20 animals there is 1 additional drinking location.	Drinking locations are evenly distributed over the space, that is, the drinking locations are not next to each other but as far apart as possible. The following table is used to determine the number of drinking locations. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of cattle</th> <th>Number of drinking locations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>< 20 cattle</td> <td>2 drinking locations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 – 40 cattle</td> <td>3 drinking locations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>41 – 60 cattle</td> <td>4 drinking locations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61 – 80 cattle</td> <td>5 drinking locations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>81 – 100 cattle</td> <td>6 drinking locations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Etc.</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of cattle	Number of drinking locations	< 20 cattle	2 drinking locations	21 – 40 cattle	3 drinking locations	41 – 60 cattle	4 drinking locations	61 – 80 cattle	5 drinking locations	81 – 100 cattle	6 drinking locations	Etc.		Record the number of cattle per group and the number of watering locations in the group. Check whether there are enough watering locations available.	This is a recommendation. There is (as yet) no sanction for non-compliance.																												
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V04D	Supply of drinking water in the pasture	There is a working supply of drinking water in the pasture/natural reserve area's.	May also be surface water (river, stream, etc.).	Record any abnormalities.	RI
V04E	Supply of drinking water in the pasture	In the pasture/natural reserve area's, the distance to the drinking water supply may not exceed 500 m.		Record the distance from the far point of the meadow to the watering location.	RI
V04F	Flow	The flow of the drinking points must be enough for the drinking speed of cattle.	At individual drinkers (i.e. drinking bowls) > 10 litres/min. At troughs > 20 litres /min. In the case of a trough with a large tank (> 50 cm deep), this criterion is automatically met without measurement being required. Not applicable for surface water (river, stream, etc.)	Measure the flow of all drinking points by timing how long it takes to fill a 10 litre bucket. This should be possible in 1 minute for individual drinking bowls and in 30 seconds for troughs.	RI
Management					
AM01	Daily inspection of animals	All animals are inspected at least once a day for issues such as need for care, signs of injury, poor health, stress, etc.		Ask the carers about their inspection activities and their findings. Assess a number of cattle pens for signs of need for care, signs of injury, ill-health, stress, etc. Record your findings.	AR At 2nd consecutive year: RI
AM02	Contingency plan	An contingency plan must be in place.	An contingency plan has been posted at a visible, quickly accessible location when entering the pen and/or the farm. This plan describes what to do in the event of an emergency and contains a list of important telephone numbers, at least the numbers of the fire brigade, police and GP. See the website of the Better Life label for the BL label format 'contingency plan'.	Check whether an contingency plan (in accordance with the BL label format) is present on the farm.	AR
AM02c	Object information card	An object information card is present.		Check for the presence of an object information card.	Warning
AM02c1	Object information card	The object information card is immediately available in the event of an emergency (stored visibly outside the pen) for the fire brigade/emergency services.	This object information card does not have to be visible from the edge of the yard but it has to be easy to find / visible (outside the pens) after entering the premises.	Check if the object information card is immediately available.	Warning
AM02c2	Object information card	The object information map shows the following: layout of building blocks/pens, access doors, applied materials, utilities, fire water point, locations with flammable substances/activities, evacuation possibilities for animals, etc.		Check if the contents of the object information card meet the requirements.	Warning
AM03	Fire safety	With a view to fire safety, an Agro Electrical Inspection takes place at least once every five years.	New installations are tested in accordance with NEN 1010 prior to commissioning. A 5-yearly reinspection takes place on the basis of NEN 3140. An Agro Elektra Inspection that is accepted by the insurer also meets BL label's requirements. For foreign companies, the inspection of new installations and the 5-yearly reinspections respectively must take place on the basis of the national standard based on HD-IEC 60364 or NEN-EN 50110 respectively.	Check whether there is a certificate of the last inspection and note the date.	AR
AM04	Fire detection	Technical rooms, if present, are equipped with fire detection with notification to the farmer's telephone.	A technical room is, for example, the area with mechanical control of e.g. feed/drink systems, well pump (for spring water), ventilation systems, control computer, manure removal drive or fuse box.	Check if there is a technical room, if so check if the technical room is equipped with fire detection with reporting features linked to the farmer's telephone.	1st year warning 2nd consecutive year AR

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AM05	Separate storage for (heat-generating) vehicles/equipment	There is a separate storage facility for (heat-generating) vehicles and equipment. For new or renovated buildings, in any case no later than 1 January 2035.	Heat-generating vehicles/equipment should therefore not be stored with the animals or with the storage of litter, or feed. For example the tractor or the mixing truck cannot remain parked in the barn.	Check whether a separate storage facility for (heat-generating) vehicles and equipment has been built for new and renovated buildings.	RI Not applicable in case of existing pens. pens that were built or rebuilt after 01-01-2019 and do not meet the criteria, are excluded.
AM07	Extinguishing water supply	Sufficient fire extinguishing water is available on the farm.	On farms where there is no or insufficient extinguishing water available, additional facilities (spring / well / fire water pond / Wadi) will be constructed in consultation with the municipality/fire brigade/safety region.	Check with the municipality/fire brigade/safety region whether sufficient extinguishing water is available or whether an additional provision (drilled well / fire water pond / Wadi) is being constructed.	AR
Health and Interventions					
G01	Permanent veterinarian	The cattle farmer has a one-to-one agreement with a specialised certified cattle veterinarian who is responsible for the entire veterinary supervision at the farm. The veterinarian may bring in other specialists/veterinarians to provide full cover, for example as a replacement when they are ill or on holiday.	The veterinarian may bring in other specialists/veterinarians to provide full cover, for example as a replacement when he/she is ill or on holiday. When changing veterinarians, the 'old' veterinarian shall transfer his or her farm data to the 'new' veterinarian. Certified veterinarians are recorded in the register of the Foundation for Certified Veterinarians (Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts), see the website www.geborgdedierenarts.nl . The Regulations for Certified Cattle Veterinarians contain a model one-to-one agreement that must be used. For foreign participants there must be an agreement with a permanent veterinarian, with knowledge of the history of the farm and expertise in cattle farming. This veterinarian does not have to be registered as a cattle veterinarian.	Check if there is a one-to-one agreement with a certified, guaranteed cattle veterinarian. Document the name of the veterinarian.	AR
G02A	Company animal health plan	The cattle farmer has a farm-specific company animal health plan in which they describe, together with the farm's permanent veterinarian which measures are being taken to control and improve the health of the animals.	The plan includes information about the cattle, the health status and the conditions at the farm. Information from diagnostic tests, epidemiological conditions of the region and feedback systems from the slaughterhouse are used for planning future interventions (e.g. improvement of pens, vaccination, use and documentation of veterinary medicinal products, etc.).	Check that an company animal health plan is available. Check that the company animal health plan is in use.	AR if incomplete. Suspension if not available.
G02B	Company animal treatment plan	The cattle farmer has created, with the farm's permanent veterinarian, a farm-specific animal treatment plan for the use of veterinary medicinal products. The plan describes the (method of) treatment is used for the most common diseases.	It describes which veterinary medicines / antibiotics are used as first and second choice for a specific disease/condition.	Check if a company animal treatment plan is present. Check that the company animal treatment plan is in use.	AR if incomplete. Suspension if not available.
G02C	Evaluation	The company animal health plan and the accompanying company animal treatment plan are evaluated and updated (at least) annually.		Check whether there is a new/evaluated OHP and CTP every year.	RI
G03	Regular veterinary consults	Each production unit of the farm is visited at least twice a year by the farm veterinarian for a clinical inspection and farm supervision (based on e.g. production data, Ante Mortem and Post Mortem inspection results).		Check in the records the veterinarian's visit reports for the past 2 years and record the dates of last year's visits.	RI
G04	Consult veterinarian in case of illness/wounds	In the event of serious illness or injury of animals, or in the event of highly contagious animal diseases, abnormal reduction in feed intake and/or death of cattle, the farm veterinarian shall be called in directly.		On the basis of the frequency of visits, in relation to the prescribed pairing treatments, and the evaluation of the company animal health plan, check whether the cattle farmer complies with the regulation.	RI

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G05	Euthanizing seriously injured or sick animals	Very seriously ill or injured animals without any prospect of recovery shall be euthanized at the farm as soon as possible. Euthanasia is based on legislation and is done according to a method adapted to the animal type that causes as little pain and stress for the animal as possible.	A method of killing adapted to the animal type leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal. The permanent veterinarian describes (e.g. in the company animal health plan) how untreatable animals can be euthanized humanely on the farm as soon as possible.	Check whether euthanasia has taken place by means of visit reports and/or the logbook. If yes, record the method of killing used.	AR
G05A	Euthanizing seriously injured or sick animals	Euthanasia is carried out by or under the responsibility of the farm's permanent veterinarian	Euthanasia with a shooting mask by the farmer is permitted, provided that the user has the necessary permits (storage and possession of the ammunition) and this is only applied in consultation with the veterinarian.	Check that euthanasia has been carried out by the veterinarian, based on the visit reports and/or the logbook.	AR
G05B	Euthanizing seriously injured or sick animals in emergency situations	Arrangements have been made with the veterinarian regarding emergency situations, for him/her to visit the farm and, if necessary, to euthanize untreatable animals in emergency situations.	These arrangements are recorded in the company animal health plan or are part of or an annex to the arrangement with the veterinarian.	Check if the agreement with the veterinarian contains arrangements for him/her to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanize seriously injured or untreatable animals (e.g. in emergency situations).	AR
G06	Sick bay	Sick and injured cattle must be removed from the group (if necessary) and must be treated in the sick bay,	Unless the farm veterinarian indicates that this is not necessary for veterinary reasons.	Check whether there is a sick bay in the barn where sick and injured animals can be kept separate from healthy animals if necessary.	RI
G06A	Sick bay	The sick bay must contain dry and comfortable litter,	Unless the farm veterinarian advises against litter for veterinary reasons.	Check that dry, comfortable litter is used.	RI
G06B	Sick bay	The sick bay occupies at least 1% of the cattle stalls, with a minimum of 1 stall.	If the room is not available as standard, but is created if necessary, the participant can demonstrate this.	Calculate the available space in the sick bay using the number of cattle stalls. Keep a note of the calculation.	RI
G06D	Sick bay	Visual contact with other cattle is possible from the sick bay.		Check that the animals have eye contact with each other. Record any abnormalities.	RI
G06E	Cleaning sick bay	The sick bay must be constructed in such a way that it can easily be cleaned and disinfected between each occupation, and that any dead animal can easily be removed with minimal risk of contact with other animals.		Check the sick bay. Record your findings.	RI
G06F	Disposal of excrement from the sick bay	Urine and manure from the sick bay cannot come into contact with the other animals, and must be disposed of in such a way that the risk of contact with other animals is minimised.		Check the sick bay. Record your findings.	RI
G07A	Antibiotics only on prescription from the veterinarian	All antibiotics used on the cattle farm are prescribed by the (permanent) veterinarian.	The vet can register this, for example, on the basis of prescriptions or in his visit report.	Check randomly that the antibiotics used on the farm during the previous year have been prescribed by the (permanent) veterinarian. For example, check whether there is a corresponding prescription present at the farm, or whether the veterinarian has included it in his visit report. Register your findings.	RI
G07B	Use of third choice antibiotics/ antimicrobials	The use of third choice antimicrobials must be limited to an absolute minimum, and is only possible if bacteriological testing, including a sensitivity test, shows that there is resistance against the 1st and 2nd option antibiotics.	The Formulary for Meat Calves and Livestock of the Working Group Veterinary Antibiotics Policy is leading in this respect. The Formulary indicates which drugs are 1st, 2nd and 3rd option for certain diseases and is leading in this. third choice antimicrobials are antibiotics that are of critical importance for human health care (e.g. fluoroquinolones and 3rd, 4th generation cephalosporin). These antibiotics are only used: - for individual animals - if bacteriological testing, including a sensitivity test, shows that there is resistance against the 1st and 2nd option antibiotics.	Check that third choice antimicrobials (fluoroquinolones and 3rd, 4th generation cephalosporin) are only used in individual animals and only if bacteriological testing including a sensitivity test, shows that there is resistance against the 1st and 2nd option antibiotics. Register your findings.	Suspension

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G07C	Ban on preventive antibiotic use	Preventive use of antibiotics is not permitted.	There are no antibiotics present that are not part of a prescription. Preventive use is the use of antibiotics without any disease being suspected or detected in the animals concerned. A major risk associated with the preventive use of antibiotics is that this can lead to antibiotic resistance in pathogens.	In the above sample, check that the antibiotics have been used on the basis of establishing or suspecting a disease in the animals concerned, that no antibiotics without a prescription are present and that these antibiotics have not been used preventively. Register your findings.	RI
G07D	Registration antibiotics use	All use of antibiotics on the farm is recorded in the farm records on a daily basis and on an animal-specific basis.		Check that all antibiotics present on the farm, or that have been present on the farm, are recorded daily and animal-specifically in the farm records for veterinary medicines/antibiotics. Register your findings.	AR
G08	Slaughter findings	The slaughter findings feedback from the slaughterhouse are discussed with the farm veterinarian at least twice a year to adjust the care where necessary. The veterinarian will incorporate this in his visit report. From 1-1-2020 at the latest.	This includes results of tests for inflammation of the liver, lung and pleura, rejection of carcass parts and average deviations/rejections (e.g. in % per delivered flock) of all suppliers of the slaughterhouse. These data are from previous deliveries (up to at least 2 years, and any previous deliveries of the same round) present at the farm.	Check after 1-1-2020 if the slaughter abnormalities are discussed 2 times a year with the farm veterinarian. Check if there is feedback from the slaughterhouse in the records for the last 2 years. Record comments, last slaughterhouse report and discussion with veterinarian.	RI
G09	Evaluation of claws	The condition of the claws is discussed with the farm veterinarian and, if necessary, a claw care plan is drawn up.	Can be part of the health and wellness plan.	Check whether the farmer discusses the claw conditions with the veterinarian. Record your findings.	RI
G10	Docking	Docking the tail is not allowed.		Check 10% of the animals by making a round through the pen. Record any abnormalities.	Suspension
G11	Hot or cold branding	Hot or cold branding of cattle is not allowed.		Record the method of identification of the animals.	Suspension
G12	Disbudding	Disbudding (limiting horn growth) takes place in cattle under the age of two months.	Dehorning (removing fully grown horn completely or in part, or blunting it) in cattle older than six months is only allowed occasionally in cases with a veterinary need/issue. For example when horns are deformed and could lead to self-injury or injuries in others, or in case of a broken horn.	Document the age of disbudding. If older than six months, check whether there was a veterinary need.	Suspension
G12A	Disbudding	Disbudding is done by, or in the presence of the farm veterinarian	Disbudding is done by, or following the instructions of the farm veterinarian by an organisation/person who is certified for disbudding (veterinary procedure) according to the applicable national legislation.	Check if the disbudding is performed by or on the advice of the veterinarian.	Suspension
G12B	Disbudding or dehorning method	In case of disbudding this should be done: - in cattle under two months (limiting horn growth) with a hot iron, In case of disbudding this should be done: - in cattle older than six months (removal of fully grown horn) with a wire saw.	In the Netherlands the wire saw is legally required when dehorning cattle older than six months. In other Member States, another method for dehorning may also be used if the regulations in the relevant Member State so allow. Disbudding paste is not allowed within the Better Life label because of the pain afterwards and the risk of bleeding (e.g. when it rains, it can get into the eyes, or licking by conspecifics).	If disbudding or dehorning takes place, check that it is done with a hot iron in animals under two months of age and with a wire saw in animals over six months of age.	Suspension
G12C	Anaesthesia in case of disbudding or dehorning	Disbudding or dehorning is done under anaesthesia	Anaesthesia is performed by the farm veterinarian or an organisation/person entitled to perform veterinary interventions according to national legislation.	Check if disbudding or dehorning is performed under anaesthesia	Suspension
G12D	Pain control in case of disbudding or dehorning	The animals will be provided with analgesics (for a period of up to three days) after disbudding or dehorning, administered by or following the instructions of the farm veterinarian.		Check whether the treated animals receive analgesics and whether the analgesics used remains active at least three days after disbudding or dehorning.	Suspension
G12E	Disbudding or dehorning registration	Disbudding or dehorning of animals is registered in the visit report by the farm veterinarian.	For cattle from non-Better Life label cattle certified farms, the farm veterinarian of the supplying farm registers the disbudding or dehorning method on the disbudding or dehorning declaration that is supplied with the cattle to the fattening farm. See the website of the Better Life label for the format 'Dehorning declaration'.	Check that the disbudding or dehorning is registered or that a dehorning declaration from the veterinarian is supplied with the animals.	Suspension

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G13	Castration	If cattle are castrated, this is done by a veterinarian.		For 2 recently castrated cattle, check if there are visiting records for the veterinarian. Not applicable if the cattle have not been castrated or have not been castrated at the relevant farm. See criterion ST04.	RI
G13A	Anaesthesia during castration	Cattle are castrated under anaesthesia		For 2 recently castrated cattle, check that the veterinarian's visit reports show that he did so in accordance with this regulation. . Not applicable if the cattle have not been castrated or have not been castrated at the relevant farm. See criterion ST04.	RI
G13B	Pain control during castration	Cattle will receive analgesics (up to three days) after the castration, supplied by or after consultation with the farm veterinarian.		For 2 recently castrated cattle, check that the veterinarian's visit reports show that he did so in accordance with this regulation. Not applicable if the cattle have not been castrated or have not been castrated at the relevant farm. See criterion ST04.	RI
G13C	Registration castration	Castration of animals is recorded by the farm veterinarian in his or her own visit report.	For cattle from farms that are not Better Life label certified, the farm veterinarian of the supplying cattle farm registers the castration on the 'Castration declaration' that is sent with the animals to the fattening farm. See the website of the Better Life label for the format 'Castration declaration'.	Check whether the castration of the animals is registered or whether a castration declaration from the veterinarian has been sent with the animals. Not applicable if the cattle is not castrated.	AR
G14	Cattle breeds with a high incidence of caesarean sections	Cattle breeds with a high incidence of caesarean sections are excluded from the Better Life label.	Double-muscled breeds with a high incidence of caesarean sections, such as Belgisch Blauwen and Verbeterd roodbont cattle, including crossbreeds, with a high incidence of caesarean sections, are not allowed to be present at the cattle farm. For new participants, the cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections that is currently present, should be removed as not BL label worthy before the next annual inspection.	Check if there are no (double muscled) cattle breeds with a high incidence of caesarean sections (e.g. Belgisch Blauwen or Verbeterd roodbont or crossbreeds) present at the cattle farm. In the case of new participants, check that the cattle present with a high incidence of caesarean sections have been removed as not BL label worthy after the entry check.	Exclusion At entry check: RI.
G14A	Caesarean section	Caesarean section is only used in emergency situations and not routinely.	Caesarean sections are only used in emergencies, at a maximum of 5% of cattle births per year.	Check that caesarean section is only used in emergency situations. Record % of cattle that is born using caesarean sections.	Suspension (plan of approach)
G15	Reproduction techniques	Routine application of embryo transplant and Ovum Pick up are not permitted.	ET or OPU can only be used in maximum 5% of the cattle.	Record the method of reproduction and % cattle using ET or OPU.	Suspension
G16	Prevention IBR and BVD RECOMMENDATION	The farm is free from Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis / cow flu (IBR) and Bovine Virus Diarrhoea (BVD).	A farm is considered IBR-BVD free if none of the animals present has any IBR or BVD antibodies. If a farm is not IBR-BVD free, the farm must participate in an IBR-BVD control programme.	Check whether the farm has achieved IBR and/or BVD free status or whether the farm is participating in a vaccination programme to protect against IBR and BVD.	This is a recommendation. There is (as yet) no sanction for non-compliance.
G17	Prevention IBR and BVD RECOMMENDATION	Only animals from farms considered IBR and BVD free are supplied.	The farm can demonstrate its IBR/BVD-free status with a GD certificate, or a (foreign) equivalent.	Check if the farms that supply cattle have an IBR and BVD-free certificate issued by the GD or a (foreign) equivalent certificate.	This is a recommendation. There is (as yet) no sanction for non-compliance.
Accommodation					

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Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
H01A	Grazing	All cattle are grazed.	Exceptions are: outside the grazing season, during extreme weather conditions, meat bulls (older than 1 year) and/or meat cows (max. 4 months) that are fattened and kept permanently indoors.	Check that cattle are grazed. Record your findings. Not applicable outside the grazing season, during extreme weather conditions, in case of (older than 1 year) and/or meat cows (max. 4 months) that are fattened and kept permanently indoors.	RI
HB01.1	Minimum number of days of grazing	The minimum annual duration of outdoor grazing is 150 days of at least 8 hours a day or 115 days of 24 hours a day.	With the exception of calves where the first year of life does not include sufficient days in the grazing season and beef bulls older than 1 year. Bulls should only have grazing during their first year of life. If a bull calf has grazing from birth, the mandatory grazing period for the first year of life is met at an age of 150 or 115 days (depending on the type of grazing, 8 or 24 hours a day) and the bull calf can from then on be housed indoors.	Record if the grazing obligation has been met. Record any abnormalities.	AR
H01AA	Registration grazing	The grazing periods are registered. When grazing is impossible, those days are documented by the farmer with the reason.	For example, outdoor grazing is impossible outside of the grazing season or in extreme weather conditions.	Check if the farmer keeps track of the grazing periods and when the animals are not grazed, with the reason. Record your findings.	RI
H01B.1	Cattle density on cultivated grassland	The maximum cattle density on cultivated grassland is 10 cattle per hectare grazable grassland.	Cattle is: 1 animal that must, according to the BL label criteria, have access to grazing, e.g. 1 meat bull or 1 meat cow that are not (yet) kept permanently indoors for fattening, or 1 suckling cow including calf. Grazable grassland is the ha. of cultivated grassland owned, leased (single year or multiple year leasehold) and the ha. cultivated grassland and user declaration. In natural reserve area's the cattle density depends on the available feed and the cattle density is regulated in the management agreement.	Check and record the cattle density per hectare.	RI
H02	Shelter during grazing	In the pasture the cattle have sufficient shelter (against rainfall, winter weather or heat - temperatures over 25°C) or a pen space, with sufficient room so that all animals present here can seek shelter at the same time.	Excluding natural reserve area's where the total grazable area offers sufficient nature shelter so that all animals present can simultaneously seek shelter.	Check and record type of shelter and check whether all animals present can seek shelter here at the same time. Excluding natural reserve area's, provided that the total grazable area offers sufficient nature shelter so that all animals present can simultaneously seek shelter.	RI
H03	View from the pen	The pen is constructed to offer the cattle an unobstructed view of no less than 3 metres on at least 2 sides.	There is a clear view over the entire front (open fence, from the bottom to the top). In addition, at least 2 metres of unobstructed view (open fencing over at least 2m, from bottom to top, between separate pens). Just a peephole is insufficient.	Check whether the pens meet the requirements. Record any abnormalities.	RI
H04	Injury-free environment	The pen and outdoor shelter are constructed and designed to prevent injuries in the animals.	Injuries are defined as grainy scar tissue of at least 2 cm in size (larger than caused by a single collision or scratch). There are no protrusions where animals can injure themselves, floors, walls and partitions are stable, flat and sturdy.	Check and record whether the animals have injuries and whether they have been caused by the pen equipment or the layout of the outdoor shelter. Assessment of wound size can be done remotely based on a visual assessment.	RI
H05	Scratching facility (hide care)	In the pen / enclosure, there is a permanent scratching facility in every pen that the cattle can use to rub (their hide).	A scratching facility can include: - a scratching pole (for instance a wooden pole with a diameter of at least 15 cm), - a scratching brush (for instance the brush of a broom that is fixed to a wall or pole), or - a coarse/rough pen division divider. - an angle iron The materials must be mounted in a readily accessible location.	Check and record if a usable scratching facility is available.	RI
H06A	Soft bed ground	Cattle in a pen/indoor shelter must always have access to soft bedding with a solid floor and a soft bed ground of straw or comparable natural materials.	Natural material similar to straw is, among other things, (but not limited to) wood fibres, shavings or sand.	Check that the cattle have permanent access to the soft bed ground with a solid floor, covered with straw, or a similar natural material. Record the type of floor covering.	RI

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Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction																											
H06A1	Dry and clean, soft bed ground	The straw or similar natural material is sufficiently spread on the floor so that all cattle can lie dry and clean.		Check that the straw (or similar natural material) is regularly refreshed and that all cows can be dry and clean	RI																											
H06A2	Cleanliness cattle	The cleanliness of the cattle kept indoors must be good, taking into account the type of farming used.	<p>In case of indoor cattle, less than 50% of the cattle can be soiled</p> <p>An animal is soiled when: - placards (dirty three-dimensional layers) cover 25% or more of the side including the lower abdomen (without head, neck and feet under the knee/heel) of the animal - liquid dirt covers more than 50% of the side including the lower abdomen of the animal</p> <p>If there is too much soiling, is it likely that there is insufficient straw or similar natural material available.</p> <p>If the cleanliness is insufficient (more than 50% of the animals are soiled) check whether sufficient straw or similar natural material is available on the floor. If not, the frequency of providing bedding should be increased so that the pollution is reduced to a considerably lower level (<25% of the animals are soiled).</p>	Assess the cleanliness of the cattle kept indoors. Record the percentage of cattle that are soiled.	In case of insufficient cleanliness: Warning. In case of 2nd year in a row: RI.																											
H06B	Slope	Floors of the soft bed ground may be slightly sloping, no more than 10%.		Check that the floor of the soft bed ground has a max. slope of 10%.	RI																											
H07	Height indoor enclosure	Above the enclosure a free space of 2.5m measured from the floor must be available.	Animals must be able to move freely indoors. For example, in the case of sloping roofs or ramps, 2 m measured from the floor is sufficient at the edge of the barn.	Check that the free space is 2.5 m, record deviations.	RI																											
H07A.1	Min. surface per animal indoors	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weight</th> <th>Bedding</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tot 100 kg</td> <td>1.25 m²</td> <td>2.50 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>201 - 300 kg</td> <td>1.75 m²</td> <td>3.50 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>301 - 400 kg</td> <td>2.60 m²</td> <td>3.80 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>401 - 500 kg</td> <td>3.00 m²</td> <td>4.20 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>501 - 600 kg</td> <td>3.40 m²</td> <td>4.60 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>601 - 700 kg</td> <td>3.60 m²</td> <td>5.00 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>701 - 800 kg</td> <td>4.00 m²</td> <td>5.40 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>> 800 kg</td> <td>80 % of total inside</td> <td>+ 0,40 m²/100 kg</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weight	Bedding	Total	Tot 100 kg	1.25 m ²	2.50 m ²	201 - 300 kg	1.75 m ²	3.50 m ²	301 - 400 kg	2.60 m ²	3.80 m ²	401 - 500 kg	3.00 m ²	4.20 m ²	501 - 600 kg	3.40 m ²	4.60 m ²	601 - 700 kg	3.60 m ²	5.00 m ²	701 - 800 kg	4.00 m ²	5.40 m ²	> 800 kg	80 % of total inside	+ 0,40 m ² /100 kg	For groups of 40 or more animals the area per animal may be reduced by 10% per animal.	Check whether the surface complies with the standard. Record any abnormalities.	RI
Weight	Bedding	Total																														
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H07B	Housing of breeding bulls	Adult breeding bulls kept permanently indoors in individual pens must have at least 16 m ² to lie down, and a total area, including room to move and service area, of 20 m ² .		Check that the surface requirement is being met. Record any abnormalities.	RI																											
H08A	Stable fattening groups	Cattle are kept indoors in stable fattening groups.	A stable fattening group is a group of animals to which no more animals are added after transfer to a fattening area (or after arrival at the fattening farm). Animals can be removed (earlier).	Check that cattle are kept in stable fattening groups. Record your findings.	RI																											
H09A	Tethering	Cattle cannot be tethered.	Pens that require the cattle to be tethered are not allowed.	Check if animals are tethered. If animals are tethered, record this, including the reason for the tethering.	RI																											
H09B	Tethering temporarily	Tethering animals for periods of max. 3 hours is allowed, provided that visual and auditory contact with the herd is possible during this period.	Tethering is only allowed in connection with veterinary treatment, trimming of the claws or learning to be tethered, for example for ferrying to the pasture.	Ensure that animals are not tethered for more than 3 hours and that visual and auditory contact with the herd is possible during this period.	RI																											
H10	Housing of breeding bulls	Adult breeding bulls kept in individual pens must have at least 16 m ² to lie down, and a total area, including room to move and breed, of 20m ² .		Check that the surface requirement is being met. Record any abnormalities.	RI																											

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H11	Floors	Non-bedded floor sections must be non-slip, or be maintained in a way that limits the risk of slipping.	Floors should never be so rough that they cause injuries to the legs, nor so slippery as to result in slipping.	When in doubt about the floor quality (too slippery or too rough), record the deviation. The farmer will have to have an FSC-2000 measurement performed to determine the floor quality, or be able to produce a certificate from the manufacturer that shows the measurement of the quality. Record your findings.	RI
H12A	Air quality	The pen has natural ventilation.	If necessary, for sufficient air quality, the ventilation is mechanically supported.	Check that the pen is naturally ventilated. Record whether and how the ventilation is mechanically supported.	RI
H12B	Air quality	All pens must be ventilated in such a way that dust levels, relative humidity and ammonia levels are not harmful to the cattle.	No eye or nose irritation was observed in the pens during the inspection of the cattle or humans present.	Check the pens for eye or nose irritation in the cattle or humans present. Record any abnormalities in the dust level, humidity and/or ammonia levels in the air.	RI
H12C	Air quality RECOMMENDATION	The pen has an air intake opening of at least 2400 cm2 per animal stall in the side wall.		Check that the pen has an air intake opening of at least 2400 cm2 per animal stall.	This is a recommendation. There is (as yet) no sanction for non-compliance.
H13	Daylight	The pen is equipped with daylight-permeable surfaces of at least 6.7% of the ground surface.	All surfaces/parts which allow light to pass through may be included in the calculation, unless the normal method of closing this part (door/hatch/curtain) is not daylight-permeable.	Record the percentage of daylight-permeable surfaces.	RI
H13A	Daylight permeability	Daylight-permeable surfaces are clean and allow sufficient daylight to pass through.		Check and note that the surfaces that are daylight-permeable (skylights, windows) are clean and allow sufficient daylight to pass through.	RI
H13B	Artificial light	There is sufficient lighting in the pen to be able to inspect the cattle at all times.	Lighting must be of such intensity, min. 50 Lux, that the animals are clearly visible.	Check that there is sufficient lighting in the pen to be able to inspect the cattle at all times. Using an annually calibrated Lux meter, measure the light intensity at eye level of the animals at 3 different locations in the pen. Record average number of Lux.	RI
H14	Day and night routine	There is an uninterrupted period at night of at least 6 hours with a low level of light to allow the cattle to rest.		Record the applied lighting routine.	AR
Calves (cattle younger than 1 year)					
VB01.1	Weaning age	Calves are weaned from the cow at an age of at least 3 months,	In (nursing) cows that are kept outdoors all year round, where weaning takes place without interference from the farmer, this criterion can be considered to be compliant. Exceptions are calves from dairy farms. These calves can be weaned after being cleaned by the mother, then the calves have to stay on the farm of birth for at least 28 days before they may be removed.	Use interviews, among other things, to check which regime is being applied. Record the applied regime.	RI Not applicable if the herd is permanently kept outdoors and the weaning takes place without interference from the farmer.
VB02.1	Gradual weaning	Weaning takes place gradually by giving the calf more and more roughage and drinking water.	In (nursing) cows that are kept outdoors all year round, where weaning takes place without interference from the farmer, this criterion can be considered to be compliant. Exceptions are calves from dairy farms. These calves can be weaned after being cleaned by the mother, then the calves have to stay on the farm of birth for at least 28 days before they may be removed.	Use interviews, among other things, to check which regime is being applied. Record the applied regime.	RI Not applicable if the herd is permanently kept outdoors and the weaning takes place without interference from the farmer.

Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
VB03.1	Gradual weaning	The weaning is done gradually by temporarily separating the calf from the cow with only eye contact.	In (nursing) cows that are kept outdoors all year round, where weaning takes place without interference from the farmer, this criterion can be considered to be compliant. Exceptions are calves from dairy farms. These calves can be weaned after being cleaned by the mother, then the calves have to stay on the farm of birth for at least 28 days before they may be removed.	Use interviews, among other things, to check which regime is being applied. Record the applied regime.	RI Not applicable if the herd is permanently kept outdoors and the weaning takes place without interference from the farmer.
V03	Additional feed	Calves receive additional feed with fresh water and roughage from the age of 14 days.		Check that the calves are fed with water and roughage from the age of 14 days.	RI
VB04A	Fostering	If suckling cows are used as foster cows, there can be no more than 3 calves per foster cow.		Check the maximum number of calves per foster cow.	AR
VB04B	Fostering	If several calves walk with one suckling cow (foster mother), the calves are offered sufficient additional drinking water for their required liquid intake.		In case of several calves with one suckling cow (foster cow), record if the calves are offered sufficient additional drinking water for their required liquid intake.	AR
Calves/cattle from non-certified cattle farms					
ST01	Calves/cattle from non-certified cattle farms.	The calves/cattle can come from cattle farms that have not been certified according to the Better Life label (beef and number of stars), provided they meet the following criteria.		Use a random sampling of the I&R data to determine the UBN or EU registration number farm from where the calves/cattle have come and whether the farm is certified for the Better Life label (beef cattle and number of stars); see the BL label register. If the farm is not certified for the Better Life label, check if the additional criteria below are compliant.	Suspension
ST02.1	Age of calves when leaving the farm where they were born	The calves are at least 3 months old before they leave the farm of their birth.	Exemptions are: 1. Calves from cows kept for the production of dairy products for human consumption. These calves can be weaned after being cleaned by the mother, then the calves have to stay on the farm of birth for at least 28 days before they can be removed.. 2. Calves under 3 months of age leaving the farm of their birth together with the suckling cow (dam). If not, the weaning age criterion cannot be met.	Use a random sampling of the I&R copies of the cattle passports (date of birth and date of leaving the farm of birth) to ascertain that the calves were at least 6 months old when leaving the farm of birth.	RI
ST03	Dehorning	If the cattle have been dehorned, there is a declaration from the farm veterinarian of the farm of origin that this was done under anaesthesia and with pain control afterwards, in accordance with the criteria of the Better Life label.	If the animals are genetically polled, this must be selected on the certificate. See the website of the Better Life label for the format 'Dehorning declaration'.	Check whether there is a declaration from a veterinarian (in BL label format) that the dehorning was conducted in the required manner.	Suspension
ST04	Castration	If the calves have been castrated, there is a declaration from the farm veterinarian of the farm of origin that this was done under anaesthesia and with pain control afterwards, in accordance with the criteria of the Better Life label.	See the website of the Better Life label for the format 'Castration declaration'.	Check if there is a declaration from a veterinarian (according to the BL label format) that the castration has taken place in the required way. Not applicable if the cattle is not castrated.	Suspension

Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
ST05	Stay at the fattening location	<p>Meat bulls and meat cows will stay on average 9 months, and no animal stays less than 7 months, at the BL label certified fattening location, from where the animals are transported to the slaughterhouse.</p> <p>If animals spend between 3 and 7 months (no animal less than 3 months) at the fattening location, this location and the previous supplying cattle farms from this chain, are certified as a Multi-site every year.</p>	<p>To demonstrate to the Certification Body that the cattle stays at the fattening farm on average 9 months, the farmer has calculated the average stay of the cattle at his farm for the past year on the basis of the official I&R data.</p> <p>For cattle that are placed once, temporarily on a BL label certified reception-meat farm, the stay on a BL label certified reception-meat farm may be included in the prescribed average of 9 months, no individual animal less than 7 months, at a BL label certified fattening location.</p> <p>For the conditions regarding Multi-site certification, see the Certification Regulations (chapter 5.2) on the Better Life website.</p> <p>In the case of nature grazing, cattle may be moved to different areas / fattening farms with different UBN or EU registration numbers, provided that the animals at these locations in total stay a minimum average of 9months, no individual animal less than 7 months, until transport to the slaughterhouse.</p> <p>Not applicable for animals that are transported earlier on the advice of the veterinarian.</p>	<p>Randomly check the pen list to verify if the animals from the previous year were kept on for an average of 9 months, and no animal less than 7 months, at the fattening farm (including the time the animals stayed at a BL label certified reception-meat farm).</p> <p>If individual animals stayed between 3 and 7 months at the fattening farm, check if checks are performed at the previous supplying cattle farms based on their Multi-site certification.</p> <p>In the case of nature grazing, check whether the animals have spent an average of 9 months and a minimum of 7 months before slaughter in natural reserve area's or at fattening farms.</p> <p>Not applicable for animals that are transported earlier on the advice of the veterinarian.</p>	Suspension
Meat bulls					
HB03	Housing meat bulls	Meat bulls older than 1 year old that are being fattened at the farm may be kept permanently indoors.	In order to ensure the safety of persons handling meat bulls, meat bulls may be housed indoors from the age of one year	Record whether and from what age the meat bulls are permanently housed indoors.	RI
Meat cows and oxen					
HB02	Indoor fattening of meat cows and oxen	For the fattening in of meat cows and oxen (steer or bullock), the mandatory grazing may be deviated from for a limited period of time.	The period of indoor fattening of meat cows and oxen must not exceed 1/5 of the lifetime, with a maximum of 4 months. In the winter months there is a maximum period of 6 months indoors fattening.	Record the applied fattening regime of meat cows and oxen, if applicable.	AR
nature grazing					
NB01	Permitted cattle breeds in nature grazing	Only cattle of domestic breeds that are also kept in the regular beef industry are kept for nature grazing.	<p>Only domesticated cattle accustomed to humans are allowed so that care, collection and transport causes as little stress as possible.</p> <p>Large, wild, self-regulating herds of cattle such as those in the Oostvaardersplassen and cattle from breeds such as Heckrunderen, Galloway and Scottish highland cattle are excluded from participation in the Better Life label.</p>	Record the breed of the cattle. Heckrunderen, Galloway and Scottish highland cattle are excluded from participation.	Exclusion At entry check: RI.
NB02	Analysis nutritional values of natural reserve area's and necessity for additional feed	The natural reserve area's must be able to meet all the nutritional requirements of the cattle concerned.	Before cattle are kept in a natural reserve area's, the farmer, possibly in cooperation with the manager of the natural reserve area's, makes an analysis of the extent to which the area to be grazed can meet the nutritional needs of the cattle or, if there are any nutritional or mineral needs, that should be supplemented. The analysis is recorded, e.g. in the management agreement.	Check whether an adequate analysis has been made of the extent to which the natural reserve area's can meet the nutritional requirements of the cattle. Check whether this has been recorded and if necessary, whether additional feeding takes place. Record your findings.	Suspension
NB03	Additional feed (e.g. minerals) in case of nature grazing	In the case of nature grazing, extra minerals are added if necessary. Cattle with nature grazing, if necessary (in order to meet the nutritional needs of the animals concerned), are provided additional feed, e.g. certain minerals.	<p>In case of nature grazing, the farmer, possibly in cooperation with the manager of the natural reserve area's, makes an assessment of the which/how much feed the natural reserve area's can supply to the cattle.</p> <p>In the case of poor nature soils, shortages of certain minerals can occur and need to be supplemented.</p> <p>The required additional minerals are recorded, for instance in the management agreement for nature grazing.</p>	<p>Check whether the management agreement for nature grazing contains an indication of the expected nutritional values of the natural reserve area's, and whether minerals must be supplemented.</p> <p>If so, check in the field whether the required mineral supplements are provided.</p>	RI

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Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
NB04	Shelter during nature grazing	During nature grazing the cattle have shelter (natural shelter or a constructed shelter) against rainfall, winter weather or heat (more than 25°C), of a sufficient size so that all animals present here can seek shelter at the same time.	If there is no or insufficient shelter, the animals should be moved to a location with sufficient shelter, e.g. during extreme rainfall, winter weather or temperatures of over 25°C.	Check and record whether all animals present can seek shelter here at the same time. Record the type of shelter.	RI
NB06	Housing of breeding bulls from a herd	Adult breeding bulls from a herd are kept indoors in individual pens with at least 32 m ² lying space and a total space, incl. motion and service area of 44 m ² .	In the case of nature grazing it sometimes happens that a herd contains 1 or more bulls. During the time that the herd is kept indoors, the bull should be given a sufficiently large living area.	Check that the standard for the living area for breeding bulls from a herd is complied with. Record any abnormalities.	RI
NB07	Information for visitors area with nature grazing	At the entrances to a nature grazing area, the public is informed that a herd of cattle is grazing there, and how to behave when they encounter the herd.	For example: no access for dogs, or dogs must be kept on the leash, keep a distance from the cattle, do not walk among the cattle, etc. In practice, the area manager can provide such information, but the farmer must always ensure that this information is made available at the access points to the nature grazing area.	Check that there are signs for visitors at the entrances to the grazing area with the necessary instructions.	AR
NB08	Information for visitors area with nature grazing	At the entrance to an area with nature grazing, the public is informed who they can contact in the event of emergencies.	In practice, the area manager can provide such information, but the farmer must always ensure that this information is made available at the access points to the nature grazing area.	Check that there are signs for visitors at the entrances to the grazing area with the necessary instructions.	AR
NB09	Sick animals in case of nature grazing	In herds with nature grazing, a sick animal remains with the herd, unless the farm veterinarian decides otherwise.		Record, if applicable, how sick animals are treated during nature grazing.	RI
NB10	Gathering animals in case of nature grazing	Cattle in nature grazing areas are gathered calmly in a secluded part of the natural reserve area's prior to being transported with a cattle car.	The gathering of animals from nature grazing areas must take place as calmly as possible, to prevent stress in the animals as much as possible.	Use interviews to check the method of gathering. Record your findings.	RI
Transport					
T01	Purchasing cattle farms / slaughterhouses	The cattle are delivered to cattle farms / slaughterhouses that are approved / certified for the corresponding Better Life label (BL label cattle and the corresponding number of stars).		Check administration. Record the UBN or EU registration number of the purchasing cattle farm and/or purchasing slaughterhouses. Record for each purchaser whether they are certified for the corresponding Better Life label (BL label beef cattle and number of stars). If not, check if the animals are classified as 'non-BL label'.	RI
T02.1	Duration of travel for cattle	The transport takes: - in calves up to an age of 5 months: a maximum of 8 hours or 500 km - in calves/cattle from the age of 5 months: maximum 12 hours or 750 km.	Calves younger than 3 months are always transported together with their mother, otherwise the criterion for the weaning age cannot be met. The transport goes directly from the birth farm to the fattening farm; this transport does not take longer than 8 hours (in case of animals under 5 months) or 12 hours (from the age of 5 months).	Record the origin and travel time or distance of the animals on the basis of the transport documents. A margin of ½ hour may be applied when determining the transport duration.	AR
T03	Temporary stay at meat farm	If it is not possible to reach the fattening location within 8 hours or 500 km (up to an age of 5 months) or 10 hours or 625 km (from 5 months of age), then the cattle may be placed once, temporarily, at a BL label certified, interim cattle farm, where the cattle must stay for at least 21 days.	This in anticipation of further transport to the final fattening farm.	Using the I&R data, check a sample of copies of the cattle passports (date of arrival of the cattle at a reception-meat farm and date of departure to the fattening farm) to see if the cattle were on the reception-meat farm for at least 21 days.	Suspension
T04	Duration of travel cattle to slaughterhouse	The transport of cattle to the slaughterhouse may take a maximum of 4 hours, or a maximum of 250 km.		Use the transport documents to record the travel time/distance as well as the name of the receiving slaughterhouse.	Suspension
T05	Electric cattle prods	No electric cattle prods are used on the farm and during the moving/transport of cattle.	There are no electric cattle prods available on the farm.	Check that there are no electric cattle prods on the farm and record which alternatives are used.	Suspension
T06	Ban on cattle markets	The cattle are not transported to or from the farm via a cattle market.	Imported animals come from another cattle farm and do not go through a cattle market. Slaughter animals go directly from the cattle farm to the slaughterhouse and not via a cattle market.	Use the transport documents to check if the animals were not transported to or from the farm via a cattle market.	RI
Supplementary					

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Number	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
A00	Number of BL label animal places	During the annual inspection, the total number of BL label animal places is recorded, among other things to check the mega enclosure standard.	For this purpose, during the entry check and in case of new or renovated buildings, the BL label inspector measures the different types of pens/departments of the farm. Based on this area per type of pen/departments, the BL label inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm. Based on the required area per animal category, as laid down in the BL label criteria, the inspector then determines the total number of BL label animal places per animal category for the farm.	Record the total number of BL label animal places, among other things to determine if the farm meets the standard for mega enclosures. Based on measurements of the different pens/departments and the BL label area criteria per animal category, see below.	
A00A	Number of BL label suckling cow places	The number of BL label suckling cow places at the farm location is:		Record the number of BL label suckling cow places at the farm location.	
A00A1	Number of BL label suckling cows present	The number of BL label suckling cows present at the farm location is:		Record the number of BL label suckling cows present at the farm location.	
A00B	Number of BL label places for animals under 1 year of age	The number of BL label places for animals under 1 year of age is:		Record the number of BL label places for animals under 1 year of age.	
A00B1	Number of BL label animals under 1 year of age present	The number of BL label animals under 1 year of age present is:		Record the number of BL label animals under 1 year of age present.	
A00C	Number of BL label animal places for meat bulls	The number of BL label meat bull places for animals older than 1 year of age present at the farm is:		Record the number of BL label meat bull places for animals older than 1 year of age present at the farm.	
A00C1	Number of BL label meat bulls and oxen present	The number of BL label meat bulls present at the farm location is:		Record the number of BL label meat bulls older than 1 year present at the farm.	
A00D	Number of BL label meat cows and oxen places	The number of BL label meat cows and oxen places for animals older than 1 year of age present at the farm is:		Record the number of BL label meat cows and oxen places for animals older than 1 year present at the farm.	
A00D1	Number of BL label meat cows and oxen present	The number of BL label meat cows and oxen older than 1 year present is:		Record the number of BL label meat cows and oxen older than 1 year present at the farm.	