

## Conditions for the processing of Beter Leven products

A company that processes or handles (including cutting, storing, packaging, labelling, etc.) Beter Leven products must meet the processing criteria for each individual company location. This document is based on the Beter Leven criteria for processors. The most recent, Dutch version of these criteria, as posted on the Beter Leven website, is always leading.

Approval to use the Beter Leven trademark is granted by the Better Life Foundation trademark on the basis of an administrative assessment. To this end, a request with the following information needs to be submitted. An audit on location may be warranted.

Changes to protocols/procedures, products and product specifications, and communications are to be submitted to the Better Life Foundation trademark for approval before use.

### Framework conditions for the Beter Leven protocol/procedure for processors

Below is an overview of the information that the Better Life Foundation trademark should receive:

1. From the quality manual, the business protocols/procedures for Beter Leven products:
  - a. Method of registering and deregistering suppliers and buyers with the Better Life Foundation trademark
  - b. Method of approving products and forms of communications and publicity through the Better Life Foundation trademark
  - c. Procedures for the entry control of Beter Leven products (Beter Leven trademark and the number of stars listed on the product and on the accompanying documents: delivery receipt/packing slip and invoice)
  - d. Procedure for products that do not clearly comply with the Beter Leven scope (type of animal and number of stars) during the entry control.
  - e. Procedures for channelling, for separate storage (clearly distinguished from other products), and separate production of Beter Leven products, correct identification and recognisability of Beter Leven products throughout the entire production.
  - f. Procedure for the production order. Beter Leven products must always be produced on a clean (if possible, decontaminated) production line to prevent cross-contamination of a product that is not worthy of the Beter Leven trademark. Beter Leven products are produced:
    - i. At the start of the day/production
    - ii. After organic product,
    - iii. After a regular product, provided that the production line is first cleaned with a decontamination method approved by the Better Life Foundation trademark.Cleaning consists of running the conveyor belt until it is empty and then cleaning it with hot water and a cleaning agent, if required.  
If it is not possible to use hot water for cleaning:
    1. the production line is physically cleaned (scrubbed/wiped with a brush or cloth, scraped) and/or
    2. the first kilograms of the Beter Leven production is downgraded to regular. The processor substantiates and registers the quantity (in kilograms) of the downgraded Beter Leven product in the quality manual.This cleaning method is set out in the associated business protocol for the processing of Beter Leven products.
  - g. Procedure for the packaging and labelling of Beter Leven products
  - h. Cross check/mass balance procedure. Regular checks to ensure that no more Beter Leven product is sold than has been purchased. Check on the basis of a cross check/mass balance. If production takes place more than once a month: a cross check/mass balance should occur at least every month. If production takes place less than once a month: a cross check/mass balance should occur at least every quarter.
  - i. Method of downgrading Beter Leven products
  - j. The above protocols/procedures minimally describe:
    - i. What needs to be done
    - ii. How and how often this occurs
    - iii. Who is responsible and

- iv. Who carries this out
2. How cross-contamination by non-Beter Leven worthy products is prevented
3. A current list of products produced under the Beter Leven trademark, including the scope (type of animal and number of stars), supplier of the Beter Leven raw material, and the buyer of the Beter Leven product.
4. For composite products, a complete list of product specifications is included in the shipment, which mentions all ingredients in accordance with the format of the Better Life Foundation trademark, whereby the ingredients with constituent elements of animal origin are to be sub-categorised into Beter Leven worthy and not Beter Leven worthy.
5. Logo usage and other Beter Leven communications should always be submitted for review prior to production.

### **Framework conditions for Beter Leven products**

Here is an overview of the framework conditions that Beter Leven products must meet:

1. The % of animal ingredients that are not Beter Leven ingredients (such as meat, milk, egg, proteins, collagen, intestines) can be a maximum of 5.00%, calculated over the total final product.
2. Supplementary to this, the proportion of Beter Leven ingredients must be at least 2x that of non-Beter Leven animal ingredients.
3. If the total of non-BL trademark animal ingredients in a product exceeds the permitted 5.00%, these ingredients may be replaced by an organic variant. This means that, for example, milk, eggs or butter can be replaced by organic milk, eggs or butter. The number of stars for this product will remain the same, and is not increased to 3 stars. In addition, the product must still meet the conditions listed below.
4. Ingredients that are banned, even within the 5.00% threshold of non-Beter Leven ingredients, are:
  - a. Duck liver
  - b. Goose liver
  - c. Animal products for which it cannot be 100% confirmed that the animal was stunned before slaughter (primarily sheep, calf and lamb products)
  - d. Horse meat
  - e. Poultry/game either obtained from hunting or kept (including: Guinea fowl, pheasant, wild boar, red deer, fallow deer, duck, pigeon, goose, partridge, wild rabbit)
  - f. Endangered species, such as eel
  - g. Products from animals that have been genetically modified, cloned or have otherwise been in direct contact with biotechnology
  - h. Other animal products that are contrary (or may be) to the policy of the Animal Protection Society
5. Downgrading Beter Leven products to fewer stars is permitted, provided that the procedure for downgrading is made known to the Better Life Foundation trademark and that the recipes have been approved.
6. In the case of a combination of Beter Leven raw materials with varying numbers of stars, the packaging's trademark/logo must state the rating of the product's Beter Leven ingredient with the lowest number of stars. For example, a product with a combination of organic beef (equivalent to 3 stars) and pork (1 star) will receive the Beter Leven trademark of 1 star.
7. Products in which organic meat (equivalent to 3 stars) is processed in its entirety but are not fully organic may receive the 3-star trademark. For example, a non-organic soup containing organic meatballs. Because the meatballs are organic, the product receives 3 stars. However, the product must still meet the required conditions.
8. A maximum of 5.00% cross-contamination, depending on what is produced prior to this.

### **Certification**

Within three months of administrative approval by the Better Life Foundation trademark (and annually thereafter), processors and handlers must be checked and certified by a Certification Institute (CI) recognised by the Animal Protection Society. This includes a check for the proper implementation and observance of the approved protocol.