

Following the conclusive formal adoption of the criteria stated above, the supplementary decisions and interpretations detailed below have been drafted in conjunction with the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. The decisions/interpretations have not yet been formally adopted and are subject to change before being included in the established BLL criteria. In anticipation thereof, certification may still be carried out on the basis of

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
4-10-16	UIT04 Anaesthetised slaughter	How can a livestock farm find out where its animals are slaughtered and whether the abattoir practices unanaesthetised slaughter?	This criterion is verified directly with the BLL-certified abattoir, therefore does not need to be verified with the poultry farmer. This criterion will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review.
1-01-18	UIT05 Factory farming	A factory farm is defined as a single farm location (note one UBN or one roof) housing 120,000 laying hens or more. What does one farm location mean?	It has been decided to follow the definition used by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RvO). One farm location is equivalent to one UBN. This criterion will be amended as part of a subsequent review.
7-07-17	A5 Supply chain quality system	Is a Quality British Turkey (QBT) certificate equivalent to a QS certificate?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has assessed the QS and QBT systems, and declared them to be equivalent. As such, a QBT certificate is sufficient to satisfy criterion A5.
1-11-17	A6a Separation	There are still not enough sales to justify converting entire turkey farms to the BLL turkey scheme. There are not enough BLL turkey breeds of different colours currently available. This makes it impossible to channel based on feather colour. How can we keep both white BLL and non-BLL turkeys on one farm?	<p>In the short term, it is acceptable for two turkey breeds (fast and slow growing) to be kept on one farm with the same feather colour (white). On the condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a comprehensive record of the number of turkeys and the breed in each shed, the losses per shed and the number of animals per shed that have been delivered to the abattoir and slaughtered (data from the abattoir). • The Better Life turkeys are not housed on the same date as the non-Better Life turkeys. There is a difference in age (two to three days), with the Better Life turkeys being housed later (i.e. they are younger) than the non-Better Life turkeys. This way, there will be visible differences between the two breeds based on age and size, even though they are all white. • The Better Life turkeys are not delivered to the abattoir on the same day as the non-Better Life turkeys. • The Better Life turkeys and non-Better Life turkeys are physically separated from one another throughout their stay on the farm, such that there is no possibility of the two breeds being confused. <p>In the medium term, a visual separation system based on different feather colours should be implemented. This will be discussed with respective breeding organisations.</p>

18-07-18	A9: Slower growing breed	Are any other turkey breeds accepted for Better Life?	<p>The Caringa Cartier, Wycombe White, Ayrshire Auburn and Cheshire Bronze breeds are accredited as BLL turkeys by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. As such, these slower growing breeds can be used on farms for BLL (1 or 2-star turkeys).</p> <p>These breeds will be added when the criteria for turkeys are next revised. In anticipation of that amendment to the BLL criteria, BLL turkey farms may use the aforementioned breeds.</p>
1-11-17	A11 Transport time of day-old chicks	By limiting the transport time to six hours, most foreign turkey hatcheries are excluded from BLL. This limits turkeys to a single hatchery in the Netherlands. This is not desirable.	<p>In the short term, this criterion will be amended to a maximum transport time of sixteen hours.</p> <p>In the medium term, this criterion will be reviewed and the possibilities of <i>Early feeding</i> will be explored.</p>
21-12-16	V05, V05A, V05B Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	How should straw/hay/alfalfa be provided? Can it be provided in a straw rack or net?	<p>These criteria intend for a whole bale, including twine, to be placed on the ground for the turkeys.</p> <p>Straw in a rack or net is not as readily available as a straw bale on the ground. Turkeys prefer a varied environment, e.g. through differences in height, and to be able to explore in groups. A straw bale on the ground is a good way to facilitate this. Turkeys cannot jump onto a rack or net, and fewer turkeys can be at a rack or net at the same time; it is also harder for the turkeys to pull straw from a rack or net, etc.</p> <p>Providing suspended straw, either loose or in a bale, in a net or rack does not satisfy the Better Life criteria.</p>
22-08-18	V05, V05A, V05B Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	Can the bales be provided in plastic?	<p>Providing bales (alfalfa, rapeseed, etc.) in plastic to prevent the straw from falling out of the bales too quickly is strongly discouraged by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals from an animal welfare perspective. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) also discourages the provision of bales in plastic for both product quality/food safety as well as animal welfare reasons.</p> <p>To prevent the straw from falling out of bales too quickly, straw bales laid on the</p>
1-11-17	H1 Stocking	In practice, turkeys are kept in the rearing shed for between 35 and 42 days. They are then transferred to a more spacious shed with a covered run. The 21/35 days stated in the criteria are inconsistent with practice. Furthermore, seven animals per square metre is too many in view of the 36 kg per square metre criterion.	<p>21/35 days will be amended in the criteria to 42 days.</p> <p>Access to the run will also be amended from 35 to 42 days.</p> <p>In addition, the maximum number of animals will be amended. After 42 days, a maximum of three cocks and five hens may be kept per square metre.</p>

17-01-20	H1 Stocking	The maximum weight per square metre is difficult to manage as there may be unexpected positives and negatives in each batch. If the maximum weight per square metre is exceeded in one batch, how can this be rectified?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to uphold the standard and thereby continue to comply with the regulations (marketing standards). However, the sanction imposed by the Better Life label has been reduced by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals from suspension to administrative rectification. This shortcoming can be rectified administratively by: - Reducing the stocking density of the next batch so that the norm can be satisfied once again, and by reporting the number of animals to the certification institution, or - Submitting an inspection report from the NCAE (Netherlands supervisory authority for eggs), which verifies the marketing standards in which it is confirmed
2-10-18	OU1a Covered run	The interpretation of the criterion states, <i>'If the covered run is counted as usable area, it will be included when calculating the width of the shed.'</i> Does this mean that if the covered run is counted as available floor area, the shed + covered run may be max. fifteen metres wide as outlined in criterion O03?	No, that is not what is intended by the criterion. The maximum distance to the run openings may be up to fifteen metres. This means that sheds with run openings on one side (the long side) may not be deeper than fifteen metres. The covered run does not need to be included in the shed width. This passage of text will be removed from this criterion as part of a subsequent review.
1-11-17	OU5 Covered run area	It is stated that the covered run area may be a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 30% of the shed area. What if someone has a larger run? Should it not state that a maximum of 30% of the covered run may be included for the number of turkeys/the stocking density?	This criterion should be interpreted as follows: the covered run may count for a maximum of 30% of the available floor area. The covered run may be larger, but when calculating the minimum available floor area, the covered run may account for a maximum of 30%.
2-1 18	H3c Daylight provision, rearing/finishing	Ventilation hatches are used during rearing and finishing, which can also allow daylight to enter. At the beginning of rearing, these hatches must remain shut to keep the temperature in the shed sufficiently high. In this case, the criterion for 3% of the area to be permeable by daylight will not be reached.	From 2020 at the latest, at least 3% of the floor area of the shed must be permeable by daylight to provide natural daylight. Ventilation hatches do not satisfy this requirement. This applies to both the rearing and finishing period. The justification for this is that the conditions must not change significantly between rearing and finishing – major changes cause stress and can provoke feather plucking. This justification is consistent with how we approach daylight provision for other animal categories, such as broilers and laying hens, and is even more flexible as daylight panels must be present in these sheds from the outset. This gives the turkey sector the opportunity to adapt the shed to the criteria.
1-11-17	H3D, H3E, H3G Daylight	Turkey sheds with natural ventilation do not have diffuse daylight, and sometimes have direct sunlight. Light enters the shed via the windbreak mesh, which is not permitted under the criteria. However, direct sunlight does not lead to more feather plucking among turkeys as it does in broilers. The criteria therefore lead to an unnecessary restriction.	As such, the criteria do not currently need to be verified. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals will be conducting further research and will determine whether or not changes need to be made to these criteria as part of a subsequent review.

1-11-17	G01A Sick bay	Currently, turkey farms do not have a sick bay – seriously ill or injured animals are euthanised.	This criterion does not need to be verified and this will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review.
26-10-18	OU09 Daylight and air permeability	Can a rollable cover be used for the ventilation/windbreak mesh along the long wall of the covered run? Rolling the cover down would prevent wet areas in the covered run in the event of adverse weather conditions.	<p>The ventilation opening can be made from windbreak mesh that breaks a maximum of 80% of the wind and has a maximum 80% shading effect – this is fairly dense mesh, which should break plenty of the wind and may also stop rain. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals does not advocate closing run openings during bad weather, therefore a rollable cover may only be used on the long side of the run under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cover is only used during adverse weather (excess cold, damp, draught) to prevent rainwater from entering the covered run and its use is recorded in the run calendar - The cover must be made from daylight-permeable material - The turkeys can look out, even with the cover down - Use of the cover is recorded automatically - If a rollable cover is present, the covered run must be accessible to the hens during the prescribed open hours and in all conditions, including bad weather The run openings may remain closed overnight.
17-01-20	OU11 Opaque edge	The opaque, raised edge of the covered run is higher than the maximum permissible 75 cm, but cannot be lowered. How can this be resolved?	<p>The turkeys must be able to look outside from the covered run. If the opaque, raised edge is higher than 75 cm, their view is impeded and the requirement is not met. If it is not immediately possible to lower the edge to the maximum 75 cm, a platform or plank (not a perch) can be placed against the wall to allow the turkeys to see outside. The platform/plank must meet the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a permanent construction and cannot be dismantled - Length: Spanning the entire length of the shed - Height: Maximum 75 cm below the opaque edge and maximum 50 cm above the ground (excluding litter) - Width: Minimum 40 cm - The platform/plank may not be used to keep more turkeys in the same shed. The platform/plank is not counted as additional floor area when calculating the stocking density. The platform/plank may only be counted as floor area if doing so is required to be able to continue keeping the same number of hens in the shed after installing the platform/plank.
1-11-17	S1 Method of slaughter, S2 Animal welfare policy statement	These criteria are for the abattoir. The criteria must be verified at the abattoir, not the turkey farm.	The criteria do not need to be verified and will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review.