

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
Not for publication. No rights can be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.					
Exclusion criteria					
UIT01	Other activities	No other activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy are carried out on the farm.	Activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy include but are not limited to: - 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 geese or duck liver; - The breeding of endangered species, such as eel; - Keeping beef cattle with a double muscled factor, having a high incidence of Cesarean 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
UIT08	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the farm to BLk inspectors who perform inspections on behalf of the Certification Body or the Better Life Foundation.	If the inspectors are refused access to the business and/or cooperation is not forthcoming, the business will be excluded from participation unless it can rely on force majeure.		Exclusion
General					
PA01	Hygiene	The egg packing centre is approved by the competent authority of the EU Member State in accordance with the European Hygiene Regulations.	The egg packing centre has an EC approval number. The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Nederlandse Controle Autoriteit Eieren (NCAE - the Netherlands egg control authority). A list of qualified, Dutch egg packing centres can be found on the website www.ncae.nl.	Check whether the egg packing centre has an EC approval number. Verify that the Dutch egg packing centre is found in the list of recognised egg packing centres (www.ncae.nl). Note down the EC approval number.	Suspension
PA02	Hygiene	The egg packing centre is checked 4 times per year by the competent authority to determine whether the packing centre meets the criteria for an HACCP system or works in accordance with a Hygiene Code for eggs.	The competent authority in the Netherlands is the Nederlandse Controle Autoriteit Eieren (NCAE - the Netherlands egg control authority). In the Netherlands, egg packing centres must meet the ANEVEI hygiene code for eggs.	Verify that the business is in possession of the inspection reports regarding HACCP or the eggs hygiene code for the past year. Note down the dates of the inspection reports from last year.	Suspension
PA03	Contract with the Better Life Foundation	The egg packing centre has a contract with the Better Life Foundation for the use of the collective logo mark "Better Life".		Check whether there is a contract (application form) and/or whether it has been signed by both parties (the BLk egg packing centre without IKB Egg certificate and the Better Life Foundation).	Suspension
PA04	Approval from Better Life Foundation	The egg packing centre is approved by the Better Life Foundation for the relevant scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) of the received, packaged and delivered Better Life eggs.	An approval letter has been received from the Better Life Foundation for the scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) of the: 1. Better Life eggs delivered; 2. Supplied/packaged Better Life eggs.	Check whether there is an approval letter for the relevant scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) of the delivered Better Life eggs and the packaged/supplied Better Life eggs.	Suspension
Quality manual					
PA05a	Quality manual	Work is performed in accordance with a quality manual that contains procedures and working instructions for the packing of Better Life eggs.	These procedures at least describe: 1. Method of registering and deregistering suppliers and customers with the Better Life Foundation; 2. Initial check and registration; 3. Method of registering graded eggs per egg grading machine and per supplier; 4. Method of dealing with eggs that do not recognisably meet the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) during the entry inspection; 5. Method and frequency of conducting a cross-check; There is at least a description of a. What needs to be done; b. How and how often this occurs; c. Who is responsible; d. Who carries it out.	Verify that the necessary procedures are present and that work activities are carried out in accordance with these procedures. Make a note of your findings and the procedure.	AR
Approved suppliers					

PA06	Registration of suppliers	Suppliers of eggs that are BLk eligible are registered by the egg packing centre at the Better Life Foundation.	The supplier is the business location where the Better Life eggs were last physically present before being delivered to the egg packing centre.	Check whether the product comes from a supplier that is registered with the Better Life Foundation. Make a note of the supplier location for at least three days of the last twelve months.	AR
PA07	BLk-certified supplier	The egg packing centre regularly checks whether the BLk eligible eggs originate from suppliers that are certified for the relevant Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) or are approved by the Better Life Foundation.	<p>A poultry farmer must always first be certified before Better Life eggs are purchased.</p> <p>A certification check can be carried out through the Better Life website: https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/deelname/databank</p> <p>If a different type of supplier (for example, an egg dealer or other egg packing centre) is used that does not yet have a Better Life certificate for the eggs in question, the egg packing centre must include in their administration a copy of the approval letter granted to the supplier from the Better Life Foundation. This approval letter must not be more than three months old. Approval letters are not issued for primary/laying hen farms.</p>	Check whether all suppliers were BLk-certified or approved during the delivery of the Better Life raw materials. Check whether and how the egg packing centre checks the certifications/approvals. Check the procedure and practice.	Exclusion
PA08	Accompanying form	An accompanying information form is included in each pallet which the packing centre receives. The accompanying forms are filed in by the poultry farmer and are kept for a minimum of two years.	<p>The accompanying forms contain at least the following information:</p> <p>a) Name, address and KIP number of the poultry farmer; b) The number of eggs; c) Laying date or laying period; d) Number of the enclosure in which the eggs were produced; e) Copies of the results of the research into the presence of Salmonella Enteritidis and Typhimurium; f) Statement of the number of Better Life stars; g) Accommodation system.</p> <p>The data under f (results of Salmonella research) must be present for each supplier. This does not have to be provided per pallet.</p>	<p>For at least 3 deliveries in the past year, verify an accompanying form was received with each pallet which included the described information.</p> <p>For 5 deliveries, verify that the results of the salmonella research for each business are logged in the administration. Note down the form number and date for 5 deliveries over the researched period and take note of any deviations that are found.</p>	Warning
Stamping obligation					
PA09	Stamping	All Better Life eggs which are delivered to the egg packing centre must be stamped with the correct codes.	<p>Code consists of:</p> <p>a) Farming system code (free range: 2, open-air run: 1, organic: 0); b) Country of origin code; c) Registration number of egg laying farm; d) 2-digit enclosure number.</p> <p>Eggs that are delivered unstamped and are only stamped at the egg packing centre may not be marketed under the Better Life and must be downgraded to non-BLk.</p>	Check the stamps on the delivered eggs. Do this for 5 pallets/containers.	Suspension
PA10	Stamp	The stamp code is indelible and easily legible at all times.	For eggs with illegible stamp codes a tolerance of 20% is allowed for the batch and package checks.	Taking into account a tolerance of 20%, check whether the code is indelible and legible on the eggs. Do this for 5 pallets/containers with self-coded eggs. Note: only if deviations are found.	RI
Channelling Better Life eggs					
PA10a	One type of eggs	A egg packing centre without an IKB Egg certificate packs only one type of eggs: - Better Life eggs with 1 star; - Better Life eggs with 2 stars; or - Better Life eggs with 3 stars.	No eggs are packed that are not BLk eligible. Only Better Life eggs with 1 star, 2 stars or 3 stars are packed.	Verify that no non-BLk eggs are packed. Verify that only Better Life eggs are packed. Verify that these Better Life eggs all comply with the same scope (1 star, 2 stars OR 3 stars) as stated on the BLk certificate. Make a note of your findings.	RI
PA11	Designation of the Better Life (BLk)	Pallets with Better Life eggs have a pallet label with the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars).		Check whether the pallets with Better Life eggs have been clearly labelled with a pallet label with the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars).	RI

PA12	Entry inspection	Upon receipt of the eggs, the egg packing centre checks whether: 1. The Better Life eggs are properly stamped; 2. The supplying poultry farm is certified for the relevant Better Life scope (BLk egg and number of stars).	The entry inspection system is specified in a procedure. The BLk eligibility is clear from the stamp and the listing of the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars), e.g. BLK Egg 1 star, on the accompanying form pertaining to the delivery of Better Life eggs. Just "BLk" or "Better Life" is not sufficient. Checks include whether the supplier is certified for the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) of the delivered eggs, on the basis of the register on the Better Life website. The entry inspection procedure has been documented.	Check whether a procedure for the entry inspection has been established that ensures that the delivered eggs meet the relevant Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars). Check whether work activities are carried out in accordance to this procedure in practice.	Exclusion
PA13	Better Life eligibility cannot be determined	If the BLk eligibility of the delivered eggs cannot be confirmed, these eggs are downgraded to regular.		By means of an interview, determine which corrective measures the egg packing centre takes in case of exceptions.	RI
PA13a	S.e./S.t. infected flock of laying hens	Eggs that are known to have come from a flock of laying hens infected with Salmonella Enteritidis and/or Salmonella Typhimurium may not be delivered to the egg packing centre.		Check on the basis of the reports of an infected flock of laying hens whether the eggs have been supplied to the egg packing centre. Write down dates of the supply of eggs from infected flocks.	RI
PA14a	Grading registry by vendor	For each grading machine there is a grading registry that registers how many eggs are graded per vendor.		Check whether a grading registry is present for each grading machine. For two weeks in the past quarter, check each grading registry to determine whether the number of eggs that have been graded by vendor is registered. Note max. 5 names of suppliers during the period under review.	AR
PA16a	Packaging	There is no packaging with a number of stars that does not match the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and 1, 2 or 3 stars) of the certificate or the approval letter of the Better Life Foundation.		Verify that there is no packaging at the egg packing centre with a number of stars that does not match the Better Life certificate or the approval letter of the Better Life Foundation. By sampling 10 different types of Better Life packaging, check whether the eggs correspond with the number of stars on the packaging. Note the packing date, UBN and/or KIP number of 5 different cartons.	Exclusion
PA17a	Supply/Delivery of Better Life eggs	The number of supplied eggs with the Better Life may not be more than the number of delivered eggs with the Better Life .		On the basis of delivery dates, grading registry and sales data, check whether more Better Life products were supplied than were delivered. Make note of the number of supplied Better Life eggs for the previous year.	Exclusion
PA18a	Cross-check procedure	The egg packing centre checks the number of delivered and supplied Better Life eggs on the basis of a cross-check.	The system for conducting the cross-check is specified in a procedure. The cross-check is calculated as follows: $(Y - X) / X * 100\%$ X = initial stock of BLk eggs + purchase of BLk eggs + BLk eggs downgraded to this number of stars. Y = final stock of BLk eggs + sale of BLk eggs + BLk eggs downgraded to fewer or no stars + possible loss of BLk eggs. The outcome of the cross-check should be zero or negative. Frequency of cross-check: If the packaging of BLk eggs takes place more than once a month, then a cross-check for the entire previous month is required at least every month. If packaging of BLk eggs takes place once a month or less, then a cross-check for the entire previous quarter is required at least every quarter.	Verify that a procedure for conducting the cross-check has been established. Check whether work activities are carried out in accordance to this procedure in practice. Verify that over the past year the egg packing centre checked the supplied and delivered Better Life eggs through a cross-check, in accordance with the prescribed frequency.	RI

PA19a	Label	All pallets and roll containers with ungraded eggs are labelled.	This label contains name and address details, print code, accommodation system and the relevant Better Life , including the number of stars.	Verify that pallets and roll containers with ungraded eggs have been labelled correctly. To do this, check at least 5 pallets or roll containers. Note any deviations for each container.	AR
PA20c	Separation class for eggs	All class A eggs, class B eggs and eggs not suitable for human consumption present at the packing centre are clearly marked and kept separated so that mixing is not possible.		Make sure that the different types of eggs are clearly marked and kept separated. Do this for 5 pallets/containers. Note: only if deviations are found.	RI
Customers of Better Life eggs					
PA21	Registration of customers	The customers of Better Life eggs (in accordance with the scope of the certificate, BLk Egg and number of stars) have been registered by the egg packing centre at the Better Life Foundation.	The customer is the business location to which the egg packing centre physically sends the BLk eggs.	Check whether Better Life eggs are transported to a customer that is registered with the Better Life Foundation. For at least three days of the last twelve months, note the name and address details of the business locations of the customers that are part of the sample.	AR
PA22	BLk-certified customer	The egg packing centre regularly checks whether the Better Life eggs to be supplied are provided to customers that are certified for the Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) or approved by the Better Life Foundation.	A certification check can be carried out through the Better Life website: https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/deelname/databank Or the egg packing centre has in their administration a copy of the approval letters from the relevant customers which are not older than 3 months. Customers may choose not to participate in the Better Life . In this case, the egg packing centre will: 1. Have to downgrade eggs to regular status and may not state that the eggs meet the Better Life on the delivery note; or 2. Be able to provide a statement (e-mail/letter) in which the purchasing business states that it will in no longer communicate the Better Life . The egg packing centre must also report this in writing to the Better Life Foundation.	Check whether all customers are BLk-certified or approved. Check whether the egg packing centre checks the certifications/approvals. Make a note of discrepancies. Not applicable if there is a declaration.	RI
Supplied Better Life eggs					
PA22a	Processing time/period	The company is required to ensure that eggs are graded and packed within 10 days after the laying date.	The company demonstrates this on the basis of received forms from the poultry farmer. This condition does not apply to eggs intended for the egg products industry. These eggs are then recognisably marked and stored separately. Not applicable if eggs are intended for the egg products industry.	On the basis of the E1 form, check the laying date for at least 5 pallets / containers with graded and packed eggs. Check whether this date is <10 days ago. Note: only if deviations are found or explanation of why the information is not applicable.	RI
PA23	Designation of the Better Life (BLk)	The Better Life eggs to be supplied are provided with the accompanying Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars) with the correct number of stars or fewer stars in a text or logo mark for business-to-business dealings or with a logo mark for consumer packaging.	In the case of organic eggs with a 3-star BLk, the three stars may simply be replaced by Organic or BIO. This designation is correctly indicated on the packaging of the Better Life eggs as well as on the delivery note (at row level) and invoice.	Check for three days of the last month whether the designation is present and correct both for the Better Life eggs and the accompanying documents.	RI
PA24	Delivery note	Better Life eggs are delivered with a delivery note.	The delivery note must include at least the following details: - The name and address of the egg packing centre; - Name of the purchaser; - Number of eggs per Better Life scope (BLk Egg and number of stars); - Date of delivery.	Check whether deliveries are accompanied by a complete delivery note. Check the delivery notes for at least three deliveries from the last year.	AR
PA24a	BBE	The legal maximum for the best before end (BBE) period of 28 days from the laying date may not be exceeded.	Class A Better Life eggs have a maximum BBE date of 23 days after the day of delivery.	For at least 5 pallets / containers with Better Life eggs, check the BBE date. Verify that this date is not more than 23 days after the delivery date. Make a note of discrepancies.	AR
Changes					
PA25	Changes to suppliers	Changes to BLk-certified egg suppliers are reported directly to the Better Life Foundation.	Changes to certified suppliers are passed on to the Better Life Foundation before Better Life eligible eggs are purchased from these new suppliers.	Check whether changes have been passed on. Make a note of discrepancies.	AR
PA26	Changes to customers	Changes to BLk-certified customers are reported directly to the Better Life Foundation.	Changes to certified customers are passed on to the Better Life Foundation before Better Life eligible eggs are sold to these new customers.	Check whether changes have been passed on. Make a note of discrepancies.	AR



PA27	Changes to forms of communication and publicity	New or altered forms of communication and publicity (including packaging) that refer to the Better Life are submitted by the egg packing centre to the Better Life Foundation for approval.	Forms of communication and publicity must comply with the style guide of the Better Life Foundation. The version of the style guide on the Better Life website is always the leading authority. Approval must be obtained before these forms of communication and publicity are used. Participants that have obtained permission for this from the Better Life Foundation may use forms of communication and publicity immediately and do not have to wait for the assessment of the Better Life Foundation.	Check whether changes have been passed on. Make a note of discrepancies.	AR
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