

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

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
28-11-16	BLL calf older than a year, is BLL beef?	Can Better Life calves that are older than a year be marketed as Better Life cattle (beef)?	Legally, calves older than a year cannot be referred to as calves, so their meat is beef . Better Life beef must originate from cattle that have satisfied the Better Life criteria for cattle from birth. These stipulate, among other things, that calves must be able to suckle from the mother for at least three months, have access to grazing, that disbudding and castration is done under anaesthetic, etc. The Better Life criteria for calves diverge from this. If a Better Life calf is older than one year, it must be marketed as beef, but if this calf did not satisfy the Better Life criteria for cattle, this cattle (beef) cannot be marketed as Better Life cattle(beef).
27-2 17	BLKA01 Certification IKB Calf	Foreign farms, for example, do not always have an IKB or SKV certificate. Can these farms also satisfy this criterion in another way?	For 1 star, the farm must always have an IKB and a SKV certificate. For 2 and 3 stars, one of the following is also sufficient: 1. at least an equivalent certificate (the applicant provides a cross-check that is assessed by the BLLF and submitted to the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, which then decides if it can be accepted as equivalent or not), 2. An IKB/SKV inspection is conducted at the same time as the BLL audit (without issuing an IKB/SKV certificate), whereby the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals determines in advance which IKB/SKV criteria are not necessarily compulsory for the foreign farm. .
4-05-17	BLKA01 Certification IKB Calf	IKB Calf has been replaced by the Vital Calf (Vitaal Kalf) quality assurance scheme	A Vital Calf certificate from this quality assurance scheme also satisfies criterion BLKA01.
21-05-17	BLKAR01, a and b: closed system farms	A transitional period (plan of approach) has been included for closed system farms for calf rearing as of 1/1/2015. However, in practice, ensuring all rosé calves are reared in closed farming systems by 1 January 2015 is not possible. Can more time be allowed to ensure closed farming systems can be set up for rosé calves?	Farms that do not yet rear rosé calves in closed systems will be allowed an additional five years to satisfy this criterion. This means that farms that rear rosé calves must use a closed system from 1/1/2020. This additional transitional period is only possible subject to the condition that farms that are not yet using a closed system until 1/1/2020 transport the calves from the farm they were calved on to the fattening farm in climate-controlled vehicles. Transport in climate-controlled vehicles does not apply if the calves are transported over a short distance (less than 50 km).

31-01-12	BLKV04 Drinking water	Should veal calves, even if they are fed a completely milk-based diet, have unlimited access to drinking water?	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals believes that calves should be given permanent access to fresh drinking water from the age of two weeks, so they can drink water at times when no calf-milk is provided. The problem is that some calves will drink a lot of water which can lead to health problems. This should be prevented by limiting the quantity of water/flow rate of the drinker or drinker nipple and/or by interrupting the flow of water after a certain quantity has been drunk.</p> <p>When the criteria are reviewed, consideration will be given as to whether new/renovated buildings should provide a permanent supply of drinking water, with a feature that prevents the calves from drinking large quantities of water in succession.</p> <p>On the basis of the current criteria, it is not necessary to provide calves with unlimited water if a completely milk-based diet is fed.</p> <p>Fresh drinking water must always be available/it must always be possible to supply extra water in warm weather conditions (outside temperature &gt; 25°C) and if calves are sick.</p>
13-02-15	BLKH08a Surface area per calf	Calf farmers often set up a larger group of calves at the beginning of the cycle (light calves) because some losses may be expected during the fattening cycle. In the beginning they satisfy the requirement of 1.5m2 per calf and at the end of the cycle they satisfy the requirement of 1.8m2 . Is this permitted?	<p>Calf farmers may set up a larger group of calves at the beginning of the cycle (light calves) as long as the standard corresponding to the average weight is satisfied, this is permitted. The BLL calf 1 star standard for the surface area of 1.8 m2 per calf only applies from a weight of more than 220 kg., 1.7 m2 per calf is permitted between a weight of 150 and 220 kg, and 1.5 m2 per calf is permitted up to 150 kilograms.</p>
1-01-15	BLKH09a Lying area surface	Calves must be able to lie on a litter covered floor or a floor covered with a rubber top layer from 1 January 2015. However, the studies into rubber floors are not yet complete. How this requirement will be satisfied in practical situations is not yet clear.	<p>As soon as the studies by Livestock Research at Wageningen UR into alternative floors for calves have been completed, this provision will take effect on 1 January of the following year. The following transitional periods will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduction in 5 years at 25%,</li> <li>• in 10 years at 50% and</li> <li>• in 15 years at 100% of veal calf farmers.</li> </ul> <p>No sanctions are currently being imposed for this criterion.</p>
7-04-20	BLKG11b Haemoglobin levels	According to the criterion, the haemoglobin levels of all calves should be measured at 13 weeks. Can the haemoglobin level be measured earlier?	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the haemoglobin levels can be measured from 10 weeks to 13 weeks. This will be included in the current review of the criteria.</p>
23-06-20	BLKT04 Transport	From 1 January 2020 , calves must be transported in climate-controlled vehicles. Does this apply to all transport movements? What type of vehicle is eligible as climate controlled?	<p>This criterion is an 'advice'. In the form of an advice or recommendation in the criteria, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals expresses its vision of the criteria in the future. However, compliance with this criterion does not have to be verified.</p>