

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
<p>No rights can be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments. Definition of "date of new construction/renovation": the date on which the application for an environmental permit is submitted to the municipality. This must be demonstrated in writing on the basis of a confirmation of receipt from the municipality. Definition of "renovation": a structural modification of an existing building, an extension or an interior change (e.g. placement of platforms, cages and/or animal category change, etc.). Criteria for new construction and renovation may be limited to the renewed or refurbished area of the farm. E.g. If a grid floor is replaced, a platform is installed or a cage layout is changed, then the daylight criteria need not be realised during the work, for example.</p>					
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 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 farm 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.	<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 desired 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.	Exclusion
UIT05	Standard for mega-enclosures	<p>The pigs are not held in a mega-enclosure. The definition of a mega-enclosure is one location, unique farm number (UBN or EU registration number) with 330 NGE or more.</p>	<p>To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the number of pigs on the basis of the Better Life operating capacity (see A06) must be multiplied by the following numbers of NGE per animal category:</p> <p>1 sow = 0.2606 NGE 1 porker = 0.0437 NGE 1 weaned piglet (no sows at this location) = 0.0330 NGE 1 weaned piglet (sows at this location) = 0.0000 NGE</p> <p>For example, the following locations are classed within the Better Life Trademark as mega-enclosures and are excluded from participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Porker farms with more than: 7551 porkers ($7552 \times 0.0437 = 330.02$ NGE) - Breeding farms with more than: 1266 sows and their weaned piglets ($1267 \times 0.2606 = 330.2$ NGE) - Farms with more than: 600 sows and 3973 porkers ($601 \times 0.2606 + 3973 \times 0.0437 = 330.2$ NGE) - Weaned piglet farms with more than: 10,000 piglets ($10,001 \times 0.0330 = 330.03$ NGE) <p>The concept of "mega-enclosure" should not be confused with the concept of "mega-farm". Where a mega-enclosure concerns a single location, a mega-farm refers to a livestock farm with animal enclosures in multiple locations. The farm as a whole has a very large number of animals, but at the various locations, the number of animals is similar to regular farms.</p> <p>Not applicable to existing enclosures that already participated in the Better Life Trademark before 01/01/2012. These enclosures are allowed to maintain the number of animals they held as of 01/01/2012. For new or renovated facilities, the number of animals must not further increase.</p>	<p>Make sure that the farm does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size. Register the number of NGE that is present on the farm based on the number of animal spaces as laid down in criteria A00 and beyond.</p>	Exclusion

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UIT06	Tiered enclosure	Only the ground floor inside buildings is used to keep animals.	<p>"Tiered enclosures", i.e. enclosures where animals are kept on several levels/tiers/floors are excluded from participation in the Better Life Trademark.</p> <p>This criterion came into force on 01-01-2017.</p> <p>New farms with a tiered enclosure that register for the Better Life Trademark after this date are not eligible for the Better Life Trademark.</p> <p>Not applicable to existing enclosures that already participated in the Better Life Trademark before 01/01/2017. However, in construction or renovation activities these enclosures may not build or add any new tiers after 01/01/2017.</p> <p>Not applicable for platforms, which are not included in the definition of tiered enclosures.</p>	Make sure the farm only keeps animals on the ground floor. If the farm has a tiered enclosure, check whether the farm participated in the BLK before 1/1/2017 and/or whether any new construction/renovations took place after this date.	Exclusion
UIT07	Supply chain manager	The livestock farm is registered with a supply chain manager that is approved by the Better Life Foundation.	A supply chain manager is a slaughterhouse, processor or intermediary, for example, which links the different parts of the supply chain, from the primary producer to the processor/seller as well as all interim links that may exist, and manages the farms affiliated to this chain.	Check whether the livestock farm is registered with at least one supply chain manager that is approved by the Better Life Foundation Trademark. Make a note of the supply chain manager(s).	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 farm and/or cooperation is not forthcoming, the farm will be excluded from participation unless it can rely on force majeure. Examples of force majeure are infectious animal disease outbreaks for which the government imposes a visitor ban or a death in the family. This is not an exhaustive list. The inspectors will determine in practice when there is question of force majeure.		Exclusion
General					
A01a	All pigs present on the farm are Better Life	All pigs on the farm (unique farm number, UBN or EU registration number) comply with the criteria of the Better Life Trademark.		Verify that there are no pigs present on the farm that are not BLK worthy.	Suspension
A01	Mandatory notification	The participant is obligated to notify every change that affects or can affect his/hers participation in the Better Life trademark certificate in writing to the Certification Body and the supply chain manager.	<p>Changes are, but not limited to:</p> <p>a. Temporary or permanent termination of the farm, regardless of the reason;</p> <p>b. Transfer of the farm to a new legal entity/owner;</p> <p>c. Modification of the unique farm number (UBN or EU registration number);</p> <p>d. Loss of a recognition or a certificate which means the farm can no longer meet the Better Life criteria;</p> <p>f. Etc.</p> <p>The supply chain manager passes on the changes to the Certification Body and the Better Life Foundation Trademark.</p>	Make sure that changes that affect participation in the Better Life trademark from the previous year are reported to the Certification Body and the supply chain manager.	AR
A02	Knowledge & skills	The farmer can show that he and his staff have the necessary knowledge and skills regarding animal health, animal welfare, animal behaviour and various farming systems.	<p>The staff employed at the farm must minimally have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master of Animal Sciences in livestock farming; - 1 year working experience in intensive pig farming; or - Works under the responsibility of someone with these qualifications. <p>Diplomas and certificates must be present on the farm. An overview of these must be kept.</p>	Check and write down whether the overview of the knowledge and qualifications of the farmer and the staff is present and whether it meets the conditions. Note down the last date when the overview was updated.	AR
A03	Course in human-animal interaction	The manager of each pig farming location participating in Better Life must have attended a human-animal interaction course that has been approved by the Animal Protection Society.	<p>Preconditions for the course in human-animal interaction (e.g. Varkenssignalen):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provided by an experienced expert on swine welfare and health; 2. At least 3 hours of the training consists of practical examples (in the enclosure and/or using video and photo material) during which the course participant will learn to translate signals in animal behaviour or appearance into concrete positive or negative causes of this behaviour or appearance; 3. Attention is given to the effects of the behaviour of the pig farmer on the animals in his care; 4. Attention is given to the positive consequences of a good human-animal interaction on financial and production results. <p>See the website of the Better Life Trademark for a list of approved courses in human-animal interaction.</p>	Check whether the manager or supervisor has obtained a certificate of participation within a year of certification for BLK that has been approved by the Animal Protection Society. Note down the name of the course followed and the date.	First year of certification: Warning Following years: AR
A04.1	IKB certificate	The pig farm is IKB certified. This IKB system has been recognised as equivalent by GlobalGap IFA Pigs.		Verify that the farm has a valid IKB certificate of an IKB system that has been recognised by GlobalGap IFA Pigs as equivalent. The registry of the relevant IKB system is leading here.	Suspension

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A05	I&R regulations	The pig farmer reports the delivery and removal of pigs from his farm, in accordance with the "Regeling identificatie en registratie van dieren" (Regulations for the identification and registration of animals).	For foreign farms the delivery and removal of pigs must be reported in accordance with the Guideline 92/102/EEG: the identification and registration of animals or national legislation derived from this.	Check the administration, supply receipts and removal receipts.	AR
A06	Determine Better Life operating capacity	The farm capacity for holding Better Life pigs is calculated and confirmed by the Certification Body awarding the Better Life certificate.	If changes in capacity are made after the previous check, the operating capacity during the current check must be re-calculated and documented again.	Calculate the capacity for the holding pigs during the entry inspection and when changes to the farm layout have been implemented in the past year. The capacity for holding pigs is calculated on the basis of the Better Life criteria per category (boars, sows, weaned piglets, porkers). Record the farm's capacity by determining the number of pigs per type of pen/section and multiplying this with the number of pens/sections of this type on the farm.	Suspension
Nutrition					
AV01	Feed	Sufficient feed must be provided on the basis of the nutrition and behavioural needs (for example exploratory behaviour and saturation).		Check the condition of the animals and feed supply.	AR
AV02.1	GMP+ certified feed	Only GMP+ certified feed from a GMP+ certified feed supplier is fed.	Feed produced on the farm complies with the conditions of the "On-farm production" GMP code. In case of feed production by neighbouring farms, the pig farmer must have ascertained that the supplier meets all the requirements of the "On-farm production" GMP code. Foreign firms may also provide feed from a supplier that is certified by a quality system for animal feed that is at least equivalent to GMP+.	Check on the basis of the feed receipts whether the feed is GMP+ certified. Note down name and location of the GMP+ animal feed supplier.	AR
AV043	Drinking water	Any pig older than 2 weeks has permanent access to fresh drinking water of sufficient quality.	In case of liquid feed this means that separate drinking nipples/troughs must be present with fresh drinking water.	Verify that there are no restrictions in the provision of drinking water. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
AV04	Water quality analysis	The quality of drinking water is analysed 4x per year with one sample taken each quarter.	The analysing laboratory must be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited.	Verify that the analyses have taken place.	AR
AV04a	Water quality analysis	The samples must be taken at the animal level (drinking nipple or feeder), not at the source level.		Verify that the samples are taken at the animal level (drinking nipple or feeder). Inquire as to how the samples have been taken.	AR
AV04b	Water quality analysis	At least one sample is taken by an independent sampler and is analysed both chemically and bacteriologically.	An independent sampler, for example the inspector of the Certification Institution, the contracted veterinarian or a specialised drinking water sampler (for instance someone who offers professional consultation to livestock farms on drinking water quality and in doing so takes regular drinking water samples). If the company uses tap water, no chemical analysis needs to take place, as the water company is required by law to regularly check the chemical parameters.	Ask who took the samples and which points have been sampled. Check on the basis of invoices and test reports.	AR
AV04c	Water quality analysis	The remaining 3 samples may be taken by the pig farmer himself and are always analysed bacteriologically.		Ask who took the samples and which points have been sampled. Check on the basis of invoices and test reports.	AR
AV04d	Water quality analysis	The analysis must show that the drinking water for the pigs is of sufficient quality by complying with the relevant national standard.	In the Netherlands the relevant, national standard consist of the quality requirements which the Animal Health Service upholds for drinking water for pigs. See http://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/diergezondheid/management/drinkwater/referentiewaarden%20vedrinkwaterkwaliteit Deviating from this norm is only allowed if this can be back tracked to an additive that is prescribed by the farm's own veterinarian (see also AV04e).	Assess test results and, if applicable, check whether restorative measures have been taken and samples have been analysed again.	AR
AV04e	Water quality analysis	The pre-treatment of water, e.g. acidification (lowering pH levels, increasing ammonium levels), is allowed only on the advice and/or under the supervision of the contracted veterinarian.		Verify from the test results or inquire whether the drinking water is treated and whether this is done under the supervision of the veterinarian. For instance through reporting in visit logs or the farm health plan.	AR
Hygiene plan					

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G013	Hygiene plan	The pig farm has a farm-specific hygiene plan. This may be a part of the farm health plan, which systematically demonstrates how the hygiene on the farm is safeguarded.	<p>This plan minimally contains a description of:</p> <p>a. Preventing and, if necessary, combating unwanted animals (e.g. rodents, wildlife, birds, insects)</p> <p>b. A strict separation between the clean and dirty zones</p> <p>c. Hygiene sluice</p> <p>d. The origin and quality of water (drinking water and cleaning water)</p> <p>e. Cleaning and disinfecting pens and enclosures</p> <p>f. The origin and storage of feed</p> <p>The plan is regularly updated, at least once every 2 years.</p>	Check whether a farm-specific hygiene plan is present, whether this meets the established requirements, and whether this is regularly updated.	AR
G13a	Pest control	At the farm, prevention of and fight against unwanted pests is done in accordance with the European standard CEN-EN 16636.	<p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First preventive measures are taken to ward off unwanted animals, as much as possible (see for suggestions, for example, the report "Beschuit zonder muisjes" [Rusks without sprinkles] by the Animal Protection Society); - If using a prevention and control company, this firm must demonstrate compliance with the CEN-EN 16636 norm. Within the Netherlands, farms may obtain the pest control Trademark (Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagement) from the Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagementbedrijven (KPMB) foundation; - If the pig farmer himself uses rodenticides outside the enclosure, he and/or his employees must have a valid proof of professional competence for rodent control on agricultural farms (Knaagdierbeheersing op het agrarisch bedrijf - KBA). The KBA certification is issued by Bureau Erkenningen (certification bureau). 	<p>Verify that unwanted animals are rejected and, if necessary, contested according to the EU norm CE-EN 16636.</p> <p>If a pest prevention and control company is used, check whether this company demonstrably meets the CEN-EN 16636 norm, for example is certified for the KPMB Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagement (pest control Trademark).</p> <p>If the pig farmer uses rodenticides outside the enclosure, check whether he and/or his employees have a valid proof of professional competence for rodent control on agricultural farms (Knaagdierbeheersing op het agrarisch bedrijf - KBA).</p>	AR
G13b	Separation of clean and dirty zones	<p>There is a strict separation between the clean zones (the hygienic areas where the pigs are housed) and the dirty zones (the non-hygienic areas which provide access to visitors, suppliers, trucks, etc.).</p> <p>In case of overall refurbishment or new construction of the farm after 01-01-2018, but no later than 01-01-2025.</p>	<p>The clean farm zone is the hygienic part of the farm where the pigs are found, this includes for example the sections, central corridors, work spaces and walking routes between enclosures.</p> <p>The dirty farm zone includes anything outside the clean zone, including the supply and delivery routes, the farmer's residence and outdoor areas.</p> <p>In the area between the clean and dirty farm zones a partition must be placed in the form of a fence, wall or chain, for example.</p> <p>Transport trolleys will be denied access to the clean farm zone.</p> <p>Delivery and removal points for feed or manure, for example, can be accessed from the dirty farm zone.</p>	In case of complete new construction or renovation after 01-01-2018, check whether there is strict separation between the clean zone and the dirty zone.	AR
G13c	Hygiene sluice	<p>Hygienic access to the farm for employees, suppliers and visitors is required via a hygiene sluice.</p> <p>In case of overall refurbishment or new construction of the farm after 01-01-2018, but no later than 01-01-2025.</p>	<p>The hygienic sluice contains a shower, to be used by the farm staff before changing fully into the pig farm's company clothing.</p> <p>Farms that do not yet have a hygiene sluice may suffice with a changing room until a hygiene sluice is installed. The room contains a sink to wash hands and a space to put on the farm work clothing (an overall and boots).</p>	Ensure there is a changing room. In case of new construction and/or renovation, ensure a hygiene sluice is present.	AR
Management					
AM01	Daily animals inspection	Farrowing sows, (weaned) piglets, and pigs residing in a sick pen must be inspected at least twice a day, while all other pigs are inspected at least once a day for care requirements, signs of injuries, poor health, stress, etc.		Ask caregivers about their inspection activities and related findings. Rate a number of pens with pigs for indicators that signal a need for healthcare, signs of injury, ill health, stress, etc.	AH, at the second observation RI
AM02a	Emergencies	In case of power failure, there is a possibility to switch to natural ventilation or to an emergency generator.	If an emergency generator is present, there is also a clear manual for its use and connection.	Check whether there is a possibility to switch to natural ventilation or see if there is an emergency generator with a user manual available.	AR

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AM02a1	Emergencies	When using mechanical ventilation there is an alarm system that reports power failures and essential equipment malfunctions, such as ventilation.		Make sure that the alarm system is present and working. It is not necessary to turn this on if the farmer can provide a maintenance contract and reports that show that the system was in working order during the checks.	AR
AM02a2	Emergencies	The alarm system of a mechanical ventilation system is tested monthly.	Records are kept of the monthly testing of the alarm system.	Verify that the alarm system is tested monthly.	RI
AM02a3	Emergency generator	If an emergency generator must be used during a power failure, the mechanical ventilation system is connected to the generator.		Please verify that the mechanical ventilation system is connected to the emergency generator.	RI
AM02a4	Emergency generator	For mechanical ventilation with a vacuum in the enclosure, an emergency generator is present at the farm. In other cases of mechanical ventilation, there is at least a contract in place to install an emergency generator to working order within 4 hours.		If mechanical ventilation with a vacuum is used, check whether a generator is present on the farm. Check in all other cases whether there is a contract to install an emergency generator to working order within 4 hours.	RI
AM02a5	Emergency generator	An emergency generator, if present, is tested at least once every 2 months.	Records are kept of the minimal bi-monthly testing of the emergency generator.	Write down the dates from last year when the emergency generator was tested. Not applicable if no emergency generator is present.	RI
AM02b	Employees	The staff is familiar with the work method in case of emergency.		Through random selection, ask the staff what to do in case of emergencies.	AR
AM02c	Object information card	There is an object information card present.		Check whether an object information card is present.	AR
AM02c1	Object information card	The object information card is available immediately to the fire department/emergency services in case of emergencies (storage place is visible and outside the enclosure).		Verify that the object information card is readily available.	AR
AM02c2	Object information card	The object information card includes: layout of building blocks/enclosures, access doors, materials used, utilities, fire hydrants, locations with flammable materials/facilities, evacuation possibilities for animals, etc.		Verify that the contents of the object information card meet the requirements.	AR
AM03	Fire safety	For the purpose of fire safety, an inspection of the electrical installations on the farm will take place at least once every five years.	No later than 01-01-2020 or 5 years after the first participation in BLK the first certification must have been carried out. New installations are inspected before use in accordance with NEN 1010. Every 5 years a re-certification will take place based on NEN 3140. For foreign farms, the certification of new installations, and the re-certification every 5 years, must take place on the basis of the national norm based on HD-IEC 60364 and NEN-EN 50110, respectively.	Check whether there is a certificate of the last inspection and note the date. If there is no certificate, check after 01-01-2020 once the farm has been participating in the BLK certification for more than 5 years.	AR
AM04	Ventilation system	Mechanical ventilation systems on the farm are checked by a certified installation professional at least once every five years and maintenance is carried out if necessary.		Check whether maintenance to the ventilation system is carried out by a certified installation professional and whether a report of the last check is available. Write down the date of the last check.	AR
AM05.1	Preventing tail biting	The pig farmer constantly monitors the operating conditions for the occurrence of tail biting and for the possibilities to reduce this.	The occurrence of tail biting is part of the farm health plan. In assessing the risk of tail biting, the following issues should be considered: a. The provided stimulation materials; b. The cleanliness of the pigs; c. Thermal comfort and air quality; d. Health condition; e. Competition for food and space; f. The diet.	Make sure the pig farmer is active in the prevention of tail biting. For a single section, calculate the percentage of damaged tails and check whether a veterinarian has been called in this regard.	RI

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AM05b6	Pig hygiene	The cleanliness of the pigs should be good, taking the used husbandry system into account.	If more than 50% of the pigs are soiled, then an action plan must be drawn up in consultation with the contracted veterinarian and if desirable other experts (e.g. a climate expert) to reduce the soiling within 2 years to a considerably lower level (<25%).	Evaluate the cleanliness of the pigs. If the cleanliness is insufficient (more than 50%), check whether there is an action plan to reduce the soiling within 2 years to a considerably lower level (<25%).	In the case of insufficient cleanliness and if there is no action plan in place for administrative recovery, issue a warning. If, after 2 years of the action plan, soiling is still above 50%: suspension.
Health					
AG01	Contracted veterinarian	The pig farmer has a one-to-one agreement with a certified, assured swine veterinarian (Geborgde Varkensdierenarts) who is responsible for the entire veterinary advice on the farm.	<p>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.</p> <p>Certified swine veterinarians (Geborgde Varkensdierarten) can be found in the register of Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts, see www.geborgdedierenarts.nl. The Regeling van de Geborgde Varkensdierenarts (regulations for certified swine veterinarians) contains a sample one-to-one agreement that should be used.</p> <p>For foreign participants, there must be an agreement with a contracted swine veterinarian with knowledge of the history of the farm and expertise in the field of pig farming. When changing veterinarians, the previous veterinarian must transfer his data regarding the pig farm to the new veterinarian. This veterinarian does not need to be registered as a certified swine veterinarian.</p>	Check if there is a one-to-one agreement with a certified swine veterinarian. Register the name of the veterinarian.	AR
AG02a	Farm health plan	The pig farmer has a farm-specific treatment plan describing the use of veterinary medicine. In this plan the farmer and contracted veterinarian describe which treatment methods are used for the most common diseases.	It describes which animal medicines/antibiotics are used as first and second choice for a certain disease/condition.	Make sure the farm health plan is in effect and regularly updated.	AR
AG02b	Farm treatment plan	The pig farmer has a farm treatment plan for the use of veterinary medicine in which the farmer and contracted veterinarian describe which treatment methods are used for the most common diseases.	It describes which animal medicines/antibiotics are used as first and second choice for a certain disease/condition.	Make sure the farm treatment plan is in use by checking the presence of reports by the veterinarian.	AR
AG03	Health registration	All cases of elevated mortality rates, disease, outbreaks and euthanasia of seriously ill and/or injured pigs are registered and discussed with the veterinarian.	If necessary, this is thoroughly researched and the research findings and actions taken are documented.	Check the presence of a health registration and register the last 3 dates of registration and the reasons.	AH, at the second observation RI
AG04a	Mortality rate	The maximum allowed mortality rate on an annual basis: - for porkers <2.1% and - for weaned piglets <1.9%.	<p>Euthanised animals do not need to be counted in the mortality rate.</p> <p>At the initial audit (first year of participation), a one-time mortality rate of 3.0% is permitted.</p>	Calculate mortality rate as follows: Mortality rate = (number of dead animals – euthanised animals) / (number of transferred animals) * 100%	AR
AG04b	Mortality rate action plan	If the farm is above the maximum allowed mortality rate on an annual basis, an action plan must be drawn up with the contracted veterinarian.		Check, if percentage is too high, whether last year's percentage was also above the permissible rate. If this is the case, check whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR
AG04c	Mortality rate action plan year 2 and after	If a year after drawing up the action plan, the farm is still above the maximum allowed mortality rate on an annual basis, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted.	<p>An independent veterinary expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - Is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (see https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers or http://ebvs.eu/) <p>Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.</p>	If percentage is too high, check whether last year's percentage was also above the permissible rate. If this is the case, check whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR

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AG05a	Discuss slaughter findings	The slaughter findings of the porkers are discussed with the contracted veterinarian at least once a year.	<p>The slaughterhouse will provide the pig farmer with at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organ abnormalities (such as pneumonias, pleural inflammation, liver disorders, skin inflammations, leg or tail damage); • Rejection of (parts of) carcasses; • The average deviations/rejections (in %) per delivered group across all suppliers of the slaughterhouse involved. <p>Together with the contracted veterinarian, the porker farmer processes this information in the farm health plan in order to improve animal health and further reduce medicine use, where necessary.</p>	Check whether the administration contains an annual signed meeting report from the veterinarian regarding the slaughter findings.	AR
AG05b	Action plan for slaughter findings	In case of structurally exceeding the slaughterhouse average, the contracted veterinarian will draw up an action plan in which the possible underlying health problems are identified and measures are established to reduce the number of slaughter deviations to (below) the slaughterhouse average.	In addition, the slaughter findings are discussed with the contracted veterinarian at least twice a year.	Verify that, in case of structurally exceeding the slaughterhouse average, an action plan has been drawn up and whether the slaughter deviations have been included in a twice yearly visit report by the veterinarian in relation to the slaughter findings.	AR
AG06	Medication use documentation	Any use of veterinary medicine is documented.		Make sure that all drug use is registered.	RI
AG06a	Antibiotic use registration	All antibiotic use must be registered in a government-designated database.	All antibiotic use must be registered in a government-designated database accessible to the pig farmer, so that over time a trend analysis of the use of antibiotics can be performed.	Verify that antibiotic use is recorded in a private database accessible to the pig farmer.	RI
AG07	Veterinary visit	The pig farm is regularly (at least once a month) visited by the contracted veterinarian for a general tour on animal health and animal welfare, and this visit is registered.		Check whether there is a visit report from the past year containing the findings signed by the veterinarian.	AH, at the second observation RI
AG08a	Antibiotics policy	There should be a written policy in the farm health plan with regard to reducing the amount of antibiotics used.	Not applicable if antibiotic use on the farm is structurally (minimally 3 consecutive periods: a period is from 1 Jan-1 Jan, 1 July-1 July) within the Dutch Veterinary Medicines Institute (St. Diergeenmiddelen Autoriteit - SDA) target zone.	Verify that there is a clear policy for reduction of antibiotic use. Not applicable when used structurally within the SDA target zone.	AR
AG08ab	Antibiotics policy	The policy in the farm health plan regarding the reduction of the amount of used antibiotics must be assessed and revised annually together with the contracted veterinarian.	Not applicable if antibiotic use on the farm is structurally (minimally 3 consecutive periods a period is from 1 Jan-1 Jan, 1 July-1 July) within the Dutch Veterinary Medicines Institute (St. Diergeenmiddelen Autoriteit - SDA) target zone.	Verify that the policy is annually reviewed and revised together with the veterinarian. Not applicable when used structurally within the SDA target zone.	AR
AG08b	Exclusion of certain antibiotics	<p>The use of antibiotics reserved for human healthcare (fluoroquinolones or 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporines) is not permitted and these are not present on the farm.</p> <p>In exceptional cases, they may be prescribed for use in individual animals after a resistance test (antibiogram) has been shown that these are the only effective antibiotics.</p>		Check the documentation kept by the veterinarian for whether these antibiotics are used. If so, check that a resistance test (antibiogram) was used to demonstrate that these antibiotics were the only active antibiotics and that these antibiotics are only prescribed to individual animals.	Suspension
AG08c	Level of antibiotic use	The antibiotics use must be under the relevant action zone determined by the Dutch Veterinary Medicines Institute (St. Diergeenmiddelen Autoriteit - SDA) and within 2 consecutive years it must lie within the target zone set by SDA.		Note down whether the farm's animal dosages are below the action level set by the SDA. For farms that do not fall within the SDA target level, check whether the antibiotic use will be within the SDA target level within two consecutive years.	AH, action plan

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AG08d	Guidance and assistance by swine specialist for excessive antibiotics use	If the use of antibiotics fails to meet the SDA target zone within two consecutive years, an independent swine veterinarian who is an expert in pig health care must be called on to provide secondary advice in the form of an action plan which will enable the farm to reach the SDA target level within 2 consecutive years.	An independent veterinary expert: - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - Is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (See https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers of http://ebvs.eu/). Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The preparation of the action plan includes an analysis of the measures that have already been taken and an analysis of the farm and the underlying causes of the increased use of antibiotics. The action plan should contain a set of additional measures with which the farm can still achieve the target level of the SDA within two years. If the use of antibiotics after 2 consecutive years of guidance by an external expert (i.e. after 4 consecutive years) is not within the SDA target level, the farm will have its Better Life certificate suspended.	Verify that a company that is above the target level for more than 2 consecutive years has called in an external veterinary swine health expert and whether an action plan has been drawn up. Check whether the farm, within 2 consecutive years of external supervision (i.e. after 4 consecutive years), has reached the SDA target level.	Suspension
AG09	Ban on medicated feed	Medicated feed may not be provided.	Medicated feed is feed with antibiotics that is produced by the animal feed manufacturer. In the production of this feed, it is inevitable that a small amount of this feed (including antibiotics) remains in the production line, in storage and in transport and, therefore, is spread to other feed producers (carry-over), as a result of which small dosages of antibiotics can end up in animal feed. Research shows that bacteria that are frequently exposed to very low doses of antibiotics – for example caused by cross-contamination – develop antibiotic resistance. To prevent the development of this antibiotic resistance, medicated animal feed is prohibited within the BLK farms.	Based on feed receipts and/or medicine deliveries, ensure that no medicated animal feed was supplied to the farm.	Suspension
AG10	Blood samples	Blood samples (for animal disease monitoring programmes) are collected as much as possible in the slaughterhouse and are not taken from pigs on the farm.	This does not include blood samples for specific surveys that are handled through the veterinarian or for export. Exceptions are possible, for example research in younger animals or sows.	Check whether the administration includes the analyses from the past 3-years that show whether the sampling takes place in the slaughterhouse or on the farm.	AR
AG11A	Sick pen	A sick pen must be present or must be created for sick, weak and injured pigs that has a minimum capacity of 1% of the total number of animal spaces on the basis of sows, piglets and porkers.	In addition to sick or injured pigs, it might also be necessary to move an ailing or highly stressed pig to the sick pen if staying with other animals would lead to additional welfare problems, for example if the pig is unable to compete for food.	Check whether the capacity meets the requirements.	RI if sick pen has <1% of capacity
AG11B	Sick pen climate	The sick pen should be well ventilated, warm and dry.		Verify that the sick pen is well ventilated, warm and dry.	RI
AG11C.1	Sick pen solid floor	The sick pen must be fitted with a 40% closed/solid floor, unless the veterinarian advises against this for veterinary reasons.		Check the floor of the sick pen.	RI
AG11D	Sick pen strewn floor	The floor of the sick pen must be strewn with straw or sawdust, for example. The closed/solid floor section may consist of a rubber mat with strewn material.	Should the contracted veterinarian, for veterinary reasons, recommend against using strewn material, this advice should be followed.	Check the floor of the sick pen.	RI
AG11E	Sick pen eye contact	A pig in the sick pen should be able to make eye contact with other pigs.	Should the contracted veterinarian for veterinary reasons recommend against contact with other pigs, this advice should be followed.	Verify that the pigs in the sick pen have eye contact with the other pigs.	RI
AG11F	Cleaning sick pen	The sick pen must be constructed to be easy to clean and disinfected between each use, and to enable any dead animals to be easily removed with minimal risk of contact with other animals.		Check sick pen.	RI
AG11G	Removing excrement from sick pen	Urine and manure from the sick pen must not come into contact with other animals and must be removed in a way that minimises the risk of contact with other animals.	(e.g. situate the sick pen at the end of the enclosure so that drained manure and urine do not pass the other pens).	Check sick pen.	RI
AG12	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals	The policy regarding when and how to euthanise seriously sick or injured animals without a chance of recovery is registered in the farm health plan.		Check policy and health plan. Check whether the euthanasia policy is included in the farm health plan. Interview employees and check for the presence of seriously injured or sick animals without a chance of recovery.	AR

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AG12a	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals	Seriously injured or sick animals are euthanised in a timely manner. Euthanasia is based on law and humane principles (the animal is spared any avoidable pain, tension or suffering).	During the killing of animals and related activities, it is ensured that the animals are spared from every avoidable form of pain, tension or suffering. An approved humane method of killing leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal. The veterinarian describes (in the farm health plan) how seriously injured and sick animals can be euthanised humanely on the farm as soon as possible. Euthanising with a cattle gun is permitted provided the user has the required licenses for this (storage and holding of the ammunition).	Check whether the veterinarian has described in the farm health plan how seriously injured and sick animals can be euthanised humanely as soon as possible. If a cattle gun is used/present on the farm, check for a permit.	AR
AG12b	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals in emergency situations	Arrangements have been made with the contracted veterinarian regarding emergency situations, and for him/her to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise untreatable animals.	These agreements are recorded in the farm health plan or are included in the annex to the agreement with the veterinarian.	Check if the agreement with the veterinarian contains arrangements for him/her to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously injured or sick animals (e.g. in emergency situations).	AR
AG12c	Reasons for euthanasia	Underlying causes for performing euthanasia are registered by the farm's contracted veterinarian.	For example in the visit report.	Check whether the underlying causes for performing euthanasia are registered by the veterinarian.	AR
AG12d	Action plan for structural causes of euthanasia	For structural causes of euthanasia, the pig farmer will draw up an action plan, in consultation with the contracted veterinarian, to minimise these causes and to reduce the percentage of euthanised animals.		In cases of structural underlying causes of euthanasia, check whether an action plan has been drawn up by the farmer.	AR
AG12e	Action plan for structural causes of euthanasia in year 2 and after.	If a year after drawing up the action plan, the farm has still not reduced the percentage of euthanised animals, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted.	An independent veterinary expert: - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers of http://ebvs.eu/ Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.	On the basis of the action plan, check whether the percentage of euthanised animals has decreased compared to the previous year. If this is not the case, check whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR
Accommodation					
AH02.1	Heat stress	Heat stress should be avoided.	During hot weather conditions, this is possible by giving the animals sufficient opportunity to lie down separately, in combination with ventilation systems or water misting, for example.	Note the measures the farm is taking to prevent heat stress.	RI
AH03	Air quality	The ventilation system maintains the air quality at a level which prevents irritation of the eyes or noses of the pigs housed there and/or the people carrying out inspections.	If there is insufficient air quality, an improvement plan for air quality is drawn up in consultation with the contracted veterinarian and, if required, with further experts (e.g. climate expert).	Check the ventilation system or improvement plan. Check whether there is any question of eye or nose irritation when standing at human level and squatting at the level of the pigs. In case of eye or nose irritation in the pigs, check whether an improvement plan is in place.	AR, i.e. if not in order, submit improvement plan
AH04	Air volume per piglet	To maintain the climate in the enclosure properly, the size of the enclosure is minimally 1.2 m ³ per piglet. In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.	In order to properly control the climate in the enclosure. In existing enclosures with a smaller volume of air, the ventilation is adjusted to the minimum air flow for ventilation (moisture and ammonia filtering). In existing enclosures with a smaller volume of air, the ventilation is adjusted to ensure that there is adequate ventilation so that the air is not too moist or too dusty and that it does not contain too much ammonia, without this resulting in drafts. The volume of air per piglet can be calculated by: dividing the enclosure volume (length x height x width) by the number of piglets.	Check air volume on the basis of calculations for section types (m ² x height). Note the volume (m ³) per piglet. In existing enclosures with a smaller air content, check whether the ventilation has been adjusted to ensure that there is adequate ventilation so that the air is not too moist or too dusty and that it does not contain too much ammonia, without this resulting in drafts.	RI
AH05A.1	Light	Any animal enclosure must have a clear day and night rhythm with at least 8 hours of uninterrupted darkness and at least 8 hours of uninterrupted light (daylight or artificial light).	The 8-hour period of light cannot be applied between sunset and sunrise.	Make sure that the farm works with day and night rhythm. For instance through a time switch for the artificial lighting, natural daylight, or inquire into this matter with the pig farmer. Note the method used or the response of the pig farmer.	RI
AH05B	Light intensity	The light in the enclosures is at least 40 Lux at animal height.	All animals must have sufficient light. Twilight is too dark. Direct lighting is established using either TL lighting or equivalent.	With a Luxmeter, measure whether the 40 Lux value is met throughout the enclosure at the height of the animals.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AH05C.1	Daylight-permeable surface	<p>The daylight-permeable surface in walls and roofs is at least 2% of the floor area.</p> <p>In case of new construction and/or renovation (of the outside walls or the roof) after 01-01-2011, but not later than 01-01-2025.</p>	<p>The daylight-permeable surfaces may include skylights, side windows and/or light wells.</p> <p>Daylight permeation through the side wall: 2% of the surface area.</p> <p>Daylight through the roof: divide by the factor 2, or 1% of the surface area.</p> <p>Daylight through a light well: divide by the factor 4, or 0.50% of the surface area</p>	<p>Note the percentage of daylight-permeable surface area and whether the surfaces (light panels, windows) actually allow daylight through (e.g. whether the surfaces are clean).</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>Not applicable in case of existing enclosure.</p> <p>Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.</p>
AH06	Scratching facility	<p>A scratching facility is present in every pen (with the exception of sows in the service pen and farrowing pen).</p>	<p>A scratching facility may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A scratching pole (e.g. a wooden pole with a diameter of at least 15 cm); - A scratching brush (e.g. the brush of a broom attached to a wall or pole); - A rough, concrete pen divider; - An iron corner-piece. <p>The materials must be located in a place that is easily accessible for all ages.</p>	<p>For at least 1 pen per animal category, check whether a scratching facility is present that meets the norm.</p>	<p>RI</p>
AH07	Enrichment material	<p>Enrichment material is found in every pen with pigs.</p>	<p>See the information leaflet on enrichment materials on the website of the Better Life Foundation Trademark: beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/</p> <p>Enrichment materials are intended to enable pigs to fulfil their essential needs without this being at the expense of their health.</p> <p>For this purpose, the enrichment materials must be safe and have the following characteristics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Edible – so pigs can eat it, with some nutritional value (e.g. wood or plastic has no nutritional value and is therefore not “edible”); b. Chewable – so that pigs can bite and chew it; c. enrichment – so that pigs can investigate it; d. Manipulable – so that pigs can change its place, appearance and structure. <p>In addition, the materials must be provided in such a way that they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are of lasting interest, that is to say, they encourage the exploration behaviour of pigs and are regularly replaced or supplemented; 2. Are accessible to oral manipulation; 3. Are provided in sufficient quantity; 4. Are clean and hygienic. <p>When loose enrichment materials are used (e.g. straw, alfalfa), this enrichment material must be replenished at least daily and, in addition, there must be 1 type of permanent enrichment material offered that meets the above characteristics (for example a rope).</p> <p>Enrichment materials that are smeared/contaminated with manure or urine do not meet these standards.</p>	<p>Check in a minimum of 4 pens whether enrichment materials are present and whether they meet the standard.</p> <p>Check whether the enrichment materials meet the standard “Edible” for a transitional period of 1 year.</p> <p>For enrichment materials that must be replenished/supplemented: administrative checks on refill purchases.</p>	<p>RI in case of suspicion of non-structural use or it not being the right material.</p> <p>Not applicable for the first year after criterion taking effect, only for enrichment materials that do not meet the standard “Edible”.</p> <p>Suspension in the absence of enrichment material.</p>

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AH08.1	Straw for groups > 40	In existing housing with more than 40 gilts, pregnant sows, weaners or porkers per group must be provided with straw. The straw needs to be present permanently.	<p>Straw or other enrichment materials can be used, such as hay or alfalfa provided Livestock Sciences of Wageningen Livestock University and Research has assessed that the material provides comparable enrichment for the animal.</p> <p>The straw must be provided in one of the following ways, enrichment can be placed in the separating wall between 2 groups of 20 pigs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a straw play box, for every 40 pigs at least one. Consists of: a straw rack / potato basket with without a catching tray. Two sow, three weaners or 2 porkers can draw straws at the same time. The straw play box is replenished at least once a week 2. a straw swing, for every 40 pigs at least one. Consists of: a plastic tube which is fixed on the separation wall, and can swing in the direction of both pens. the tube needs to be filled with straw and pigs can get the straw by rooting at the bottom of the tube. By adjusting the height of the tube more or less straw comes available. 3. an automatic delivery system, a tube transport system. <p>This system delivers a small amount of straw daily (or several times a day) on the closed/solid floor of the pig pen.</p> <p>A tube with an reservoir of corn or loose straw is also possible, provided the tube is always filled with amount of corn/straw and there is a sufficient amount of corn/straw present on the farm.</p> <p>When loose enrichment materials are used (e.g. straw, alfalfa), this enrichment material must be replenished at least daily and, in addition, there must be 1 type of permanent enrichment material offered that meets the above characteristics (for example a rope).</p>	Check whether the pens meet the criteria. Register the method of straw dispersal. Check for instance on the basis of receipts whether enough straw has been used.	
AH11	Drinking water meter	Each section has its own water meter. In case of new construction or renovation after 1 January 2018, but no later than 1 January 2028.		In the case of new construction or renovation, check whether a water meter has been installed.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure.
Boars					
BE01.1	Cage type	The boar pen has a minimum size of 6.0 m ² If the pen is also used for breeding, a surface area norm of 10.0 m ² is applicable.		Note down the surface area of the boar pen.	Exclusion
Sows					
Z02	Mortality rate of breeding animals	Mortality rate of breeding stock is registered.	The reason for the mortality rate is of importance for the health analysis.	Ensure that this is recorded and in what way. A printout of the management programme or other registration is sufficient. Merely documenting this on the sow chart is not sufficient.	AR
Z03	Hoof health monitoring	Using the hoof check system (klauwencheck), the condition of the legs and hooves of at least 30 sows is inspected at least once per year for excessive strain, excessive growth or infection.	See http://www.verantwoordeveehouderij.nl/show/Doe-de-Zeugenklauwen-Check.htm In case of 1 or more scores of 3 or 4 for the hoof check, improvements must be implemented and the frequency of monitoring must be raised to twice a year. Until such a time that the hoof checks no longer yield scores of 3 or 4.	Make sure that the pig farmer has registered the findings from the annual hoof check and note down the dates on which this was carried out. In case of 1 or more scores of 3 or 4 in the hoof check, check whether the frequency of monitoring has been increased from once a year to twice a year.	AR
Z03a	Hoof health monitoring	The results of the hoof check (klauwencheck) are evaluated once per year with the contracted veterinarian to prevent excessive growth, infections and pain when moving.		Ensure that the results of the hallway score and hoof check are discussed with the veterinarian. Make a note of your findings.	AR

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
Z04A.1	Breeding animal tails	Tails may not be routinely docked.	<p>If tails need to be docked due to welfare problems, for piglets intended as breeding sows, this needs to be done in such a way that the piglets retain at least 5 cm of their tail. This results in a tail length of > 10 cm in adult sows.</p> <p>When a tail is docked, the pig farmer and the contracted veterinarian must draw up an improvement plan in order to preserve tail length. In assessing the risk of tail biting, the following issues should be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The provided stimulation materials; The cleanliness of the pigs; Thermal comfort and air quality; Health condition; Competition for food and space; The diet. 	In at least 2 sections, check whether the tail length is sufficient. Check if there is an improvement plan.	RI (for new group)
Z04B	Breeding animals tail biting	At least 95% of the animals must have a non-gnawed tail.		In at least 2 sections, check whether at least 95% of the animals has a non-gnawed tail.	RI
Z05	Service pen	<p>A gilt or sow may be kept individually from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> One week before the calculated time of farrowing up to the time of farrowing; Weaning up to 4 days after the day of natural mating or artificial insemination. 	<p>If the farm can demonstrate through a written confirmation that they are in the government established supervision programme, sows may be kept individually up to a maximum of 28 days after the day of insemination if placing the sows in the group 4 days after insemination caused problems. The supervision programme aims to responsibly ensure group integration after 4 days. At the end of this supervision programme the farm must meet all requirements.</p>	<p>Check how long the sows are kept in the service pen and note down the maximum number of days. If the farm participates in the government-established supervision programme, check whether there is a written confirmation of this. At the end of this supervision programme, the farm must meet all requirements.</p>	<p>RI</p> <p>When participating in the government-established supervision programme and written proof of participation is missing: AR</p> <p>If a written proof of participation is not provided: RI</p>
Z06	Service groups	When grouping animals together during weaning / mating, extra checks must be carried out to identify aggressive animals and/or injured/stressed animals in a timely manner.	<p>When adding animals to a group on multiple occasions, an extra check is performed the first days after integration.</p> <p>Aggressive animals are accompanied and, in extreme cases, sequestered.</p> <p>Injured/stressed animals are documented and discussed with the veterinarian and, if necessary, transferred to the sick pen if staying with other animals would lead to additional welfare problems, for example if the pig is unable to compete for food.</p>	Check whether present groups are stable or whether aggressive, injured or stressed animals are found in the groups.	AR
Z08.1	Floor area per sow	The surface area is at least 2.25 m ² per sow, of which at least 1.3 m ² is solid floor to provide a lying space.	With a group size of 40 or more animals, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10%.	Check and make a note of the surface area per sow. When in doubt about available surface area, take measurements.	Suspension
Z09.1	Group accommodation system	<p>The sows are kept in groups of 20 or more.</p> <p>In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.</p>		Write down the number of sows per group and the date of new construction and/or renovation of enclosures.	<p>AR</p> <p>Not applicable in case of existing enclosure.</p> <p>Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.</p>
Z10	Phasing out feeding pens with outlets	<p>No more use is made of animal grouping in feeding pens with outlets.</p> <p>In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.</p>		In case of new construction and/or renovation, check whether feeding pens are present.	<p>AR</p> <p>Not applicable in case of existing enclosure.</p> <p>Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.</p>
Z11	Existing enclosure with feedign pens with outlets	If the farm still uses feeding pens with outlets, there should be at least 2 meters of free space behind the crate, so the sow can back out of the crate normally and can turn around.		Measure the free space behind 5% of the feeding pens and note this down.	Suspension

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
Z11a	Existing enclosure with feeding pens with outlets	If the farm still uses feeding pens with outlets, the gestation crates may be closed for a maximum of 2 hours during feeding.		Check this by comparing the time of feeding with the times the feeding pens are closed.	RI
Z13	Dunging area for sows	The dunging area must be equipped in such a way that this provides the sows with sufficient grip, for example consisting of profiled metal or concrete slatted floor. In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, the dunging area consists of: - A floor that at time of purchase has a roughness level of 63 Leroux or an FSC2000 value of 0.60; or - A solid floor strewn with straw or similar material.		Check materials in the dunging area. Note the material in the dunging area and, for new construction or renovation, check the Leroux value or the FSC2000 level at the time of purchase (stated on floor certificate).	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
Z14	Trough feeding	When dry, pregnant sows are trough fed (simultaneously), partitions above the trough are used to protect the animals while they feed.	This is in order to prevent pigs from eating each other's portion of feed as much as possible. The trough divider can reach no further than just behind the shoulder of a mature sow.	Check for the presence of dividers at the feeding trough. Write down whether the criteria are met.	AR, at the second observation RI
Z15.1	Trough width	In case of trough feeding, the trough width is a minimum of 30 cm per sow.	During trough feeding, feed is provided in such a way to ensure that all sows can eat at the same time.	Measure the trough length and check through random sampling when in doubt. Not applicable for individual or ad libitum feeding.	AR, at the second observation RI
Z16.1	Number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding	For a feeding system that feeds animals individually or ad libitum, there must be at least one feeding area per 12 animals.	Not applicable at feeding stations.	Check whether 1 feeding area is available per 12 animals. Make a note of discrepancies. Not applicable at feeding stations.	RI
Z17.1	Feeding width for individual or ad libitum feeding	For individual or ad libitum feeding, the width is 30.0 cm per feeding area.		Ensure that the width of the feeding area meets requirements. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
Z18.1	Number of drinking spots	There is at least 1 drinking spot per 12 sows. For sows fed with liquid feed, 1 drinking spot per 24 sows is allowed.		Check the number of sows per drinking spot.	RI
Z19	Forage	In order to prevent hunger, the sows will receive ad libitum: - Feed with a high v-NSP level; or - Forage such as straw or hay.		Via the purchase receipts, check whether high fibre feed or forage has been purchased. Check in the enclosure whether this has been dispensed. Note the type of high fibre feed.	Suspension
Farrowing pen					
K02.1	Surface area	The surface area of a farrowing pen is at least 3.8 m ² , in which the sow may be enclosed in order to prevent it from fatally crushing piglets.		For each farrowing pen type, measure the surface area of 1 pen.	Suspension
K03.1	Lying area for farrowing sows	If the floor surface consists entirely of a slatted floor, the lying comfort (cooling) must be increased by constructing it from: - Coated metal; or - Metal cast specifically for this purpose; or - Hard plastic.		Check the floor material. Note the floor material for the farrowing sow lying area.	RI
K05.1	Nest building material	In the farrowing pen, nest building material is supplied to the farrowing sow at least 48 hours before the expected farrowing date.	The nest building material may consist of straw, a jute/hessian bag, or similar material. A jute/hessian bag is attached to the pen dividers within reach of the sow (at floor level near the sow's head). Loose materials (e.g. loose sawdust on the floor) and very hard materials (e.g. wood) do not qualify as nest building materials.	Check the nest building material and its presence in at least 4 farrowing pens. Also carry out an administrative check of the purchase of the nest building material.	RI
K06	Farrowing stall	If the sow is locked in during farrowing, there must be a minimum of 30 cm of space behind the sow for the newborn piglets.		Measure and write down the existing farrowing area behind the sow.	Warning
K07.1	Enrichment materials for sow in farrowing pen	No later than one day after parturition, the sow will receive enrichment materials in the farrowing pen.	For a description of the requirements for enrichment materials, see criterion AH07. For example, a sturdy rope without harmful components (for example, cotton or sisal) with a length of about 40 cm and a diameter of about 1 cm that the sow can gradually wear down. The rope hangs at least to shoulder height and is located approximately 20 cm from the wall or pen divider. Rope is regularly extended, depending on consumption.	Check the enrichment material. Note the type of enrichment material.	RI
K08	Piglet nest	All suckling piglets from one litter together have a single sheltered laying area/piglet nest of 0.6m ²		Check the piglets nests for m ² of lying area. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
K08a	Floor of piglets nest	The sheltered laying area/piglet nest has a solid floor.		Check whether the floor of the piglets nest is closed. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
K08b	Heating of piglets nest	The sheltered laying area/piglet nest must be able to be heated by: 1. A piglet lamp; and/or 2. Floor heating.	The temperature in the piglets' nest will thus be adapted to the current need of the piglets.	Check piglets nest for presence of heating. Note type of heating.	RI
K09A.1	Fostering piglets	Routine fostering of piglets is not allowed.	In principle, each sow suckles her own piglets. The fostering of piglets should therefore not become routine and is only allowed: - Within the same age group (piglets); - Up to three days after birth; - The percentage of fostered piglets within a single age group (piglets) remains under 10%.	Check pen charts to identify any irregularities regarding fostering. Make note of irregularities.	RI
K09B.1	Artificial suckling	Artificial suckling (e.g. by means of an artificial sow or rescue deck) is not allowed.	Artificial suckling (e.g. by means of an artificial sow or rescue deck) is not allowed. - In extreme cases; - Temporarily; - In consultation with the contracted veterinarian; - Provided that steps are taken to make the rescue deck/artificial sow redundant again.	Check with the farmer whether consultation with the veterinarian has taken place and whether measures have been taken to make the use redundant again.	AR
K10.1	Play area for piglets	Piglets in the farrowing pens can walk freely all the way round the , along the sides. In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.	This in order to have more room to play and to learn normal behaviour. This does not apply for a separate piglet nest which is not part of the farrowing pen.	Not applicable for existing enclosures. In case of new construction and/or renovation, check whether piglets can walk around freely in the farrowing pen.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterium are excluded.
K11	Solid foods	The piglets will receive solid food or porridge no later than at an age of 14 days.	This is intended so the piglets can get used to solid foods and to prevent suckling shock.	Verify that piglets from 2 weeks of age and older are given feed by checking inventory and invoices.	RI
K12.1	Weaning	The piglets are weaned at an average age of 25 days. No individual piglet can be weaned earlier than an age of 23 days.		Check and note the suckling and weaning age date and transfer of the sow based on at least 5 random samples (sow charts in the enclosure management system printout).	RI
Piglets					
B01.1	Floor area per piglet	The minimum piglet surface area is 0.4 m2 per piglet on average per farm. No individual piglet has less than 0.36 m2 of surface area.	The minimal surface area needs to be met from day 1 in the piglet pen till the day the piglets are transferred to a porker enclosure. With a group size of 40 or more animals, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10%.	Check area per animal on the basis of pen administration and pen dimensions. Note surface area per piglet at outset.	RI
B02.1	Floor type	The floor for weaned piglets is 40% solid. In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.	Public law allows accommodation of weaned piglets on a fully slatted floor	Not applicable for existing enclosures. For new construction and/or renovation, check whether 40% of the floor is solid and whether the enclosures are strewn or heated.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterium are excluded.
B02a.1	Floor type	The solid floor section for weaned piglets is strewn or provided with floor heating. In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.		Not applicable for existing enclosures. For new construction and/or renovation, check whether the solid floor is strewn or heated.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterium are excluded.

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
B02b	Piglet dunning area	<p>The dunging area must be designed in such a way that it provides the piglets with sufficient grip. The dunging area consists of a hard plastic slatted floor, plastic-coated slatted floor, coated metal or concrete slatted floor for example.</p> <p>In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, the dunging area consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A solid floor with liquid manure drain, hard plastic slatted floor, plastic-coated slatted floor, coated metal or concrete slatted floor (which at the time of purchase has a roughness level of 63 Leroux or an FSC2000 value of 0.60); or - A strewn dunging area. 		Note down the type of material used for the dunging area.	RI
B04.1	Trough width	In case of trough feeding, the trough width is a minimum of 18 cm per piglet.	During trough feeding, feed is provided in such a way to ensure so that all piglets can eat at the same time.	Check and write down the feeding space width per piglet.	RI
B04a	Number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding	For ad libitum feeding, there is a minimum of 1 feeding area per 8 piglets.		Check and record number of piglets per feeding area.	RI
B04b.1	Feeding width for individual or ad libitum feeding	For individual or ad libitum feeding, the width is 18 cm per feeding area.		Check and write down the feeding space width per piglet.	RI
B04c	Number of drinking areas	There is at least 1 drinking area per 12 piglets. For piglets fed with liquid feed, 1 feeding area will suffice for 24 piglets.		Check the number of sows per drinking area.	RI
B05.1	Tail docking	<p>Tails may not be routinely docked.</p> <p>Tails may be docked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the contracted veterinarian has given permission for this; 2. If the veterinary necessity has been described and confirmed by the contracted veterinarian and this is reviewed at least every quarter; 3. Docking is carried out by a sufficiently competent and trained person within 72 hours after birth; 4. If tails must be docked, this needs to be done in such a way that the piglets retain at least 2.5 cm of their tail, so that adult animals have a tail length of >5 cm; and 5. When a tail is docked, the pig farmer and the contracted veterinarian must have drawn up an improvement plan in order to preserve tail length. In any case the risk factors must be assessed as described in the criterion AM05 "Preventing tail biting". 		Check the tails. If these have been docked, verify if the applicable criteria were met. In at least 2 sections, check whether the tail length is sufficient. Verify that there is an improvement plan that meets the criteria.	RI (for new group)
B06.1	Ban on the castration of piglet boars	There are no castrated piglets on the farm.	A rule for new participants is that, after the entry inspection of the farm, piglets may no longer be castrated. Only the piglets present and castrated before the BL entry inspection can stay on the farm and can be supplied to the slaughter house as Better Life worthy	Check on a sample basis (minimum of two sections with farrowing pens) to ensure there are no more castrated piglets on the farm (applies to piglets born after the entry inspection).	Exclusion
B07	Ban on clipping of teeth	Clipping of teeth in newborn piglets is not permitted.		Check through random sampling of a number of piglets per pen in different sections (at least two farrowing pens per section) whether the canine teeth are intact. If they have been shortened, ensure that they have been filed and not clipped.	AR

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
B08	Teeth filing	The routine filing of teeth in newborn piglets is not permitted.	Teeth in newborn piglets are only permitted to be filed: 1. If the contracted veterinarian has given permission for this; 2. The veterinary need has been described and documented in a certificate from the contracted veterinarian.	Check through random sampling of a number of piglets per pen in different sections (at least two farrowing pens per section) whether the canine teeth are intact. If they have been shortened check: - Whether a recommendation was issued by the contracted veterinarian; - Whether this is revised each quarter.	AR
B08A	Plan of action for ending teeth filing	If teeth need to be filed due to problems, an action plan must be established to solve the problems within a year (at the next check) after which the tooth filing will stop. This plan is created in consultation with the feed advisor and, if necessary, the contracted veterinarian.	If the sow is injured due to sharp teeth, the cause of this must be addressed. For example, by improving the nutrition of the sow in consultation with the feed advisor to ensure she gives sufficient, good milk. Not applicable if teeth are not clipped.	If there are piglets with teeth that have been shortened, check whether an action plan is in place to terminate teeth filing.	AR
Porkers					
V01A	Stable groups	Porkers are kept in stable groups.	After transfer to the porker pens, groups of porkers are no longer mixed with unknown/new animals.	Check stability of porker groups to determine whether groups are mixed with unknown pigs after transfer.	Suspension
V01B	Stable groups	Porkers are kept in groups of at least 20. In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.	This way it is easier for the pig to distinguish spaces for lying down, activities, eating and dunging.	Not applicable for existing construction. For new construction and/or renovation, check for 10% of the porker groups whether these consist of at least 20 porkers.	Suspension Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
V02.1	Surface area per porker	The minimum surface area per farm amounts to an average of 1.00 m ² per porker. No pig has less than 0.95 m ² surface area available.	The minimum surface area applies from outset to slaughter. With a group size of 40 or more animals, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10%. An average of 1 m ² per animal and no animal with less than 0.95 m ² will then become: An average of 0.9 m ² per animal and no animal with less than 0.85 m ² .	Check area per animal on the basis of pen administration and pen dimensions.	RI
V03A.1	Solid floor	At least 40% of the floor is solid flooring.	A continuous floor section on which at least one pig can lie fully outstretched, counts as solid floor. A floor or a part thereof which is equipped with liquid manure-permeable openings, is considered solid if: a. The total liquid manure-permeable openings do not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor; b. The width of liquid manure-permeable slits is a maximum of 10 mm and the diameter of round liquid manure-permeable openings is a maximum of 20 mm. For example the "German wellbeing grate" and waffle grates do not meet the criterion of a closed floor.	Verify that 40% of the surface area is solid. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
V04	Dunning area for porkers	The dunging area must be designed in such a way that it provides the porkers with sufficient grip. The dunging area consists of coated metal or concrete slatted floor, for example. In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, the dunging area consists of: - A solid floor with liquid manure drain, coated metal or concrete slatted floor (which at the time of purchase has a roughness level of 63 Leroux or an FSC2000 value of 0.60); or - A strewn dunging area.		Check dunging area. Note down the date of new construction and/or renovation and the material in the dunging area.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
V05.1	Trough width	In case of trough feeding, the trough width is a minimum of 30.0 cm per porker.	During trough feeding, feed is provided in such a way to ensure so that all porkers can eat at the same time.	Check trough length per pig on the basis of the construction drawings and check by random sampling in the enclosure. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
V05a	Number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding	For ad libitum feeding, there is a minimum of 1 feeding area per 12 porkers. For new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, there must be at least 1 feeding area per 8 porkers.	Not applicable at feeding stations.	Check the number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding. In case of new construction and/or renovation, check whether the number of feeding areas suffice. Not applicable at feeding stations.	RI
V05b.1	Feeding width for individual or ad libitum feeding	In case of individual or ad libitum feeding, the width is 30.0 cm per feeding area.		Check and write down feed width per feeding area.	RI
V05c.1	Number of drinking areas	There is at least 1 drinking area per 12 porkers. For porkers fed with liquid feed, 1 feeding nipple will suffice for 24 porkers.		Check the number of porkers per drinking area.	RI
Transport					
T00A.1	Supplied pigs	The pigs brought to the pig farm come from farms that have been certified for Better Life Trademark pigs 1 star.	With the exception of supplied gilts/boars. These animals may be supplied from farms that do not have Better Life certification, for instance from abroad.	Check BLK pig certificate 1 star from suppliers. Note down the UBNs of the suppliers. Not applicable for breeding gilts/boars.	Exclusion
T00B	Decreasing pig farms/slaughterhouses	The pigs are delivered to pig farms that have been certified or slaughterhouses that have been approved/certified for the related Better Life scope (BLK pigs and the related number of stars).	If the buyer is not certified/approved for the relevant Better Life scope, the animals must be marked down to a non-Better Life Trademark or to a Better Life scope for which the buyer is certified/approved.	Check administration. Note down the UBN of the purchasing pig farmers and/or the name and location of the purchasing slaughterhouses. Note per buyer whether they have been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLK pigs and number of stars). If not, check that the animals are devalued to non-BLK or a lower scope for which the buyer has been approved/certified.	RI
T02	Electric goads	On the pig farm and during transport, no electric goads may be used.	There are no electric goads on the farm.	Check that there are no electric goads on the farm and note down the alternatives that are used.	RI
T03	Loading ramp, door, lift or loading floor	Loading ramp, door, lift or loading floor must be equipped with: - Clamps against slipping; - Side walls and bars to prevent pigs falling off; - Loading door/ramp with a maximum angle of 20% / 11°. No later than 01-01-2020, cattle transport vehicles must be equipped with a loading lift or adjustable loading floor.		Make sure that the slope of the loading lifts and doors meet requirements.	RI
T04	Empty stomach	The slaughter pigs are delivered with an empty stomach.	Empty stomach means that the last feed supply takes place before 16:00 hours on the day before the day of the delivery to the slaughter house.	Check with the farmer whether the last feeding took place before 16:00 hrs on the day before delivery.	AR
T05	Transport duration for piglets	The transport duration of piglets may not be longer than 6 hours.	Transport duration is clear from transport documentation in the administration. This documentation must be kept for at least one year. The transport duration starts with the loading of the first animal and ends at the unloading of the last animal.	Through the Routenet website, calculate the distance required for a transport truck to travel between the birth farm and the receiving farm and then make an estimate of the related transport duration. Check the transport documentation. Make note of the UBN(s) of origin and destination farms.	Exclusion
T05A	Means of transporting piglets more than 50 km	Transport of piglets over a distance greater than 50 km is only done in closed, climate-controlled trucks, in order to improve the health of delivered piglets. Mandatory from 01-01-2020.	Transport method (closed, climate-controlled truck), is clear from the transport documentation. This documentation must be kept for at least one year.	For transport distances of more than 50 km, check that an enclosed, climate-controlled truck is used on the basis of the transport documentation. Write down the address of the origin/destination farm. Not applicable for transport distances shorter than 50 km.	RI From 01-01-2020

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
T06.1	Transport duration for slaughter pigs	The transport of slaughter pigs may not be longer than 8 hours.	Transport duration is clear from transport documentation in the administration. This documentation must be kept for at least one year. The transport duration starts with the loading of the first animal and ends at the unloading of the last animal.	Use the Routenet website to calculate the distance for the transport truck between the pig location and slaughterhouse. Check the transport documentation. Write down the name and address of the slaughterhouse.	Exclusion
Recommendations for platforms for piglets and porkers					
PL01	Platforms for piglets and porkers	<p>For weaned piglets and porkers, platforms can be used to meet the minimum surface area per suckling piglet/porker.</p> <p>These platforms should, in time, meet the recommendations below. In the current version 2.1, these criteria are recommendations and there is no penalty if these not are met.</p> <p>It is expected that in the next version (3.0) of the criteria, a penalty will be added. New platforms, installed after the final implementation of the next version (3.0, including penalties), must meet the following criteria.</p> <p>Not applicable for platforms that have been installed before the establishment of the next version of the criteria (3.0, including penalties).</p>	The ramp should not be counted as available surface area for the animals. The space under the ramp (if the slope of the ramp to the ground floor is 20° or greater) may be counted as available surface area.	Write down whether platforms are used.	
PL02	Platform load weight RECOMMENDATION	Platform construction must meet the following requirements: - For piglets: minimally able to hold 130 kg/m ² - For porkers: minimally able to hold 200 kg/m ²	Maximum deflection is 1/250th with a maximum of 12 mm.	Check and register the weight load of the platform based on specifications of the structure.	
PL03	Minimum distance from ground floor to bottom of platform RECOMMENDATION	The distance from the ground floor to the bottom of the platform is at least: - 0.9 m for a platform width of 0.9-1.5 m - 1.2 m for a platform width of > 1.5 m		Check and register the width and corresponding height of the platform.	
PL04	Surface area of the platform RECOMMENDATION	The platform covers up to 40% of the surface area on the ground floor.		Check and register the percent of the floor area that is covered by the platform.	
PL05	Distance between platform and ceiling RECOMMENDATION	The distance between the platform and the ceiling is at least 0.9 m everywhere and at least 1.5 m at the highest point of the ceiling.		Check and register the distance between the platform and ceiling. Measure from the lowest and the highest point of the ceiling.	
PL06	Platform slope RECOMMENDATION	The platform should have a maximum slope of 5% across the width and 10% across the length.		Check and register the slope of the platform across the width and length.	
PL07	Platform width RECOMMENDATION	Platform width must meet the following requirements: - For piglets: at least 0.9 m and up to 1.56 m - For porkers: at least 1.1 m and up to 1.9 m	These dimensions include any (ventilation/manure) slits.	Check and register the width of the platform.	
PL08	Platform length RECOMMENDATION	Platform length must meet the following requirements: - For piglets: at least 1.5 m. - For porkers: at least 2.5 m.		Check and register the length of the platform.	

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PL09	Platform floor type RECOMMENDATION	The platform has a solid floor.	<p>The platform floor is solid, with the following exceptions:</p> <p>a. At both ends of the platform, a grate is permitted across the entire width of the platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For piglets: up to 0.6 cm - For porkers: up to 1.0 cm <p>b. For the floor part near the ramp, a grate is permitted across the entire width of the platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For piglets: up to 0.6 cm - For porkers: up to 1.0 cm <p>c. On the wall side of the platform, a grate is permitted across the entire length:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For piglets: up to 0.2 m and 0.3 m if there is no ventilation-manure slit installed - For porkers: up to 0.3 m and 0.4 m if there is no ventilation-manure slit installed <p>d. Along the wall side a ventilation-manure slit is permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For piglets: minimum of 5 cm and up to 6 cm - For porkers: minimum of 8 cm and up to 8 cm <p>e. The ramp may be either solid or with slits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For piglets: slits of 10-12 mm - For porkers: slits of 10-18 mm 	Make sure that the floor is solid, accounting for the exceptions.	
PL10	Material for solid floor platform RECOMMENDATION	The platform must provide the piglets or porkers with sufficient grip, for example coated metal, rough plastic, rough composite or concrete.		Make sure that the floor is rough/coarse enough, register the type of material.	
PL11	Platform railing RECOMMENDATION	The platform has a railing with bars that meets the following requirements: - For piglets: minimum height of 0.5 m - For porkers: minimum height of 0.6 m	Preferably at least 2 horizontal bars are used with the bottom bar at a height of 0.2 m for piglets and 0.2-0.3 for porkers. And the upper bar at 0.5 m (measured from the top of the bar) for piglets and 0.7 m for porkers. Vertical bars are also permitted.	Check and register the presence and height of railing and check horizontal or vertical bars.	
PL12	Ramp/stairs width RECOMMENDATION	The ramp/stairs with which the piglets/pigs can reach the platform (including any possible hinge points) must meet the following criteria: - For piglets: minimum width of 0.60 m - For porkers: minimum width of 0.75 m		Check and register the width of the ramp/stairs.	
PL13	Ramp/stairs slope RECOMMENDATION	The slope of the ramp/stairs is a maximum of 30° compared to the ground floor.		Check the incline of the ramp/stairs compared to the ground floor.	
PL14	Horizontal approach for parallel ramp/stairs RECOMMENDATION	If the ramp/stairs has been placed parallel (not angled) against the platform, a horizontal approach must be placed against the platform.	The following dimensions apply: - For piglets: minimum 0.70 m x 0.70 m; - For porkers: minimum 0.75 m x 0.75 m; and with a railing in accordance with the requirements indicated in PL11 platform railing.	Check and register whether there is a right-angle or parallel ramp/stairs. In case of a parallel ramp/stairs, check and write down the presence and dimensions of the horizontal incline and height of the railing.	
PL15	Cross slats RECOMMENDATION	Cross slats must be fastened on the ramp.	For piglets: a distance between the bars of 5 to 10 cm. The cross slats have: - A height between 2 and 4 cm; - A width between 1 and 5 cm.	Check and register the presence, distance, height and width of the cross slats.	
PL16	Ramp/stairs railing RECOMMENDATION	A railing must be on placed one side of the ramp/stairs with a height of at least 50 cm.		Check and register the presence and height of a railing on at least one side of the ramp/stairs.	
PL17	Ramp/stairs steps RECOMMENDATION	The bottom and top of the ramp may have a on-step/off-step that meets the following criteria: - For piglets: up to 10 cm - For porkers: up to 15 cm		Check and register the presence and distance of an on-step and off-step.	
Supplementary					
VA0104 A00	Number of animals	During the annual check, the number of BLk animal spaces and the number of animals present are logged for each animal category.	To this end, during the entry inspection, and in case of new construction and renovation, the different types of pens/sections of the farm will be measured by the BLk inspector. Based on this surface by type of pen/section, the BLk inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm. On the basis of the required surface area per animal category, as defined in the BLk criteria, the inspector then determines the number of BLk animal areas per animal category for the farm.	Write down the number of BLk animal spaces and the number of animals present. Based on measurements of the different pens/sections and the BLk surface area criteria per animal category.	
A00A	Number of BLk-certified sow and gilt areas	The number of BLk sow and gilt areas is:		Note down the number of BLk-certified sow and gilt areas.	
A00A1	Present number of sows and gilts	The number of sows and gilts present is:		Note down the number of sows and gilts present.	
A00B	Number of BLk-certified boar areas	The number of BLk boar spaces is:		Note down the number of BLk-certified boar areas.	

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A00B1	Present number of boars	The number of boars present is:		Make a note of the number of animals present.	
A00C	Number of BLK-certified porker areas	The number of BLK porker spaces is:		Note down the number of BLK-certified porker areas.	
A00C1	Present number of porkers	The number of porkers present is:		Note down the number of porkers present.	
A001D	Number of breeding areas	The number of breeding areas for sows and/or boars is:		Make a note of the number of breeding areas.	
A00D1	Present number of breeding pigs	The number of breeding animals present is:		Make a note of the number of breeding animals present.	
A00E	Number of BLK-certified piglet areas	The number of BLK-certified (weaned) piglets spaces is:		Note down the number of BLK-certified (weaned) piglets areas.	
A00E1	Present number of piglets	The number of (weaned) piglets is:		Note down the number of (weaned) piglets.	