

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
The specific standards for the quality label and the necessary inspections, insofar as not already provided for by IKB, are also included.					
No rights may be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.					
Exclusion criteria					
UIT01	Other activities	No other activities are performed at the company that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Activities that do not conform with with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals include, but are not limited to: - Keeping fur animals for production purposes; - Keeping laying hens in enriched cages (permitted in the Netherlands until 01-01-2021) and colony housing (successor to the enriched cage and the only permitted form of 'battery cage' in the Netherlands from 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 goose or duck liver; - Rearing endangered species, such as eel; - Keeping double-muscled breeds of meat cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections, such as Belgian Blues and Dutch Improved Red Pied - Other activities that conflict with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Verify whether the company performs any other activities that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Exclusion
UIT04	Unstunned slaughter	Slaughter without prior stunning is not permitted at the abattoir. All animals (Better Life and non-Better Life) slaughtered on site are stunned (made unconscious and insensible) before slaughter (bleeding out).	This applies to the entire slaughter site and to all animals (BLL and non-BLL-eligible) slaughtered at the site in question. A 'Stunned Slaughter' declaration has been registered with the Better Life label Foundation.	Verify whether all animals (BLL and non-BLL) at the slaughter site are stunned before being slaughtered.	Exclusion
General					
SK001a	Reporting obligation	The Better Life label participant is obliged to report without delay any developments that affect or may affect participation in BLL or the BLL certificate in writing to the Better Life label Foundation, Certification Body and the chain manager.	Developments include, but are not limited to: a. Cessation (temporary or otherwise) of the farm, regardless of the reason; b. Transfer of the company to a new legal entity/owner c. Change of Chamber of Commerce number and/or Chamber of Commerce branch number d. Loss of an accreditation or a certificate meaning the applicable BLL criteria can no longer be met e. Notification of a shortcoming observed by the authorities (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, NVWA) at the company in relation to legislation and regulations f. Shortcomings in relation to animal welfare or quality assurance reported to the company by a private party; g. Etc. The participant reports the developments to the Better Life foundation, Certification Body and the chain manager.	Verify that developments that affect participation in the Better Life Label scheme from the previous year have been reported to the BLLF, the Certification Body and the chain manager.	AR
SK001b	EC recognition number	The abattoir is recognised by the competent authority of the EU Member State concerned as part of the European Hygiene Regulations.	The abattoir can demonstrate recognition by stating an EC recognition number. The competent authority that issues EC recognition numbers in the Netherlands is the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) A list of NVWA-approved abattoirs can be found at www.nvwa.nl .	Verify whether the abattoir has an EC recognition number. Record the recognition number.	Suspension
SK001c	Better Life label Foundation contract	The abattoir has a contract with the Better Life label Foundation for the use of the collective 'Better Life' logo		Verify whether there is a contract (or application form) and whether it has been signed by both parties (the BLL abattoir and Better Life label Foundation).	Suspension

SK001d	Better Life label Foundation approval	The abattoir is approved by the Better Life label Foundation for the relevant scope (animal species and number of stars).	A letter of approval has been received from the Better Life label Foundation for the scope (animal species and number of stars) of: 1. The Better Life animals received 2. The Better Life products delivered	Verify whether there is a letter of approval for the relevant scope (animal species and number of stars) of the Better Life animals received and Better Life products delivered.	Suspension
SK001e	Cooperation	The abattoir is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the company to BLL inspectors who perform inspections on behalf of the Certification Body or the Better Life foundation.	If the inspectors are denied access to the company or no cooperation is given, the company will be excluded from participation, unless it can invoke force majeure.		Exclusion
SK001f	GFSI approved certificate	The company holds a valid GFSI approved certificate (e.g. BRC, IFS or FSSC 22000).	Each year, the company is inspected and certified under the GFSI criteria.	Verify whether there is a valid GFSI approved certificate (e.g. BRC, IFS or FSSC 22000). Record the date until which the certificate is valid.	Suspension
Quality manual					
SK002	Quality manual	Critical procedures are established in the quality manual.	As a minimum, the critical procedures describe: 1. method of registering and deregistering suppliers and buyers with the Better Life label Foundation 2. method of approving products and communication expressions 3. method of incoming inspection and registration 4. method of dealing with animals that do not recognisably comply with the Better Life label scheme at the inspection of incoming goods, including the corresponding number of stars 5. method of separation 6. method of dealing with seriously ill or injured animals 7. method of unloading 8. method of driving animals 9. method of stunning and killing animals 10. the procedure for failures in stunning and bleeding 11. an emergency plan to be followed when the slaughter line or stunning process is stopped (for any reason) (e.g. in the event of an abnormality/malfunction in the stunning/killing system) 12. method and frequency of cross-check/mass balance calculations 13. method of downgrading Better Life products As a minimum, a description of the following is provided: a. What needs to be done b. How and how often this is done c. Who is responsible d. Who carries it out	Verify whether the quality manual contains descriptions of the critical processes.	AR
SK002a	Assessment of procedures	Each quarter, in the presence of the Animal Welfare Officer among others, the operational activities and any problems/non-conformities from the previous quarter are reviewed and procedures modified where necessary.	The assessment includes the following activities as a minimum (based on a representative random sample and recorded camera footage): a. unloading of animals in the lairage, b. the race used by the animals from the lairage to the stunning chamber, c. stunning, including arrival at the stunning chamber, d. hanging of animals after stunning, and e. bleeding of animals. Recorded camera footage is used for this purpose.	Verify whether the specified activities and non-conformities/problems are reviewed quarterly and that the procedures are modified where necessary.	AR

Separation Better Life animals and veal					
SK003	Visible separation BLL/ non-BLL animals/ veal	Throughout the production process, the abattoir ensures visible, strict separation between BLL animals/meat of different Better Life scopes (1, 2 or 3-star calves/veal) and non-BLL calves/veal	Throughout the production process (from incoming inspection, waiting time in the lairage, slaughtering process, storage, cutting and shipping), work is carried out in accordance with the separation system laid down in the quality manual. Separation can be demonstrated by means of coloured labels, stickers, stamps, coloured crates, coloured crate bags, and so on.	Verify whether a separation system is present and whether there is strict separation during the entire production process. Record how the abattoir identifies and keeps Better Life calves/veal separate from non-BLL calves/veal. Record the identification procedure at the slaughter line, and during cutting and storage.	Suspension
SK004	Separation system	The abattoir has a separation system that ensures a visible, strict separation of animals/veal with different Better Life scopes (animals/veal with 1, 2 or 3 stars) and non-Better Life-eligible animals/veal throughout the production process (from the incoming inspection, waiting time in the lairage, slaughtering process, storage, cutting and shipping).	The separation system for Better Life animals/veal is laid down in the quality manual. This quality manual must include the entire procedure of separation and identification of different Better Life scopes (calf with 1, 2 or 3 stars) b and non-BLL eligible calves/veal from arrival up to and including cutting and shipping. Separation is made visible by means of different channels used for slaughter, coloured labels, stickers and stamps, and by marking the first and last carcass with a label or ribbon, and so on.	Verify whether a separation system is present.	RI
SK005	Downgrading of animals/veal	The method of downgrading animals/veal is described in a procedure.	The procedure must include the time and method (identification) of downgrading.	Verify whether a procedure is present. N/A No veal is downgraded.	AR
SK006	Recording of downgraded veal	The number of kilograms of downgraded veal is recorded.	It must be possible to trace the point in the production process at which downgrading took place. BLL products that are downgraded to a lower number of stars must be recorded as sales under the original number of stars, and as purchases under the lower, new number of stars.	Verify whether the downgrading of products is recorded. N/A No veal is downgraded.	RI
Cross-checking					
SK007	Number of animals supplied compared with the number of animals slaughtered	The number of BLL animals supplied is greater than or equal to the number of slaughtered BLL animals/carcasses/carcass parts leaving the plant.		Verify whether on at least three days in the previous year, the number of Better Life animals/veal supplied is greater than or equal to the number of animals slaughtered. Record the findings.	Suspension
SK008	Number of kg supplied compared with the number of kg slaughtered	The number of kilograms of BLL carcasses and/or veal supplied is greater than the number of kilograms of BLL carcasses/carcass parts leaving the plant.		Verify whether on at least three days in the previous year, the number of Better Life calf carcasses and/or veal supplied in kilograms is greater than or equal to the number of Better Life carcasses/veal in kilograms Record the findings.	Suspension
SK009	Testing traceability	The company tests traceability at least quarterly, including checking volumes based on a cross-check.		Verify whether traceability is tested and checked at least quarterly.	Suspension

SK010	Cross-check procedure	The abattoir has a procedure for cross-checking the quantity of BLL-eligible veal it has slaughtered/boned against the quantity of BLL-eligible veal it has supplied.	<p>A specified cross-check/mass balance is performed based on pieces (carcase, half-carcase or wholesale part) or kilograms. The cross-check/mass balance is performed separately for each scope (animal species and number of stars). For all variants of the product (purchase and sale item numbers), the meat proportion (including cutting losses, moisture loss, waste, loss due to cooking and/or degradation, and so on) is included in the cross-check/mass balance. Any non-Better Life ingredients that are added (e.g. marinade, batter, breadcrumbs, herbs, water, and so on) are not included in the cross-check/mass balance. BLL products that are downgraded to a lower number of stars must be included in the mass balance (booked as sales under the original number of stars, and as purchases under the lower, new number of stars).</p> <p>For example, the cross-check/mass balance is calculated as follows: $Y - X) / X * 100\%$ X = initial BLL stock + purchased BLL + BLL product downgraded to this number of stars Y = final BLL stock + sales of BLL + BLL product downgraded to fewer or no stars + any residual flows/lost BLL. The outcome of the cross-check/mass balance should be zero or negative.</p> <p>Frequency of the cross-check/mass balance: If production occurs more than once a month: conduct a cross-check/mass balance of the entire previous month once a month. If production occurs once a month or less: conduct a cross-check/mass balance of the entire previous quarter at least once a quarter.</p>	Benchmark what happens in practice against the procedure and record the findings.	AR
SK011	Explanation of differences identified during cross-check	The cross-check/mass balance must be reconciled and any discrepancies substantiated in writing. A reasonable waste percentage is taken into account during cross-checking.	Any differences identified during cross-checking must be explained. For example, as a result of production disruptions, products being unfit for consumption, and so on.	Verify the waste percentage and whether it has been defined, recorded and substantiated. Record the waste percentage and any anomalies.	AR
Personnel					
SK012	Vital Calf certificate	The abattoir holds a valid Vital Calf certificate (the Dutch veal sector's quality system).	The abattoir is inspected for compliance with Vital calf annually.	Verify based on a recent assessment letter/ valid Vital Calf certificate. Record the date until which the certificate is valid.	Suspension
SK013	Tasks and authorisations	A description of tasks, authorisations and responsibilities in relation to activities in the framework of the Better Life Label are established in the quality manual.		Verify whether the quality manual contains descriptions of the tasks, authorisations and responsibilities.	AR
SK014	Animal Welfare Officer	A minimum of one Animal Welfare Officer holding a valid certificate is present on the work floor with the live animals at the abattoir at all times during the slaughter process. The abattoir has an animal welfare officer.	<p>The slaughter process runs from unloading to killing/bleeding the animals.</p> <p>Only certificates issued by training institutes and which are recognised by the competent authority of the relevant European Member State under European Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals during slaughter are permitted. In the Netherlands, animal welfare official training given by SVO (www.svo.nl) is approved by the NVWA under EU Regulation 1099/2009. Bristol University's 'Animal Welfare Officer' certificate is also recognised. Bristol University can also run the course in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The 'Animal Welfare Official' certificate issued by an approved training institute must have been obtained before slaughtering for BLL commences.</p>	Verify that an Animal Welfare Officer holding a valid certificate is present on the work floor with the live animals at the abattoir during the slaughter process. Record the Animal Welfare Officer's name, the training course they took and the date it was completed.	Suspension

SK015	Authorisations Animal Welfare Officer	Animal Welfare Officers are responsible for safeguarding animal welfare and are authorised to intervene. If animal welfare is compromised or is at risk of being compromised, the Animal Welfare Officer intervenes.	For example, the Animal Welfare Officer is authorised to stop the slaughter line if it is no longer possible to safeguard animal welfare.	Verify whether the Animal Welfare Officer safeguards animal welfare and is authorised to intervene.	Suspension
SK016	Animal welfare training	Personnel that handle live animals (up to and including bleeding) have a certificate of professional competence with regards to animal welfare for abattoir personnel.	<p>The certificate is issued on completion of a training course approved by the competent authority under EU Regulation 1099/2009.</p> <p>In the Netherlands, a certificate in butchery from the SVO is approved by the NVWA under EU Regulation 1099/2009.</p> <p>In all cases, personnel working with live animals are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) handling and care of animals prior to restraint; (b) restraint of animals for stunning or killing; (c) stunning of animals; (d) assessing the effectiveness of stunning; (e) hooking up or hoisting live animals; (f) bleeding of live animals; 	Verify the training of personnel.	RI
SK017	Training records	Records of trained personnel are kept, including the training courses they have completed.	The training records include, as a minimum, all personnel who handle live animals.	Verify and record which training courses have been completed based on a random sample of personnel present at the abattoir and who handle live animals during the audit inspection.	AR
SK018	Refresher course	Personnel working with live animals attend a refresher course in animal welfare approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals at least once every three years.	<p>The refresher course covers the following subjects as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Animal behaviour, physiology and welfare. The course teaches personnel to interpret signals in animal behaviour or appearance to identify specific positive or negative causes of such behaviour or appearance. (b) Practical examples of actions performed by personnel and their effect on animals (in the abattoir and/or using video and photographic material, e.g. examining the carcass of a stressed calf). (C) Introduction to other parts of the supply chain, such as the farm the animals originate from and how they are transported. Preferably by means of a visit to the company/farm. <p>A refresher course is given by an external expert in calf welfare and health, and in stunning and killing calves.</p> <p>See the Better Life Label website for a list of approved courses.</p>	Verify whether personnel working with live animals have attended a refresher course in animal welfare recognised by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals at least once every three years. Record non-conformities.	RI
SK019	Procedures	The personnel working with live animals are familiar with the procedures for handling suffering animals, stunning and killing animals, driving and unloading.		Verify, based on interviews and benchmarked against the procedures in the quality manual, whether the personnel are familiar with the procedures.	RI

SK020	Personnel	Personnel are informed through training or instruction about the correct way of performing activities with Better Life label animals and/or products.	Personnel involved throughout the entire production process (such as purchasing and supplying animals, sales and communication on Better Life products) are familiar with the criteria for the Better Life label as well as the procedures and work instructions laid down in the quality manual for producing Better Life products.	Verify, based on interviews, whether the personnel are familiar with the criteria for the Better Life label as well as the procedures and work instructions laid down in the quality manual for producing Better Life products.	RI
SK021	Working with animals	All animals must be handled and treated calmly, quietly, confidently and with respect, to avoid unnecessary agitation and stress. It is prohibited to: (a) strike or kick the animals; (b) exert unnecessary pressure on a particularly sensitive area of the body. (c) to lift or pull the animals by their head, ears, feet or tail, (d) to use prods or other pointed objects; (e) to twist, crush or break the tails of animals or to squeeze the animal's eyes. (f) to cause any other avoidable form of pain, stress or suffering.		Verify, based on interviews and visual observation, whether the personnel work according to this criterion.	Suspension
SK022	Space in front of the animals	Animals are only driven when there is sufficient space in front of the animals.		Verify, based on interviews and visual observation whether the personnel work according to this criterion.	RI
SK023	Recording handling of animals	Work relating to the handling of animals is recorded on a daily basis.	This includes the regular inspections and maintenance of stunning and killing equipment and any measures that are taken in the event of problems.	Verify whether records are present and current. Record non-conformities.	AR
Camera surveillance					
SK024	Camera surveillance CCTV (CCTV)	Camera surveillance (CCTV) is installed and used to monitor the animals during the following processes: a. unloading of animals in the lairage, b. the race used by animals from the lairage to the stunning chamber, c. stunning, including arrival at the stunning chamber, d. hanging of animals after stunning, and e. bleeding of animals.	This footage can also be used by the abattoir itself, for example to evaluate their processes and train personnel, or for security purposes.	Verify and record whether camera surveillance is set up to monitor the specified processes	Suspension
SK024a	Video Content Analysis	Video Content Analysis (VCA) is used for the images recorded in the places specified in SK024.	Based on images, a VCA software system can identify and register abnormal patterns in human and animal behaviour (e.g. more or less activity). The software generates an alert list of the camera images with abnormal patterns. The Animal Welfare Officer uses this list to assess the processes. This criterion will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined, at the moment that a VCA system for calf abattoirs has been developed and when the Society for the Protection of Animals has established the necessary conditions in this criterion by means of a supplementary decision.	Verify whether VCA is used.	RECOMMENDATION After criterion takes effect: Suspension

SK025	Position of cameras	The cameras are positioned in such a way that there is always an unobstructed view of the processes being monitored.		Verify whether cameras are positioned in such a way that there is always an unobstructed view of the processes being monitored.	Suspension
SK026	Monitors	It must be possible to clearly see the images from all cameras at all times using one or more monitors.	The monitors may be placed in an area with authorised access.	Verify whether the images from all cameras are clearly visible on at least one monitor at all times.	Suspension
SK027	Recording footage	All camera footage of animals that undergo the specified processes (see SP018) are recorded.		Verify whether all camera footage of animals that undergo the specified processes are recorded.	Suspension
SK028	Recorded footage	The abattoir is obliged to: a. keep recorded camera footage for at least four weeks b. make the footage available for inspection by BLL inspectors who conduct audits on behalf of the Certification Body or on behalf of the Better Life label Foundation.		Verify whether the abattoir : a. keeps recorded camera footage for at least four weeks b. makes the footage available Verify a random sample of camera footage from the previous four weeks to ensure it complies with the BLL criteria.	Suspension
Registration					
SK029	Supplier registration	The suppliers of BLL eligible animals have been registered by the abattoir with the Better Life label Foundation.	The supplier is the business location where the BLL animal was last physically present before arriving at the abattoir.	Verify whether the animals supplied come from a supplier registered with the BLLF. Record, for at least three days of the previous year, the business locations from which the animals were supplied.	AR
SK030	BLL-certified companies	For each delivery, the abattoir verifies whether the animals and/or carcasses classed as BLL originate from BLL-certified farms.	The BLL register is used to verify certifications: https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/register/	Verify whether and how the abattoir verifies the certifications. Verify procedure and practice.	Suspension
SK031	BLL-eligibility	The BLL-eligibility of the animals supplied is shown by the Better Life label (including the species of animal and number of stars), e.g. BLL Calf 2 stars, stated on the documentation accompanying the animals delivered for slaughter.	Only 'BLL' or 'Better Life' is insufficient. The documentation also indicates whether there are animals among those delivered that do not (or no longer) meet the Better Life label criteria. If this is the case, the number of animals and their means of identification is stated.	Verify whether deliveries are accompanied by a statement of Better Life eligibility. Verify the documentation for three deliveries from the previous year.	AR
SK032	Incoming inspection	The abattoir verifies before or during receipt of the calves if the livestock farm supplying the animals is certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (species of animal and number of stars) at the time of delivery.	The BLL-eligibility of the animals supplied is shown by the Better Life label (including the species of animal and number of stars), e.g. BLL Calf 1,2,3 stars or ORGANIC (BLL 3 start), in the Food Chain Information or other delivery documentation accompanying the animals for slaughter. Only 'BLL' or 'Better Life' is insufficient. The abattoir also verifies whether the company supplying the animals is certified for the relevant Better Life scope (animal species and number of stars), based on the register on the Better Life label website. The procedure for incoming inspection is established in the quality manual. Incoming inspections relates to the inspections the abattoir performs during supply planning.	Verify whether and how the abattoir verifies the certifications of suppliers. Verify procedure and practice.	RI

SK033	Travel time	The abattoir verifies at receipt of the animals being slaughtered under the Better Life label if the maximum duration of transport of the animals has not exceeded 4 hours or 280 km.		Use the Routenet website to calculate the distance a 40 ton trailer travels between the calf farm and the abattoir. Verify using a random sample of transport documentation.	RI
SK034	BLL eligibility cannot be established	If the BLL eligibility of animals supplied cannot be established, these animals are downgraded to non-BLL.	The procedure for downgrading such animals is established in the quality manual.	Verify, in the form of an interview, whether the abattoir downgrades animals that are not recognisable as BLL-eligible to non-BLL. Verify whether the procedure for downgrading is established in the quality manual.	RI
Reception area					
SK035	Driving	The animals are only driven using flags. Sticks and electric cattle-prods are prohibited.	No electric cattle prods may be present at the company site.	Record which devices are used to drive the animals.	RI
SK036	Equipment and maintenance	The equipment (including materials used) in all areas where there are live animals (reception area, lairage, race to stunning chamber and stunning chamber) is designed and maintained in such a way as to avoid unnecessary stress and/or injury to/wounding of any animals present.	Examples include: - No smooth/slippery floors, - No sharp projections which might injure the animals.	Verify that the equipment, materials and maintenance facilities (reception area, lairage, race to stunning chamber and stunning chamber) are set up to prevent unnecessary stress or injury/wounding.	RI
SK037	Bright colours	In the abattoir, live animals may not be exposed to bright colours. Muted colours such as grey, green and blue are used.		Record the colours used.	RI
SK038	Diffused light	Live animals must not be exposed to bright light or direct sunlight, but to diffused light.	Bright light with an intensity of 220 lux or more must only be used during the slaughter inspection.	Record non-conformities.	RI
SK039	Visual inspection	There is a visual inspection of unloading at the reception area.		Verify on site, record non-conformities.	RI
SK040	Tailgate trailer	The tailgate of the trailer aligns with the unloading ramp.		Verify on site, record non-conformities.	RI
SK041	Unloading ramp	The unloading ramp is illuminated.		Verify on site, record non-conformities.	RI
SK042	Unloading ramp	The surface of the unloading ramp is rough.		Verify on site, record non-conformities.	RI
SK043	Side walls	The unloading ramp is bordered by side walls.		Verify on site, record non-conformities.	RI
SK044	Race to the stunning chamber	The race to the stunning chamber leads the animals from dark to light.		Record non-conformities.	RI
SK045	Waiting time	The calves must be slaughtered as soon as possible after unloading, but in any case within 2 hours.	A period of 30 minutes for the animals to settle may be taken into account. Animals must always be slaughtered on the day of arrival; they must not be left until the next day of slaughter. An exception is in cases of force majeure, e.g. a malfunction in the slaughter line or when animals for slaughter arrive too late at the abattoir (e.g. when slaughtering activities on that day have stopped) due to very bad weather conditions.	Verify the usual procedure in the manual. Verify that in practice the procedure corresponds to the usual procedure described in the manual. Verify that no animals are left until the next day of slaughter day, except in cases of force majeure.	AR

SK046	Killing seriously ill or injured animals as soon as possible	Seriously ill or injured animals that are no longer able to move independently, or can only move with difficulty, must be killed as soon as possible on the transport vehicle.		Verify whether seriously ill or injured animals that are no longer able to move independently, or can only move with difficulty, are killed as soon as possible on the transport vehicle. Record the method used to kill the animals.	RI
SK047	Area for animals requiring attention	In or adjacent to the reception area is a separate area where animals that require attention, identified by the official veterinary practitioner during the ante-mortem inspection, can be placed for additional inspection or, if necessary, killed immediately.		Verify whether there is an area, in or adjacent to the reception area, where animals that require attention can be killed immediately.	RI
Lairage					
SK048	Groups delivered to the abattoir	The animals are kept in the same, stable group as delivered to the abattoir.	Calves from different groups/ transport deliveries are not mixed. This is to prevent aggression in the groups.	Record non-conformities.	RI
SK049	Lairage	The animals in the lairage are sheltered from weather influences and temperature fluctuations.	The temperature in the lairage is maintained as much as possible between 5 °C en 25°C to avoid cold or heat stress. There is a protocol for extreme weather conditions that specifies at least that: - additional heating is provided at temperatures below 5 °C. - additional cooling is provided at temperatures above 25°C These areas are also sheltered from wind, draughts, precipitation, etc.	Verify whether the temperature in the lairage is maintained as much as possible between 5°C and 25°C. Verify whether there is a protocol for extreme weather conditions that specifies that additional heating is provided at temperatures below 5 oC and that additional cooling is provided at temperatures above 25°C.	RI
SK050	Walls	The walls in the lairage have a smooth finish.		Record non-conformities.	RI
SK051	Lairage	The calves can all lie down at the same time.		Record non-conformities.	RI
SK052	Surface area lairage	Each calf has enough space to lie down.	At least 2.5 m ² of space is available per animal.	Record non-conformities.	RI
SK053	Design of lairage	The design of the lairage must encourage the animals to move forward. It must have: 1. as few tight bends and/or dead ends as possible 2. no protrusions or obstacles 3. sufficient lighting		Verify whether the design of the lairage complies with the requirements.	RI
SK054	Dry place to lie	The calves have a dry place to lie and rest.		Verify whether each calf has enough space to lie in a dry place.	RI
SK055	Flooring	The surface of the flooring in the lairage is rough.	This rough surface prevents the animals from slipping.	Verify the flooring in the lairage	RI
SK056	Flooring	The flooring in the lairage slopes slightly to prevent the pooling of liquids.		Verify the lairage for signs of pooling of liquids. Record non-conformities.	RI
SK057	Manure and urine disposal	There is a drainage system in the lairage that enables urine and manure to be drained quickly.	A drainage system is, for example, a gutter next to the pens that drains rinsing water with manure and urine.	Verify whether there is a drainage system.	RI
SK058	Drinking water	The animals present have permanent access to fresh drinking water in the lairage.	(Not applicable in abattoirs that slaughter fewer than 10 livestock units per week.)	Record non-conformities.	RI

Race to the stunning chamber					
SK059	Round crowd pen. With new constructions and renovation projects, after 01-01-2015	After new constructions and renovation projects to the race that leads to the stunning chamber, the calves are guided to the stunning chamber using a round crowd pen/ single chute (that complies with the design of Temple Grandin).	Round crowd pen, in accordance with Temple Grandin: The groups of calves enter the race and gather in a round crowd pen before they are individually channelled into a single file chute. Turning the calves 180° creates the impression that they are returning to where they came from. This design utilises the natural instinct of grazing animals to turn around. The single file chute that follows the round crowd pen is curved. The calves can see ahead of them in the chute (at least 2 body lengths), but are shielded from disruptive elements such as people, activities or the stunning chamber further on in the abattoir, or other disruptive elements. The walls surrounding the race to the stunning chamber are solid and high enough to prevent the animals from looking through or over them.	After new constructions and renovation projects after 01-01-2015 to the race that leads to the stunning chamber, record whether a round crowd pen system is used that complies with the design of Temple Grandin.	Exclusion, if not realised after new constructions and renovation projects after 01-01-2015 to the race that leads to the stunning chamber.
SK063	Race to the stunning chamber	The animals in the race to the stunning chamber can follow each other.	This also applies to the bends in the race.	Verify the race. Record non-conformities.	RI
Stunning chamber					
SK065	Restraining	The animals are stunned upright in a restraining pen.	The restraining pen must be constructed so that: - the backward, forward, sideways and upward movement of the animal is restricted; - the slaughterman has unrestricted access to the forehead of the animal in the restraining pen.	Record non-conformities.	Warning
SK066	Prohibited methods of restraint or stunning	The following methods of restraint or stunning are prohibited: (a) suspending or hoisting conscious animals; (b) mechanical clamping or tying of the legs or feet of animals; (c) severing the spinal cord; (d) the use of electric currents to immobilise the animal that do not stun or kill it under controlled circumstances.	(d) in particular, any electric current application that does not span the brain.	Verify (e.g. in the form of an interview) that none of the prohibited methods of restraint or stunning described are used.	Suspension
SK067	Entrance to restraint pen	The calves are not admitted to the restraint pen until the person performing stunning is ready to stun the animal at once.		Record non-conformities.	RI
SK068	Stunning	The calves are properly stunned prior to slaughter.	Animals are only bled after they have been stunned. The loss of consciousness and sensibility is maintained until the death of the animal.	Record which stunning method is used.	Suspension
SK069	Stunning	The animals are stunned using one of the methods prescribed in EU Regulation 1099/2009, which makes the animals immediately unconscious and insensible.	The animals must be stunned using one of the following methods: 1. Penetrating captive bolt; 2. Firearm with free projectile; 3. Electrical stunning	Record which stunning method is used.	Suspension
SK070	Stunning equipment	Stunning equipment (including spare stunning equipment) is inspected for defects at least once a day.		Verify that the stunning equipment (including spare stunning equipment) is inspected on a daily basis.	RI
SK071	Inspection of stunning equipment	The daily inspection of stunning equipment is recorded. Any defects found (including on spare stunning equipment) are also recorded.	The daily inspection of stunning equipment (including spare stunning equipment) and any defects found are recorded.	Verify, based on the records, whether the stunning equipment (including spare stunning equipment) is inspected on a daily basis. Record any discrepancies between this year and the previous year.	AR

SK072	Spare stunning equipment	Spare operational stunning equipment is available at the slaughter site.	This equipment is readily available and accessible, for example for repeated stunning (see SK079).	Verify whether spare operational stunning equipment is available. Record the type of spare stunning equipment.	Suspension
SK073	Failed attempts to stun	Failed attempts to stun must be remedied at once by adequately stunning the animals concerned immediately.	Failed attempts to stun and the corrective measures taken are recorded. Repeated stunning should not be routinely required.	Verify based on an interview whether personnel are familiar with which corrective measures should be taken with failed attempts to stun . Verify whether the number of failed attempts to stun and the corrective measures taken are recorded. Record the number of failed attempts to stun and measures taken over the past year.	RI
SK075	Bleeding immediately after stunning	Animals are only stunned if they can be bled immediately afterwards.	The interval between stunning and bleeding must not exceed 60 seconds.	Verify the interval between stunning and bleeding. Record non-conformities.	RI
SK076	Emergency/calamity plan	An emergency/calamity plan is followed when the slaughter line or stunning attempt is stopped (for whatever reason).	The emergency/calamity describes at least: - how the animals already in the slaughter process or in the stunning chamber are removed from the slaughter line or the stunning chamber and are subsequently still stunned and bled; - how animals that have already been stunned are still bled.	Verify whether there is emergency/calamity plan and whether this plan describes how the animals already in the slaughter process are subsequently still stunned and bled and how animals that have already been stunned are still bled.	RI
Effectiveness of stunning					
SK077	Monitoring effectiveness of stunning	The effectiveness of stunning is monitored.	Effective stunning is the direct loss of consciousness and sensibility that is maintained until the death of the animal. An animal is effectively stunned if rhythmic breathing, the palpebral (elicited by touching the inner or outer canthus of the eye) and corneal (elicited by touching the cornea) reflexes, the righting reflex (back stretching) and vocalisation (mooring) are absent. At least 1 in 10 animals are assessed to verify the effectiveness of stunning, and in addition all animals that present a higher than average number of convulsions are inspected.	Verify whether the effectiveness of stunning is properly monitored as a critical procedure.	Suspension
SK078	Recording monitoring effectiveness of stunning	The monitoring of the effectiveness of stunning is recorded.		Verify whether the monitoring of the effectiveness of stunning is recorded.	AR
SK079	Repeated stunning	If there are signs that an animal is not effectively stunned, or no longer effectively stunned, the animal must be immediately stunned again.	One of the following methods is used to perform repeat stunning: 1. Penetrating captive bolt; 2. Electrical stunning using a minimum of 1.3 Ampère for at least 3 seconds.	Verify based on an interview whether personnel are familiar with which corrective measures should be taken with failed attempts to stun . Verify which repeat stunning method is used. Record the repeat stunning method	RI
Bleeding					
SK080	Bleeding	All animals are bled immediately after stunning, and the bleeding is sufficiently extensive and rapid to ensure the animal is dead afterwards.	The interval between stunning and bleeding must not exceed 60 seconds.	Verify the method used for bleeding and verify whether the interval between stunning and bleeding does not exceed 60 seconds	RI

SK081	Interval between bleeding and further processing	Further dressing or scalding only takes place after it has been established that the animal no longer shows any signs of life.	After sticking, the animal is left untouched for a minimum of 30 seconds until at least all brain stem reflexes (palpebral , corneal and righting reflex) have ceased.	Verify the interval between bleeding and further processing	RI
SK082	Individual bleeding	If one person performs stunning, hooking, hoisting and bleeding of the animals, that person must perform all these actions on one animal in succession before starting to perform them on another animal.		When one person performs stunning, hooking, hoisting and bleeding of the animals. Verify whether these actions are performed on one animal in succession before they are performed on another animal.	RI
SK083	Failed attempts to bleed	Failed attempts to bleed must be remedied at once by adequately bleeding the animals concerned immediately.	Failed attempts to bleed and the corrective measures taken are recorded.	Verify by interview whether personnel are familiar with which corrective measures should be taken with a failed attempt to bleed. Verify whether the number of failed attempts to bleed and the corrective measures taken are recorded. Record the number of failed attempts to bleed and measures taken over the past year.	RI
Slaughter data feedback					
SK084	Feedback of slaughter data to the veal farmer/supplier	The abattoir forwards the slaughter data for the animals supplied in a uniform manner to the veal farmer/supplier (specified per individual animal). Comes into force no later than 1-1-2022.	Feedback to the supplier can be provided in writing or electronically. At least the following inspection data must be provided, concerning the presence of the following slaughter defects: - pneumonia - pleurisy - liver disorders - rejection of (parts of) carcasses and - the average defects/rejections (e.g. % per delivered group) over all suppliers to the abattoir.	Verify, after 1-1-2022, whether copies with the past year's slaughter results are sent to the veal farmer / supplier.	AR
SK084a	Measuring meat colour	The meat colour is measured at the abattoir using a Minolta spectrophotometer.	The HB level is verified to see whether it is an average of 7 mmol/l. The results are communicated as feedback to the veal farmer. Groups with an average HB level lower than 7 mmol/l must not be marketed under the Better Life label scheme. The Society for the Protection of Animals has chosen to enforce this criterion at the same time as the reviewed 1 Star Better Life label criteria for veal calves.	Verify whether a Minolta spectrophotometer is used to determine if the HB level is above 7 mmol/l. Verify whether the results are communicated as feedback to the veal farmer.	After 1 star BLL criteria for veal calves enters into force: AR
Buyers of Better Life products					
SK085	BLL certified buyers	The abattoir verifies whether BLL carcasses and/or meat are being delivered to BLL certified companies or companies approved by the Better Life label Foundation.	Certifications can be verified via the BLL database: https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/deelname/databank or via copies of the letter of approval letters held by the abattoir's administration department, which are no more than three months old. Buyers may choose not to participate in the Better Life label scheme. In this case, the processor must be able to submit a declaration (email or letter) from the buyer indicating that it will not include the Better Life label in any of its communications.	Verify that all buyers are BLL certified and whether the abattoir verifies certifications/approvals. Record non-conformities. N/A declaration present.	RI

SK086	Buyer registration	The buyers of Better Life label products (according to the scope of the certificate, species of animal and number of stars) have been registered by the abattoir with the Better Life label Foundation.	The buyer is the business location to which the abattoir physically sends the BLL product.	Verify whether BLL products are transported to a buyer registered with the BLLF. Record the name and address details of the buyers included in a random sample from at least three days in the previous year.	AR
SK087	Verifying certified buyers	The abattoir regularly verifies at delivery that Better Life products are supplied to buyers who have been certified for the scope (species of animal and number of stars) or approved by the Better Life label Foundation.	<p>Certifications can be verified via the register on the Better Life label website: https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/deelname/databank or via copies of the letter of approval letters held by the abattoir's administration department, which are no more than three months old.</p> <p>Buyers may choose not to participate in the Better Life label scheme. In such cases, the abattoir is either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Required to downgrade the product to non-BLL and make no reference on the delivery note to the fact that the product complies with the Better Life label 2. Able to submit a declaration (email or letter) from the buyer indicating that it will not include the Better Life label in any of its communications. The abattoir also notifies the Better Life label Foundation of this in writing 	Verify that all buyers are BLL certified or approved. Verify whether the abattoir verifies the certifications/approvals. Record non-conformities. N/A declaration present.	RI
Supplied Better Life products					
SK088	BLL indication	The Better Life label product to be delivered is marked with the corresponding Better Life scope (species of animal and the number of stars) with the correct number of stars or a lower number of stars in the text or logo with business-to-business, or logo with consumer packaging.	Organic products with a 3-star Better Life label can be labelled as organic or ORG instead of 3 stars. This designation is indicated correctly on the packaging of the Better Life label Product, the delivery note (at line level) and the invoice.	Verify whether for at least three days in the previous year, the designation on the Better Life product is also stated on the accompanying documents.	AR
SK089	Approved BLL products	Only Better Life products approved by the Better Life label Foundation are supplied. For composite products, a product specification must be submitted to the Better Life label Foundation for approval.	Participants who have received the appropriate permission from the Better Life label Foundation may manufacture registered Better Life products directly and are not required to wait for an assessment by the Better Life label Foundation.	Verify that the Better Life label Foundation has given its approval for the supplied Better Life products. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
SK090	Delivery note	Deliveries of Better Life products are accompanied by delivery notes.	The delivery notes must contain at least the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name and address of the supplier - Name of the buyer - Quantity and amount in kilograms per delivered item - Delivery date - Whether the product (at line level) complies with the Better Life scope (animal species and number of stars). 	Verify that deliveries are accompanied by a complete delivery note. Verify the delivery notes from at least three deliveries in the past year.	AR

Logistics service providers for Better Life products					
SK091	Registration of logistics service providers 2a and 2c	The logistics service providers 2a and 2c of Better Life label products (according to the Better Life scope of the certificate, species of animal and number of stars) have been registered by the abattoir with the Better Life label Foundation.	<p>The processor commissions logistics service providers 2a to physically receive the BLL product (at the logistics company location). Logistics service providers do not become owners of the product, nor do they perform any processing. E.g.:external storage sites, cold stores, distribution centres, etc. They are the responsibility of the product owner.</p> <p>Logistics service providers 2b become the owner, receive the BLL product physically (at the company location), but do not perform any processing. E.g. order picking locations, wholesaler They must be registered as customers with the Better Life Foundation label (in accordance with SK093).</p> <p>Logistics service providers 2c become the owner of the BLL product but do not physically receive the BLL product (at the company location) and do not perform any processing. E.g. online stores, traders, etc. They must be registered as customers with the Better Life Foundation label (in accordance with SK093).</p>	Record the name and address details of the logistics service providers included in a random sample from at least three days in the previous year. Verify whether the logistics service provider is/will be the owner of the Better Life product. If so, verify whether the logistics service provider is registered with the BLLF as a customer	AR
Modifications					
SK092	New suppliers	Changes regarding Better Life label certified suppliers are (directly) reported to the Better Life label Foundation.	The Better Life label Foundation is notified of any changes to the list of certified suppliers before any Better Life-eligible products may be supplied by the new suppliers.	Verify whether changes have been communicated. Record non-conformities.	AR
SK093	New buyers	Changes regarding Better Life label certified buyers are (directly) reported to the Better Life label Foundation.	The Better Life label Foundation is notified of any changes to the list of certified buyers before any Better Life-eligible products may be sold to the new buyers .	Verify whether changes have been communicated. Record non-conformities.	AR
SK094	Modifications of communication expressions	The processor submits any new or amended communications that refer to the Better Life label to the Better Life label Foundation for approval.	Communications must comply with the Better Life label Foundation style guide. The current version of the style guide published on the BLL website prevails in all cases. Approval must be obtained before these communications are used. Participants who have received the appropriate permission from the Better Life label Foundation may use communications directly and are not required to wait for an assessment by the Better Life label Foundation.	Verify whether changes have been communicated. Record non-conformities.	AR