

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
No rights may 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 was 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 a modified internal layout (e.g. installing platforms, changes to cages and/or animal category, etc.). Criteria for new construction and renovation may be limited to the renewed or refurbished area of the farm. For example, if a housing system or a cage is changed, the daylight criteria need not be realised at the same time.					
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 farm performs any other activities that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Exclusion
UIT02	Genetically modified animals	There are no genetically modified animals on the farm.	A genetically modified animal has been adapted using gene technology. Genetic or gene technology is a form of biotechnology by which the DNA of an organism is directly adapted by introducing additional genes with the desired traits into an animal. Conventional methods by which the DNA of an organism is indirectly adapted, such as crossing, selecting and breeding of certain breeds are permitted.	Verify whether there are any genetically modified animals on the farm.	Exclusion
UIT03	Standard for mega-housing	The rabbits are not kept in a mega-house. A mega-house is considered to be one UBN (or EU registration number) with 330 NGE (Dutch size units) or more	To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the number of rabbits based on the Better Life operating capacity (see A06) must be multiplied by the following numbers of NGE per animal category: 1 doe (incl. kits up to weaning age) = 0.042 NGE 1 weaned meat rabbit or breeding rabbit = 0.004 NGE For example, the following location is classed as a mega-house within the Better Life label and excluded from participation: a rabbit farm with more than: 4459 does and 35675 weaned meat rabbits (4459 x 0.042 + 35675 x 0.004 = 330 NGE) The term 'mega-house' should not be confused with the concept of an industrial-scale 'factory farm'. A mega-barn concerns a single location, a factory farm refers to a livestock farm with animal houses in multiple locations. The farm as a whole has a very high number of animals. However, the number of animals kept at the various locations is comparable to the numbers kept on regular farms.	Verify whether the farm does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size. Record the number of NGEs (Dutch size units) present on the farm.	Exclusion
UIT04	Tiered house	Only the ground floor inside buildings is used to keep animals.	"Tiered houses", i.e. houses where animals are kept on several storeys/floors/tiers are excluded from participation in the Better Life label.	Verify whether the farm only keeps animals on the ground floor.	Exclusion
UIT05	Chain manager	The livestock farm is registered with a chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label foundation.	A chain manager is, for example, an abattoir, processor or intermediary that links various components of the supply chain, from the primary producer to the processor/seller as well as all existing interim links, and manages the farms affiliated to this supply chain.	Verify whether the livestock farm is registered with at least one chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label foundation. Record the name of the chain manager(s).	Exclusion

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UIT06	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the farm 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 farm or no cooperation is given, the farm will be excluded from participation, unless it can invoke force majeure. Examples of force majeure are outbreaks of an infectious animal disease for which the government has imposed a ban on visitors to the farm, or a death in the family. This is not an exhaustive list. In practice, the inspectors will determine whether a situation of force majeure applies.		Exclusion
General					
A01	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 Certification Body and the chain manager.	<p>Developments include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cessation (temporary or otherwise) of the farm, regardless of the reason. b. Transfer of the farm to a new legal entity/owner c. Amendment of UBN 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 farm in relation to legislation and regulations f. Shortcomings in relation to animal welfare or quality assurance reported to the farm by a private party g. Etc. <p>The participant reports the developments to the Better Life foundation, Certification Body and the chain manager.</p>	Verify whether developments that affect participation in the Better Life Label scheme from the previous year have been reported to the Better Life foundation, Certification Body and the chain manager.	AR
A02	Welfare legislation	The farm complies with the Animal Holders Decree (<i>Besluit houders van dieren</i>).	Foreign farms must comply with the locally applicable welfare regulations for rabbits.	Verify whether the farm complies with the Animals Act (<i>Wet Dieren</i>) or the locally applicable welfare regulations for rabbits.	Exclusion
A03	Supply chain quality system	The farm has an IKB (integrated chain management) certificate for rabbits.	The farm is audited annually for compliance with IKB rabbit and/or GGE criteria and has no non-conformities regarding the animal welfare criteria in the scheme. The rabbit farmer is audited annually by IKB. This is demonstrated by the presence of a recent assessment letter/valid IKB certificate. If no valid certificate is present (yet), the letter from the Certification Body shows that no non-conformities regarding the animal welfare criteria have been observed.	Verify whether an IKB rabbit certificate is present.	Suspension
A04	Knowledge & skills	The farmer can demonstrate that they and their personnel have the necessary knowledge and skills regarding animal health, animal welfare, animal behaviour and various livestock farming systems.	<p>The personnel employed at the farm must have at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Master of Animal Sciences in livestock farming or - 1 year of working experience in intensive rabbit farming, or - work under the responsibility of a person with these qualifications. <p>Diplomas and certificates are present at the farm. These qualifications are registered in an overview.</p>	Verify and record whether the overview of the knowledge and qualifications of the farmer and the personnel is present and whether it complies with the conditions. Record the last date the registration was updated.	AR

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A05	Pest control	Pest control and prevention at the farm is performed in accordance with the European standard CEN-EN 16636.	<p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Firstly, as many preventive measures as possible are taken to prevent the presence of undesirable animals (refer to the "Beschuit zonder muisjes" report of the Society for the Protection of Animals); - If a pest control and prevention company is used, that company must be demonstrably compliant with CEN-EN 16636. In the Netherlands, companies can obtain the Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagement (Pest management label) from the KPMB; - if the rabbit farmer uses rodenticides outside the buildings, they or their personnel must have valid proof of professional competence for "Knaagdierbeheersing op het agrarisch bedrijf" (KBA - Rodent control on agricultural farms). (KBA). KBA certification is issued by certification body Bureau Erkenningen. 	<p>Verify that undesirable animals are prevented access and, if necessary, controlled in accordance with the European standard CEN-EN 16636. If a pest control and prevention company is used, verify that this company is demonstrably compliant with CEN-EN 16636. For example, it is certified for the KPBM Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagement (pest control quality mark).</p> <p>If the rabbit farmer uses rodenticides outside the rabbit house, verify that they and/or their employees have valid proof of professional competence for rodent control on agricultural farms (Knaagdierbeheersing op het agrarisch bedrijf - KBA).</p>	AR
A06	Registration of does	Doe cards are complete, current and present.	<p>The information stated on the pen card includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of live born kits - The mortality rate and reason (if possible to determine) - Number of live does sent to slaughter - Injuries - Medication administered individually (other than medication for the entire group; type, dosage, duration) - Number of kits transferred to another doe - Mating date, kindling date etc. 	Verify whether the doe cards are complete, current and present.	AH, minor non-conformities. Suspension if not correctly maintained or absent.
A07	Registration of meat rabbits	Pen cards for the meat rabbits are complete, current, and present.	<p>The information stated on the pen card includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mortality rate and reason (if possible to determine) - Medication administered (type, dose, duration) - Injuries - Number of animals housed - Number of animals sent to slaughter (only for groups that have been sent to slaughter) 	Verify that the pen cards are complete, current and present.	AH, minor non-conformities. Suspension if not correctly maintained or absent.
Nutrition					
V01	Feed supplier	Only feed from a GMP+ certified feed supplier is provided. Only GMP+ certified feed is provided supplied by a GMP+ certified feed supplier.	<p>Feed produced on the farm complies with the conditions of the "On-farm production" GMP code.</p> <p>In feed is produced on neighbouring farms, the rabbit farmer must have ascertained that the supplier meets all the requirements of the "On-farm production" GMP code.</p> <p>Foreign farms may also provide feed from a supplier that is certified for an animal feed quality assurance system that is at least equivalent to GMP+.</p>	Verify this using feed receipts from the feed supplier. Also record the name and address of the GMP+ feed supplier.	AR
V02	Water supply	All animals have permanent access to sufficient, fresh drinking water of sufficient quality.	<p>This excludes kits in the nest box.</p> <p>For individual does or does with young, at least 1 drinking nipple per doe must be available.</p> <p>For does in a group, at least 2 drinking nipples for every 3 animals (0.66 per doe) must be available.</p> <p>For meat rabbits in a group, at least 3 drinking nipples for every 20 animals (0.15 per meat rabbit) must be available.</p> <p>The drinking nipples are evenly distributed along the length of the pen.</p>	Verify whether the animals in the house have ad lib access to drinking water. Record non-conformities.	Unannounced RI if doubts exist concerning a permanent supply of water.

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V02a	Water quality analysis	The drinking water quality is analysed 1x per year.	<p>The samples are taken at animal level and are analysed for chemical and bacterial composition in a NEN-ISOMECEC 17025 accredited laboratory.</p> <p>If the farm uses drinking water supplied by a water company, the chemical analysis may be replaced by a chemical analysis report from the drinking water company.</p> <p>No separate standards for rabbits have been established by the Dutch Animal Health Service (GD). The advice of the GD is to apply the same standards for calves to rabbits. The limits below apply to suitability as drinking water. The values in the 'good' column are considered safe for the species concerned. The values in the 'abnormal' column are considered to be a (serious) risk for the species concerned and do not meet this criterion.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Parameter:</th> <th>Good</th> <th>Abnormal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>pH:</td> <td>5 to 8</td> <td>< 4 & > 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ammonium (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0.5</td> <td>> 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrite (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0.1</td> <td>> 1,0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrate (mg/L):</td> <td>< 100</td> <td>> 200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chloride (mg/L):</td> <td>< 250</td> <td>> 2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sodium (mg/L):</td> <td>< 400</td> <td>> 800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iron (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0.2</td> <td>> 0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manganese (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0.5</td> <td>> 1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sulphate (mg/L):</td> <td>< 100</td> <td>> 250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hardness (oD):</td> <td>> 4 & < 15</td> <td>> 25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yeasts and moulds:</td> <td></td> <td>> 10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. coli (cfu/ml):</td> <td>< 1</td> <td>> 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total aerobic plate count (cfu/ml):</td> <td></td> <td>< 10,000 > 100,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Dutch Animal Health Service</p>	Parameter:	Good	Abnormal	pH:	5 to 8	< 4 & > 9	Ammonium (mg/L):	< 0.5	> 2	Nitrite (mg/L):	< 0.1	> 1,0	Nitrate (mg/L):	< 100	> 200	Chloride (mg/L):	< 250	> 2000	Sodium (mg/L):	< 400	> 800	Iron (mg/L):	< 0.2	> 0.5	Manganese (mg/L):	< 0.5	> 1.0	Sulphate (mg/L):	< 100	> 250	Hardness (oD):	> 4 & < 15	> 25	Yeasts and moulds:		> 10,000	E. coli (cfu/ml):	< 1	> 10	Total aerobic plate count (cfu/ml):		< 10,000 > 100,000	Verify whether the analyses have taken place.	AR
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V03	Feed supply	Sufficient feed should be provided based on nutritional and behavioural needs.	<p>This excludes kits in the nest box. Rabbits eat 30 to 40 times a day. As rabbits can overeat, providing ad lib access to pelleted feed concentrate is not recommended. Unlimited roughage should always be available. Automatic dispensers for pelleted feed should be available. Examples of roughage are straw and hay.</p>	Verify whether the animals in the house have unrestricted access to pelleted feed and roughage. Check the automatic feed dispensing settings. Record non-conformities.	Unannounced RI if doubts exist concerning a permanent supply of roughage.																																										
Management																																															
M01	Emergency facilities	If mechanical ventilation is used, a functioning alarm system and an emergency power generator must be available for the ventilation system.		Verify whether an alarm and functioning emergency power generator are present (test the generator) and that the air inlets automatically open in the event of a power failure, if the house is not naturally ventilated.	RI																																										
M01a	Emergency power generator	The emergency power generator must be tested every two months.	This is not compulsory for naturally ventilated houses. The two monthly tests of the emergency power generator must be registered.	Record the last three dates of the tests.	AR																																										
M02	Emergency plan	An emergency plan must be established for calamities.	An emergency plan must be displayed in a visible, easily accessible location near the entrance of the house and/or the farm. The plan describes the action to take in the event of an emergency and lists important telephone numbers. This list includes at least the telephone number of the fire services, the police, and a general practitioner. See the Better Life Label website for the BLL 'Emergency Plan' template.	Verify whether an emergency plan is present on the farm (in accordance with the BLL template).	AR																																										
M03	Property information card	A card showing the plan of the building(s) is present.		Verify whether a property information card is present.	First inspection: warning. Subsequently AR																																										
M03a	Property information card	The property information card is available immediately for the fire/emergency services in the event of an emergency (displayed visibly and outside the barn).	The property information card does not need to be displayed at the entrance to the site. It may be displayed at another location on the site.	Verify whether the property information card is available immediately.	Warning AR																																										

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M03b	Property information card	The property information card shows: floor plans buildings/houses, access doors, materials used, utilities, fire-extinguishing water point, locations with flammable materials/facilities, etc.		Verify whether the contents of the property information card comply with the requirements.	Warning AR
M04	Daily inspection of animals	The animals must be inspected at least twice a day.		Ask the rabbit farmer about the daily routine regarding the inspections of the animals. Record this routine.	Warning
M05	Mortality rate	Dead animals must be removed from the pens. This must be registered on the pen cards.		Verify whether the pen cards are maintained properly and are current and that no dead animals are in the house. Record non-conformities.	RI if incorrectly registered. Suspension if a high percentage of animals that have been dead for more than a day are found in the pens.
M06	BLL and non-BLL	All rabbits on the farm (UBN) comply with the Better Life label criteria.	During the first two years of participation, non-BLL animals are permitted on the farm provided BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits are kept strictly separate. BLL and non-BLL animals kept on the same farm must be distinguishable by using a different colour buck for BLL animals, for example black, spotted or with black ear tips The pen cards indicate how the animals (BLL/non-BLL) are kept. The number of BLL animals delivered to slaughter corresponds to the capacity of the BLL housing. N/A with 100% BLL animals.	Verify whether there are no rabbits present on the farm that are not BLL-eligible. If non-BLL animals are present: perform a physical inspection to verify that BLL and non-BLL animals are correctly separated, interview the farmer, check the litter cards, and check a random sample of at least 1 rearing cycle from the previous year.	RI AR if the litter cards are incorrect Exclusion if BLL and non-BLL animals are not separated correctly
M07	Fire safety	For the purposes of fire safety, an inspection of the electrical installations on the farm must be performed at least once every five years.	Any new installation must be tested in accordance with NEN 1010 before operation. A reinspection must be carried out every five years in accordance with NEN 3140. On foreign farms, the certification of new installations, and reinspection every five years, must be performed in accordance with the national standard based on HD-IEC 60364 and NEN-EN 50110, respectively. NEN-EN 50110.	Verify whether there is a certificate of the last inspection and record the date.	AR
M07a	Fire detection	Any technical areas, if present, must be equipped with a fire detection system. This system also sends alerts to the farmer's telephone.		Verify whether there are any technical areas. If technical areas are present verify whether there is a fire detection system that sends alerts to the farmer's telephone.	1 st year warning 2 nd year AR
M07b	Separate storage area for (heat generating) vehicles/equipment	There is a separate storage area for (heat generating) vehicles and equipment. This must be facilitated in new constructions and renovation projects, but by the latest on 1 January 2035.		Verify whether there are separate storage areas for (heat-generating) vehicles and equipment in new constructions and renovation projects.	HI Not applicable with existing houses. Exclusion for houses that were new or have been renovated after 01-01-2019 and do not comply with this standard.
M07c	Water supply for extinguishing fires	Sufficient water for extinguishing fires is available at the farm.	On farms with no water available for extinguishing fires (or insufficient water), additional water sources (source / well / pond / bioswale) must be installed in consultation with the municipality / fire services/ safety region.	Verify whether the municipality / fire service/ safety region has investigated the availability of sufficient water for extinguishing fires or whether an additional source (drilled well / pond / bioswale) is being built.	AR

Animal health

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
G01	Assured veterinary practitioner	The health of the animals is monitored by an assured, certified veterinary practitioner with whom the rabbit farmer has entered into a bilateral agreement.	<p>The veterinary practitioner may contract other specialists/veterinary practitioners to provide full cover, for example as a replacement during illness or holidays</p> <p>The veterinary practitioner is specialised in small mammal medicine. This can be demonstrated by at least one year of experience with health care monitoring at a rabbit farm.</p> <p>The veterinary practitioner is certified for a livestock sector (cattle, poultry, pigs, or veal calves). Assured veterinary practitioners are listed in the register of Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation (Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts ((for quality control of the services provided by veterinarians in the Netherlands)), see www.geborgdedierenarts.nl.</p>	Verify whether there is a bilateral agreement with an assured veterinary practitioner. Record the name of the veterinary practitioner.	AR
G02	Farm health plan	The rabbit farmer has established an up-to-date farm health plan (FHP) with the GVP (good animal husbandry practices) certified rabbit veterinary practitioner with whom the farmer has an agreement.	The plan established by the rabbit farmer in cooperation with the veterinary practitioner, and any farm advisers, describes the farm treatment plan, as well as which other measures are taken by the farm to limit the use of antibiotics. The farm specific health plan is evaluated by the farmer and the veterinary practitioner at least once per year and, if necessary, updated.	Verify whether there is a farm health plan that complies with or exceeds the criteria in the IKB Rabbit-model farm health plan.	AR
G03	Visits by veterinary practitioner	The veterinary practitioner visits the farm at least once every six weeks.		Record the visiting frequency.	AR
G04	Inseminations	Inseminations must be performed by trained persons in order to prevent internal damage.	The farmer registers the name of the person who performs the inseminations and how they have been trained.	Record whether inseminations are performed by trained persons.	First year: warning, subsequent years: AR
G05	Hormones	The use of hormones is not permitted.	Two exceptions are described in G06 and G06a.	Verify whether hormones are present in the medicine records and among the medication. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
G06	Hormones ovulation	Only the use of a GnRH analogue is permitted for the purposes of inducing ovulation.		Verify whether hormones are present in the medicine records and among the medication. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
G06a	Labour-inducing hormones	Only oxytocin is permitted for inducing labour. The use of oxytocin is only permitted in the event of a veterinary emergency.		Verify whether oxytocin is present in the medication records and among the medication. If oxytocin has been used, verify whether it was justified due to a veterinary emergency. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
G07	Vaccination	Does and bucks (breeding age and older) are vaccinated by the veterinary practitioner against myxomatosis and viral haemorrhagic disease according to a set vaccination schedule.		Verify whether rabbits are vaccinated according to a set vaccination schedule.	AR
G08	Euthanising untreatable animals	If an animal cannot be treated, it must be euthanised in a humane way as prescribed by the veterinary practitioner.	<p>An approved humane method of killing leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal.</p> <p>Because of the risk of failure, euthanasia by hitting the neck or head of the animal is not permitted.</p> <p>The veterinary practitioner describes in the farm health plan, for example, how seriously injured or sick animals can be euthanised humanely on the farm as soon as possible in a way other than hitting the neck or head of the animal.</p>	Record how sick animals are euthanised.	AR
G08a	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals in emergency situations	Agreements have been made with the veterinary practitioner for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously injured or sick animals in emergency situations.	These agreements are registered in the farm health plan or in a separate annex to the agreement with the veterinary practitioner.	Verify whether the agreement with the veterinary practitioner contains agreements for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously injured or sick animals (e.g. in emergency situations).	AR

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G09	Kit mortality rate	The average mortality rate of kits must not exceed 10%.	This takes into account kits present from birth (live births) to weaning Consult the litter cards.	Record the mortality rate in % using the litter cards.	First year: action plan, second year: independent expert
G10	Meat rabbit mortality rate	The average mortality rate of meat rabbits must not exceed 10%.	This takes into account kits from weaning until transport to slaughter. Consult the litter card and details of the abattoir (number of rabbits delivered).	Record the mortality rate in % using the litter cards.	First year: action plan, second year: independent expert
G11	Doe mortality rate	The average mortality rate of does must not exceed 5%.	Does are included in the count after their first insemination. Mortality that is included in the count are instances of death on the farm (e.g. as a result of illness) Consult the pen cards.	Record the mortality rate in % based on the number of housed does and the number of does removed from the farm.	First year: action plan, second year: independent expert
G12	Replacement percentage	The annual replacement percentage of does must not exceed 100%.	The replacement percentage is calculated using the number of does removed from the farm (excluding animals that died at the farm) divided by the number of does housed multiplied by 100.	Calculate and record the replacement percentage.	Warning
G13	Mortality rate action plan	If the farm exceeds the permitted percentage in a year, an action plan must be established in cooperation with the contracted veterinary practitioner.		Verify, if the percentage is too high, whether last year's percentage also exceeded the permitted percentage. If this is the case, verify whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR
G13a	Action plan for mortality rate and replacement percentage in year 2 and onwards	If the farm is still above the permitted percentage one year after the action plan was established, an independent certified veterinary practitioner must be consulted.	An independent veterinary expert: - has no connection with the practice of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner. - has practical experience with rabbits - is certified for a livestock sector (cattle, poultry, pigs or veal calves). Assured veterinary practitioners are listed in the register of Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation (Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts ((for quality control of the services provided by veterinarians in the Netherlands)), see www.geborgdedierenarts.nl .	Verify, if the percentage is too high, whether last year's percentage also exceeded the permitted percentage. If this is the case, verify whether an independent veterinary expert is being consulted.	AR
G14	Discuss slaughter findings	The slaughter findings of the meat rabbits are discussed with the contracted veterinary practitioner at least once every 12 months.	The abattoir must provide the rabbit farmer with at least the following information: - emaciated animals - rejected (parts of) carcasses. Together with the contracted veterinary practitioner, the rabbit farmer incorporates this information in the farm health plan in order to improve animal health and further reduce medication use, where necessary.	Verify whether the administration records contain a report signed by the veterinary practitioner at least once every 12 months regarding the slaughter findings.	AR
Housing for all Better Life Label rabbits					
H01	Climate	The climate in the housing must be stable and good.	The air in the housing must not be too dusty and there must be no strong odour of ammonia. During the inspection, the inspector should not experience any irritation to their respiratory tract or eyes.	Record whether there is an abnormal climate in the house.	Warning
H02	Daylight RECOMMENDATION	There is daylight in the housing, but the animals are not exposed to direct sunlight.	The Society for the Protection of Animals is still finalising this criterion. Until the specific interpretation is known, no sanction will be imposed.	Verify whether there is daylight in the housing, but the animals are not exposed to direct sunlight.	This is a recommendation. No sanction will be imposed (yet) if this criterion is not met.
H03	Light intensity	The minimum light intensity should be at least 10 Lux.	This is only during the (day) light period.	Record the light intensity at animal level.	RI
H04	Day-night rhythm	There must be a clear day-night rhythm lighting schedule with light, dark and dusk periods.	There is a dark period of at least eight consecutive hours and a light period of at least eight consecutive hours, each preceded by a dusk transition of at least 30 minutes per period of 24 hours.	Record the lighting schedule.	Suspension if < eight hours dark or light periods.
H05	Gnawing blocks	The animals have permanent access to gnawing blocks.	This excludes kits in the nest box. Gnawing blocks are positioned at a height that is easily accessible for the animals. At least one gnawing block is provided per doe and 4 per 30 meat rabbits. This converts to 0.20 and 0.13 gnawing blocks per rabbit.	Verify whether all rabbits, except kits in the nest box, have permanent access to gnawing blocks. Record non-conformities.	RI

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H06	Floor	The floor of the available living surface area of the pens comprises at least 75% plastic.	This can be plastic (comfort) mats/slatted floor. The available living surface area is the floor area of the cage, the pen and the platform.	Verify whether the floor is partially or completely comprised of plastic. Record non-conformities.	RI
H06a	Floor for rearing and individual housing	The floor in housing for breeding rabbits and does in individual housing may comprise a plastic mat of 1000 cm ² per animal instead of 75% plastic until 2027.		Verify whether the floor for breeding rabbits and does comprises a plastic mat of at least 1000 cm ² .	RI
H07	Cleanliness of rabbits	The floor must be kept clean enough to avoid the rabbits becoming soiled with droppings.		Verify the cleanliness of the pen. Record the findings.	RI
Does raised for breeding					
O01	Housing (surface area)	The surface area available for rabbits being raised for breeding must be at least 2000 cm ² .		Measure the surface area of the cages. Record non-conformities.	RI
O02	Cage height	At least 80% of the surface area of the cage must be 40 cm or higher.		Measure the height of the cages. Record non-conformities.	RI
O03	Age of sexual maturity	The minimum age of the breeding rabbit at the 1st mating or artificial insemination is 15 weeks.		Verify using the pen cards. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
Individual housing for does					
I01	Individual housing	Individual housing for does is only permitted up to 6 days before kindling and no more than 23 days after kindling.		Record the period of individual housing.	Exclusion
I02	Nesting behaviour	Pregnant does must have a continuous supply of nesting material available from at least three days before kindling.	Examples of nesting material are straw, wood fibres and flax.	Verify whether sufficient straw is provided.	RI
I03	Individual housing surface area	The usable surface area for the doe must be at least 4,500 cm ² per animal. In the case of new construction or renovation, but no later than 1-1-2027, the usable surface area for the does must be at least 6000 cm ² .	This includes the nest box. The surface area of the platform is included in the calculation of the available space with a maximum of 40% of the surface area.	Verify whether the housing complies with the standards Record non-conformities.	Exclusion Not applicable with existing houses. Exclusion for houses that were new or have been renovated after 01-01-2019 and do not comply with this standard.
I04	Nest box	A nest box with an area of at least 950 cm ² must fitted directly on or in the individual cage of the does.		Record the surface area of the nest box.	Suspension
I05	Nesting material	The nest box must be filled with suitable dry nesting material.	Examples of suitable nesting material are straw and wood fibre.	Record the use of nesting material.	HI Suspension if nest box is dirty.
I06	Cage height	The height of the cage must be at least 60 cm.	The height of the cage is at least 60 cm over at least 950 cm ² of the cage surface area and the distance between the floor and the ceiling must be unobstructed (i.e., not blocked by any obstacles).	Measure the height of the cages. Record non-conformities.	RI
I07	Platform	The pen contains a platform where the doe can sit and shelter under.	The surface of the platform must be at least 900 cm ² for individually housed does with and without kits. The platform is large enough to allow the doe to sit on it–The shortest side of the platform is at least 20 cm. The space above and below the platform is 23 - 25 cm.	Verify whether the housing meets the standard, with the exception of the cages of does raised for breeding. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
Group housing for does					
GH01	Group housing	The does with their kits are kept in groups from at least 23 days after kindling.		Verify whether does have been kept in groups from at least 23 days after kindling.	Suspension
GH01a	Group size	Does should be kept in groups of at least three but maximum eight animals.		Verify the number of does in the groups.	RI
GH01b	Non-pregnant and aggressive does	Does that do not become pregnant, and does with kits who are too aggressive to keep in groups, may be housed individually.	The percentage of does that are housed individually because the animal 1) has not become pregnant or 2) is too aggressive to house in a group, is maximum 5% of the number of does. This does not include pregnant does that are housed individually . The reason for individual housing is recorded, for example on the doe card.	Verify the percentage of non-pregnant and aggressive does with kits that are housed individually.	RI

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
GH02	Stable groups	Does are kept in stable groups.	Exceptions for mixing animals are: - Aggression within the group - A doe that fails to become pregnant	Verify using the litter cards whether the does have been mixed, and if so, for what reason.	Suspension
GH02a	Group housing management plan	The farmer has a management plan for dealing with aggression in groups of does.	This management plan describes the measures taken in the event of aggressive behaviour in groups of does.	Verify whether the farmer has a management plan for dealing with aggression in groups of does.	AR
GH03	Housing (surface area)	The usable surface area for the does in the group must be at least 6500 cm ² per animal.	The surface area of the platform is included in the calculation of the available space with a maximum of 40% of the surface area.	Calculate the area using the living area and the number of does. Record the number of animals per m ² .	Suspension
GH04	Housing length	The pen must be at least 1.80 m long on one side.	This length allows the rabbit to make three consecutive jumps.	Measure the length of the pen. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
GH05	Sheltering	The does must be able to escape the group and hide.	At least two tunnels (e.g. PVC pipe), and at least two sheltering walls or partitions per five does. This converts to at least 0.4 tunnel and 0.4 wall per doe. The tunnels must be at least 160 - 200 mm in diameter and 30 - 60 cm long. The sheltering walls must be at least 20 cm high and 30 - 60 cm long. The animals must always have at least two escape routes from the shelter.	Verify whether sufficient places to escape the group and shelter are provided in group pens. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
GH06	Housing height	The pen must have an open top to allow the rabbits to stand up fully stretched.	If there is an edge to prevent rabbits from escaping, it must not be wider than 10 cm wide. Exception for breeding does.	Verify whether the pen has an open top. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
GH07	Platform	The pen contains a platform where the does can sit and shelter under.	The surface of the platform is at least 900 cm ² per doe. The platform is large enough to allow a doe to sit on it. The shortest side of the platform is at least 20 cm. The space below the platform is 23 - 25 cm.	Verify whether the housing complies with the standards Record non-conformities.	Suspension
Kits					
J01	Weaning age	Kits are weaned at least 35 days of age.		Record the weaning age and any non-conformities.	Suspension
J02	Kit inspection	It must be easy for the farmer to inspect and handle the kits.		Record non-conformities.	RI
J03	Kit cleanliness	The kits look clean.	Clean means free from traces of droppings and moisture.	Verify whether the kits are clean. Record non-conformities.	RI
Meat rabbits					
VK01	Group housing	Meat rabbits are kept in group housing. The group consists of at least 20 animals.		Verify whether the meat rabbits are housed in groups.	Exclusion
VK02	Stable groups	Meat rabbits are kept in stable groups and are not mixed with unfamiliar animals.	Groups of meat rabbits are formed as far as possible from adjacent pens.	Verify using the litter cards whether the meat rabbits have been mixed.	Suspension
VK03	Surface area	The group housing has an area of at least 900 cm ² per animal when the group is formed.		Verify that the specified dimensions are complied with. Record the findings briefly.	Suspension
VK04	Housing length	The pen must be at least 1.80 m long on one side.		Measure the length of the pen. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
VK05	Sheltering	The meat rabbits must be able to escape the group and hide.	At least two tunnels (e.g. PVC pipe), and at least two sheltering walls or partitions per 40 meat rabbits. The tunnels must be 160 - 200 mm in diameter and 30 - 60 cm long. This converts to at least 0.4 tunnel and 0.4 wall per meat rabbit. The sheltering walls must be at least 20 cm high and 30 - 60 cm long. The animals must always have at least two escape routes from the shelter.	Verify whether sufficient places to escape the group and shelter are provided. Record the findings briefly.	Suspension
VK06	Housing height	The pen must have an open top to allow the rabbits to stand up fully stretched.	If there is an edge to prevent rabbits from escaping, it must not be wider than 10 cm wide. Exception for breeding does.	Verify whether the pen has an open top. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
VK07	Platform	The pen contains a platform where the rabbit can sit and shelter under.	The surface of the platform is at least 5400 cm ² per 40 animals, i.e. 135 cm ² per meat rabbit. The platform is large enough to allow a rabbit to sit on it. The shortest side of the platform is at least 20 cm. The space below the platform is 23 - 25 cm.	Verify whether the housing complies with the standards Record non-conformities.	Suspension
VK08	Age at slaughter	The rabbits are at least 10 weeks old at slaughter.		Verify the age at which the animals left the farm using delivery notes. Record the housing date and age and the slaughter date and age for the last three cycles.	Exclusion

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
Transport					
T01	Transport	The animals are loaded into crates with large loading openings.	Loading openings are large enough to allow the rabbits to be loaded without injury.	Verify whether the loading crates comply.	Warning
T02	Duration of transport	A maximum of 300 kilometres or four hours. This is measured from the moment the trailer leaves the farm.		Record the address of the abattoir for an indication of the duration of transport.	Suspension
Supplementary					
A00	Number of BLL animal places	During the annual inspection, the number of BLL animal places and the number of animals present are registered. One of the reasons is to benchmark the number against the norm for mega-houses.	To do so, during the entry audit, and with new construction and renovation, the BLL inspector will measure the various types of pens/sections at the farm. The BLL inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm based on this area per type of pen/section. The inspector then determines the total number of BLL animal places per animal category for the farm based on the required area per animal category, as defined in the BLL criteria.	Record the total number of BLL animal places. One of the reasons is to establish whether the farm complies with the norm for mega-houses. Based on measurements of the various pens/sections and the BLL surface area criteria per animal category, see below.	
A00A	Number of BLL doe places	The number of BLL doe places at the farm is:	No separate place is included for kits up to weaning age	Record the number of BLL doe places at the farm.	
A00A1	Number of BLL does present	The number of BLL does at the farm is:	No separate place is included for kits up to weaning age	Record the number of BLL does at the farm.	
A00B	Number of BLL meat rabbits and breeding rabbits	The number of BLL places for (weaned) meat rabbit places and does being raised for breeding is:		Record the number of BLL places for (weaned) meat rabbit places and does being raised for breeding at the farm.	
A00B1	Number of BLL meat rabbits and breeding rabbits present	The number of BLL (weaned) meat rabbits and does being raised for breeding present at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL (weaned) meat rabbits and does being raised for breeding present at the farm.	