Following the conclusive formal adoption of the criteria stated above, the supplementary decisions and interpretations detailed below have been drafted in conjunction with the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. The decisions/interpretations have not yet been formally adopted and are subject to change before being included in the established BLL criteria. In anticipation thereof, certification may still be carried out on			
Date	**Norm no. or topic**	**Question**	**Supplementary decision or interpretation**
24-11-17	Processor supplementary BLL certificate	When must a BLL abattoir also hold a BLL certificate for its meat cutting plant/processor?	This depends on the BLL activities that are carried out at the location in question. If the location only slaughters the BLL animals and does not cut the meat, and thus supplies them as BLL carcasses or carcass parts, a BLL certificate for the abattoir alone is sufficient. A location is a processor as well as an abattoir if the BLL carcasses and carcass parts are processed further at the location, including boning, cutting and processing into meat parts or making into composite products. In this case, the location must be certified as a BLL processor as well as a BLL abattoir.
11-07-18	SV017 Animal Welfare Officer	From the moment the pigs are unloaded, an Animal Welfare Officer must be present. This particular constraint exists because, in order to ensure animal welfare and meat quality, the BLL prefers pigs to be unloaded at the abattoir several hours before slaughter so that they are calm before slaughter. As such, it is not possible for an AWO to remain with the animals continuously.	Supervision is required in particular while the pigs are unloaded, herded and stunned. Therefore, an Animal Welfare Officer must be present during unloading, herding and stunning. Supervision by the AWO is only necessary when the abattoir personnel are working with the animals. The AWO does not need to remain with the animals in the abattoir when the animals are resting and no work is being carried out involving the animals. It is not, however, the intention for the pigs to remain in the waiting area at the abattoir until the next day of slaughter (except in exceptional circumstances). See BLL criterion 'SV040a Waiting period: Animals must always be slaughtered on the day of arrival; pigs may not remain until the next day of slaughter.'

16-10-18	SV020 Animal welfare training	Can the BLL criterion that all abattoir personnel must be trained before they start working with live animals be reviewed? In practice, this leads to problems: - Training is provided by SVO but only at certain times of the year - We want new personnel to work first so that it becomes clear to them whether or not the work suits them before there is any investment in external training - Without practical experience in an abattoir, the SVO certificate is difficult to obtain - Under Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, the NVWA (Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) will issue approval for a maximum of three months	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to allow personnel who work with live animals (unloading to bleeding) to temporarily work without a certificate under certain conditions. Out of the total number of personnel working with live animals at any given time in an abattoir, the maximum number working without a certificate of competence for slaughter operations is one person OR 10%, provided the following conditions are satisfied: 1. These personnel must be enrolled on a training course to obtain a certificate of competence for slaughter operations that has been approved by the competent authority within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009 before they start working with live animals. 2. The competent authority (the NVWA in the Netherlands) has authorised personnel who are not yet in possession of a certificate of competence to work with live animals. One of way of demonstrating this is by means of a 'provisional certificate' valid for a maximum of three months. 3. Such personnel may work with live animals without a certificate of competence for slaughter operations for a maximum of three months. 4. Before they can begin working with live animals, the personnel must undergo internal training to provide them with sufficient knowledge of the internal work instructions for working with live animals. This must be recorded in the training register. 5. The personnel must be under the direct and continuous supervision of a member of staff who is in possession of the requisite certificate of competence.
13-10-20	SV053 and SV072 Passage to stunning chamber and access to stunning chamber (gas stunning)	The criteria state that the passage and access to the stunning chamber must be wide enough to allow at least 2 pigs to walk side by side. Can an exception be made just before the CO2 stunning to be able to dose the group size better?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that just before the pigs enter the CO2 stunning room as a group, the number of pigs may be dosed using a gate. The pigs can walk through the gate one after the other. It is only at this point of the passage to the stunning chamber that there is no requirement for 2 pigs to walk side by side. A gate may not be used to separate individual pigs from the group. The pigs should still be stunned in a group at all times.
2-09-21	SV056, SV068 and SV069 Stunning equipment, daily inspection and calibration of gas stunning measuring equipment	The BLL Abattoir Pigs criteria state that the measuring equipment of gas stunning equipment must be calibrated on a daily basis according to the manufacturer's recommendations (SV069). In addition, the stunning equipment (including back-up stunning equipment) must be inspected for deviations (SV056) at least once a day and must be checked daily to ensure that sufficient gas is being administered to stun all pigs in the stunning room (SV068). What is the difference between calibration on a daily basis and a daily inspection? In addition, manufacturers of gas stunning equipment advise performing calibration less frequently. Should calibration be performed on a daily basis?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals understands calibration to mean comparing the measuring equipment with the reference standard to establish any deviations in the measuring equipment. Calibration ensures that the correct concentrations of gas are measured and maintained. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has indicated that calibration should be performed according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Calibration should be performed at least twice a year. This is different to the daily inspection. The purpose of the daily inspection, before gas stunning commences, is to ensure that sufficient gas is being administered to stun all pigs in the stunning room, and therefore to verify that the set concentration of gas is being reached. A daily check of the functioning of the alarm is also necessary. This alarm should activate if the target concentration of gas is not, or no longer, being reached.

21-06-19	SV062 Electrical stunning	The guideline states that when carrying out electrical stunning, the current must be applied for a minimum of three seconds. Does this apply to stunning at the head only? Or does it also apply to head/chest stunning? For head/chest stunning, a current is applied to the head for approximately 2.25 seconds, and to the chest for approximately 1.4 seconds – does this adequately stun the pigs?	The main priority is for pigs to be adequately stunned after electrical or other stunning. This may be achieved in less than three seconds if the method enables pigs to be adequately stunned. This can be demonstrated on the basis of the operating instructions provided by the manufacturer/supplier of the stunning equipment. If the manufacturer/supplier specifies in its guidelines that stunning for a period of less than three seconds leads to adequately stunned pigs, the guidelines also satisfy the Better Life criterion. This is also the case if it is specified that the current should be applied for less than three seconds.
30-07-18	SV067 Visibility of the pigs	The criterion states that the pigs must be visible at all times. It is not possible to maintain proper visibility of the pigs when they are at the bottom of the stunning pit. Should the pigs be visible at the bottom of the pit?	It is not necessary for the pigs to be visible at all times at the bottom of the stunning pit. There should be an adequate view of the pigs up to the first step of the stunning pit as a minimum to ensure that the animals are being stunned properly. We do not expect personnel to look into the lift constantly; it is intended merely as a backup control measure. This is particularly relevant in exceptional/emergency circumstances, for example if there is an abnormal amount of noise coming from the lift, or in case of emergency. In the event of equipment failure, personnel must be able to determine whether there are pigs in the pit that have not been either partially or completely stunned, so that they may then take action. Visibility of the pigs can be achieved via a glass panel or hatch, for example, instead of a steel plate. If the abattoir has alternative suggestions as to how to implement this, they may do so provided the pigs are visible up until at least the first step of the stunning pit.
7-01-19	SV077 Interval between entering chamber and reaching maximum concentration	Do animals also need to have reached the maximum CO_2 concentration within 20 seconds when using a carousel lift system?	No, the 20 second rule applies only to 'dip lift' systems. There is only one lift box on a dip lift system. After loading, the lift box goes back and forth to the CO_2 basement in one movement. Because the system does not stop to load other lift boxes, animals can reach the maximum CO_2 concentration sooner, i.e. within 20 seconds. However, the majority of CO_2 lift systems are gondola or carousel systems, with multiple lift boxes in a carousel that are filled with pigs one by one. Because the carousel stops one or more times before the pigs arrive at the bottom of CO_2 basement, the 20-second time frame is not feasible for gondola lift systems. In general, a period of 30 seconds should be maintained for CO_2 lift systems in order to reach the maximum CO_2 concentration. The pigs only need to reach the maximum CO_2 concentration within 20 seconds in the case of dip lift systems (not carousel lift systems).