

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 the basis of these draft decisions and interpretations.

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
1-06-17 and 23-05-22	Regular round	Is it possible to set up regular rounds/non-BLL broilers at Beter Leven certified broiler farms between two rounds of BLL broilers?	<p>It is permitted to register and deregister a livestock farmer once per calendar year (in the BLL portal) because of setting up broilers that do not meet the Beter Leven Broilers 1 star criteria (e.g. regular).</p> <p>This is possible under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During this period of deregistration (inactive for the Beter Leven label), the farmer may set up a maximum of 3 non-Beter Leven rounds in a row, i.e. not 3 rounds spread over the calendar year, in order to continue to be eligible for the Beter Leven label for Broilers 1 star. 2. The broiler farm works according to 'all-in, all-out', so at no time are there both Beter Leven and non-Beter Leven broilers on the farm. 3. The broiler farm is deregistered from the BLLF by the chain manager before the first non-Beter Leven broilers are set up on the farm. 4. To be able to participate in the Beter Leven label again, the broiler farm must have a new entry audit carried out. 5. The broiler farm is re-registered with the BLLF for this by the chain manager. 6. As usual, the broiler farm must be certified before the Beter Leven broilers can be slaughtered under the Beter Leven label. 7. A (1 star Beter Leven) broiler farm can only qualify once for the covered run transitional regulations. When deregistering and registering under the above conditions, the previously issued exemption for the covered run transitional regulations will continue to apply. The exemption will not be paused (interrupted) and/or extended and the livestock farmer will have to complete the covered run within the set period. 8. When the exemption for the covered run transitional regulations expires, no broilers have been set up at that time that do not meet the Better Life criteria Broilers 1 star (e.g. regular). If this is the case, the participant no longer meets the Better Life regulations for 1 star Broilers and will therefore have a shortcoming.
4-10-16	UIT04 Anaesthetised slaughter	How can a livestock farm find out where its animals are slaughtered and whether the abattoir also practises unanaesthetised slaughter?	This criterion is verified with the BLL-certified abattoir directly, therefore does not need to be verified with the poultry farmer. The criterion will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review.
1-01-18	UIT05 Factory farming	A factory farm is defined as a single farm location (note one UBN or one roof) housing 220,000 broilers or more. What does one farm location mean?	It has been decided to follow the definition used by the government (RvO). One farm location is equivalent to one UBN. This criterion will be amended as part of a subsequent review.

27-02-17	KBLA01 Supply chain quality system	Not all farms, for example foreign farms, have an IKB certificate. Can such farms satisfy this criterion in any other way?	<p>For 1-star farms must always have an IKB certificate.</p> <p>For 2 and 3 stars, one of the following is also sufficient:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum equivalent certificate (the applicant provides a comparison of the certificates that is assessed by the BLLF and submitted to the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, which then decides if it can be accepted as equivalent or not) 2. An IKB audit that is carried out at the same time as the BLL audit (without issuing an IKB certificate), whereby the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals determines in advance which IKB criteria are non-compulsory for the foreign farm.
25-08-17	KBLA02 Slaughter age	How should the minimum slaughter age be calculated?	<p>The day on which the chicks are housed should be considered as day one. Counting towards the minimum slaughter age begins on that day. The day on which the broilers are sent to slaughter may be counted within the context of the minimum slaughter age. For example, BLL 1 or 2-star broilers may be sent to slaughter on day 56. In this context, we also follow the NCAE's interpretation of the legislation.</p>
01-06-17 and 02-09-21	KBLA03 and A9 Slower growing breed	Are any other breeds recognised for Better Life label broilers?	<p>On 01-06-17, a supplementary decision was taken to recognise, in addition to the breeds defined in criteria KBLA03 and A9, the broiler breeds Ranger Gold, Rambler Ranger and the Hubbard JA257 as BLL Broilers.</p> <p>The accreditation also applies to chicks from parent stock production for Ranger, Gold and Rambler breeds that cannot be placed as parent stock, i.e. the cocks/brothers of the Ranger hens and the hens/sisters of Gold or Rambler cocks.</p> <p>Addition 02-09-21: In the form of this supplementary decision, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals also recognises the Hubbard JACY57 as a BLL broiler breed. This means that this breed can be used on farms certified for BLL 1, 2 or 3 star broilers.</p> <p>The accreditation also applies to chicks from parent stock production for JACY57 breeds that cannot be placed as parent stock, i.e. the cocks/brothers of the JACY57 hens and the hens /sisters of Color Yield cocks.</p> <p>These breeds will be added during the next review of the criteria for broilers. In anticipation of that amendment to the criteria, BLL broiler farms may use the aforementioned breeds.</p>

8-03-22	KBLA08 and A6 Supply chain	Criteria KBLA08 and A6 state that only animals that meet the criteria of the Better Life label may be present on the farm. The farm keeps animals in ways that do not conform with the criteria for BLL-eligibility. Does this criterion apply to all animals present on the farm or only to broilers kept on a farm? And do all the broilers kept on the farm have to be reared in accordance with the same scope (1, 2 or 3 stars) of the Better Life label scheme?	<p>The criterion means that all the broilers present at the farm (UBN/KIP) must comply with the criteria of the same scope of the Better Life label scheme. In other words, all broilers must be kept and reared in accordance with the same scope for which the broilers are to be certified for the Better Life label scheme: 1 star or 2 stars or 3 stars.</p> <p>Keeping other animals, which may or may not comply with the criteria of the Better Life label, on the farm is permitted, provided that no other activities are performed at the farm that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, and that these animals do not come into contact in any way with the BLL animals.</p>
29-12-20	M03 Fire safety	The criterion states that an agricultural electrical inspection must be held at least once every five years in accordance with NEN 1010 or (HD) IEC 60364 Low voltage electrical installations. Do the NEN 3140 and NTA 8220 inspections also meet the criterion and which inspections are allowed for foreign farms?	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals states that two types of inspections are held at a farm, namely an inspection before putting new systems into use and a five-yearly reinspection.</p> <p>New systems must be inspected before use in accordance with NEN1010 or (HD) IEC 60364 Low voltage electrical installations. The NEN 3140 and NTA 8220 inspections are not permitted as an inspection before the commissioning of new systems. However, the five yearly reinspection can be held on the basis of NEN 3140 or NTA 8220.</p> <p>Foreign livestock farmers must have an electrical inspection carried out every five years when their house is taken into use, in accordance with the CENELEC HD 60364 standard of the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization.</p>
21-12-16	KBLVA04A - C Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	How should straw/hay/alfalfa be provided? Can it be provided in a straw rack or net?	<p>The criteria intend for a whole bale, including the twine, to be placed on the ground for the chickens.</p> <p>Straw in a rack or net is not as readily available as a straw bale on the ground. Chickens prefer a varied environment, e.g. through differences in height, and to be able to explore in groups. A straw bale on the ground is a good way to facilitate this. Chickens cannot jump onto a rack or net, and fewer chickens can be at a rack or net at the same time; it is also harder for the chickens to pull straw from a rack or net, etc.</p> <p>Providing suspended straw, either loose or in a bale, in a net or rack does not satisfy the Better Life criteria.</p>

22-08-18	KBLVA04A - C Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	Can the bales be provided in plastic?	<p>Providing bales (alfalfa, rapeseed, etc.) in plastic to prevent the straw from falling out of the bales too quickly is strongly discouraged by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals from an animal welfare perspective. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) also discourages the provision of bales in plastic for both product quality/food safety as well as animal welfare reasons.</p> <p>To prevent the straw from falling out of bales too quickly, straw bales laid on the ground may be provided in a straw net.</p>
26-07-19	KBLV06B Feed composition	As a livestock farm, I would like to use different ingredients in my animal feed to enhance sustainability. Is it possible to deviate from the minimum 70% grain requirement?	<p>The criterion states that animal feed must contain a minimum of 70% grain or grain by-products from the age of eleven days. To enhance sustainability, other raw materials are available for use in animal feed. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals gives livestock businesses the flexibility to use more sustainable feed ingredients. This requirement no longer needs to be verified.</p> <p>The criterion will be removed as part of a subsequent revision of the BLL criteria for broilers.</p>
29-12-21	KBLV07B/VV3B Feed composition	<p>The criteria state that the feed should not contain any animal products, with the exception of milk/dairy products that may be added to the feed.</p> <p>Can exceptions be made for other animal products, such as meat and bone meal/products made from insects?</p>	<p>The ban on feeding animal feeds with animal products will be lifted in the EU with effect from 1-1-2022. In this context and taking sustainability into account, other raw materials for feed will become available. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals wants to offer livestock farmers the option to use other (more sustainable) feed.</p> <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals therefore has no objection to animal products in feed, provided there is no cannibalism. This means it is not permitted to feed animals meat and bone meal or other types of feed made from the same animal species. For this criterion, as of 1-1-2022 it is therefore only necessary to check that no cannibalism occurs through the feed, and therefore that the feed fed to broilers does not contain any products from chickens. In a subsequent review of the BLL Broilers criteria, this criterion will be replaced or amended.</p> <p>Feeding insects to BLL animals (directly via live larvae or indirectly via the feed) is an exception to this decision. Feeding insects is allowed, but the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals is involved in research into insect welfare. Pending the results of this research, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals prefers livestock farmers to use other feed (without insects/insect meal). During the review of criterion KBLV07B/VV3B, it will be clarified whether or not feeding insects continues to be permitted under the Better Life label.</p>

11-04-18	H01AB Stocking density	In the latest version of the 3-star criteria (from 1 September 2016), the maximum shed size was removed, thus limiting the group size to 1,100 animals. Groups of this size are too small and do not correspond to the SKAL standards.	By removing the criterion that stipulated the size of the shed, the maximum group size was inadvertently reduced. Instead of a maximum group size of 1,100 animals, a farm may in fact maintain a maximum group size of 4,800 animals. This is consistent with the rules applied by SKAL. The criterion will be amended as part of a subsequent review of the criteria.
23-10-17 and 8-03-22	KBLH01 and H01 Stocking density	Can the 'suspension' sanction for norms KBLH01 and H01 regarding a maximum of 25 kg (1 and 3 stars) or 27.5 kg (2 stars) per m ² be reviewed? This is difficult for poultry farms to manage because each batch of chicken can have unexpected deviations.	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to uphold the standard and thereby continue to comply with the regulations (marketing standards). However, the sanction imposed by the Better Life label has been reduced by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals from suspension to administrative rectification.</p> <p>This shortcoming can be rectified administratively by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the stocking density of the next batch so that the norm can be met once again, and by reporting the number of animals to the certification institution, or • Submitting an inspection report from the COKZ (Netherlands supervisory authority for poultry), which verifies the marketing standards in which it is confirmed that, at the time of the inspection, the specified stocking density for barn chicken was met.
23-05-22	KBLH01 KBLH02 KBLH03 / H1 Stocking kg/m ² / Stocking density kg/m ²	The criteria include that on the ground surface available to the broilers, stocking density should not exceed 12, 13 or 11 animals per m ² with a weight of no more than 25, 27.5 and 25 kg per m ² respectively for 1, 2 or 3 stars. Can only the ground surface be included in the determination of the usable, habitable surface?	<p>In the Animal Holders Decree, the usable surface is understood to mean:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. this is a littered surface, 2. which is accessible to broilers at all times. <p>Within the Beter Leven label, surfaces other than the ground surface, for example a concrete edge, can also be included in this. In addition, a space under a heat exchanger can be suitable as a habitable surface.</p> <p>However, a surface as a usable, habitable surface according to the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals must still meet at least the further requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. the surface is at the same height as the ground or at a maximum height of 25 cm from the ground, measured from the floor (calculated without litter); 4. the surface must be at least 30 cm long and wide; 5. have a slope not exceeding 8 degrees; 6. the amount of light and ventilation must be guaranteed on the surface; 7. broilers cannot get trapped and there are no other obstacles, for the animals or for the inspection of the animals, on or below the surface; and 8. there must be a free space of at least 45 cm high above the entire surface. <p>If a surface meets the above 8 requirements, this surface may be included in the determination of the usable, habitable surface.</p>

9-12-16	KBLH04 Shed size	If a covered run is included in the available floor area, the covered run may account for a maximum of 25%. A minimum of 75% of the total available floor area must be covered by the shed. What if more covered run area is available but no more chickens are kept? What if someone has a larger run? Should it not state that a maximum of 25% of the covered run may be taken into account when calculating the available floor area in order to determine the maximum number of broilers/the stocking density?	This criterion will be amended or removed as part of a subsequent review of the criteria and does not need to be satisfied.
9-12-16	KBLH05 Covered run size	This criterion specifies that the covered run must account for at least 20% of the available area (shed + covered run). However, criterion KBLO03 states that the covered run must account for 20% of the shed area (alone). Which criterion should be applied now?	The correct standard is outlined in criterion KBLO03: There is a covered run, which covers a minimum of 20% of the shed area. Criterion H05A does not need to be verified and this will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review.
12-12-12	KBLO01 Covered run	Must a covered run (BLL 1 star) always be covered?	Yes, that is part of the concept. Covering the run encourages the broilers to go outside and improves the quality of the litter in the run (drier).
2-09-21	KBLO03 Covered run size	The criteria state that the covered run should have a minimum area of 20% of the total surface area of the house or shed where the birds are kept at night. Does a minimum depth for the covered run also have to be complied with?	A covered run is only of sufficient size when the height, width and depth of the area promotes the welfare of the birds; only a covered run that is sufficiently (high, wide and) deep will encourage activity and use of the space. In addition, the covered run must be easily accessible to enable activities such as cleaning the floor and providing fresh litter. For this reason, after a new covered run has been built, or an existing run renovated, the covered run must be at least 3 metres deep (measured at the narrowest point). With sheds or houses deeper than 25 m and in the case of sheds where, due to reasons specific to the construction or location, a covered runs consists of two parts, the following applies: for these covered runs, after a new covered run has been built , or an existing run renovated, only at least one of the covered runs must be 3 m deep (measured at the narrowest point). A minimum depth of 2 m is sufficient for the other covered run, provided that both runs together comply with the specifications for the surface area (20% of the surface area of the house or shed where the birds are kept at night).
15-01-20	KBLO05 Run openings	Sheds wider than 25 metres are not permitted. Should there be a wall in place if the shed is wider than 25 metres?	There are two options for a shed that is wider/deeper than 25 metres: 1) There is a covered run along both long sides 2) The maximum distance from the farthest feed line to the run openings is no more than 25 metres. This is provided the extra square metres are not included in the maximum stocking density calculation. This option enables the broilers to make use of the additional area. However, this additional area may not be used when calculating the stocking density. The stocking density may not be higher than that of a 25 metre shed width.

26-10-18	KBL09D Daylight and air permeability	Can a rollable cover be used for the ventilation/windbreak mesh along the long wall of the covered run? Rolling the cover down would prevent wet areas in the covered run in the event of adverse weather conditions.	<p>The ventilation opening can be made from windbreak mesh that breaks a maximum of 80% of the wind and has a maximum 80% shading effect – this is fairly dense mesh, which should break plenty of the wind and may also stop rain.</p> <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals does not advocate closing run openings during bad weather, therefore a rollable cover may be only used on the long side of the run under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cover is only used during adverse weather (excess cold, damp, draught) to prevent rainwater from entering the covered run and its use is recorded in the run calendar • The cover must be made from daylight-permeable material • The hens can look out, even with the cover down • Use of the cover is recorded automatically • If a rollable cover is present, the covered run must be accessible to the hens during the prescribed open hours and in all conditions, including bad weather. The run openings may remain closed overnight.
3-08-20	G01A Sickbay	The current broiler farms do not have sickbays at the moment. Seriously ill or injured animals are euthanised.	This criterion does not need to be checked and will be deleted from the criteria in a subsequent revision.
16-10-17	G01B Euthanasiation of untreatable animals	What does the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals accept as a humane method for euthanising poultry under the Better Life label?	<p>The legally permitted methods of euthanasiation can, in principle, be accepted as humane methods under the Better Life label.</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing states the following (inter alia):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry with a live weight up to 3 kg may be killed by manually breaking the neck: manual stretching and torsion of the neck resulting in a cerebral ischemia. • Poultry with a live weight up to 5 kg may be killed by a percussive blow to the head: a powerful and accurate blow to the head with serious brain damage.
27-05-21	T2 and T02 Transport time	<p>The BLL Broilers criteria state that transport to the abattoir may take a maximum of 3 hours. However, the BLL Poultry Abattoir criteria state that animals supplied may not be transported for more than 4 hours or 250 km.</p> <p>What transport time and distance should be observed for transport to the abattoir?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the transport to the abattoir must comply with a maximum transport distance of 280 km (within a maximum transport time of 4 hours).</p> <p>The maximum transport distance of 280 km corresponds to a maximum transport time of 4 hours, assuming an average speed of 70 km per hour based on the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) guidelines for livestock transport.</p> <p>The transport distance between the livestock farm and the abattoir must be checked on the basis of Routenet.nl with a 40T truck selected as the vehicle.</p>