

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
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No rights may be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.

For the definitions of the terms used (e.g. new construction/renovation), please refer to the glossary on the website of the Better Life label Foundation.

Exclusion criteria					
UIT01	Other activities	No other activities are performed at the company (UBN) that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	<p>Activities that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeping fur animals for production purposes; - Keeping laying hens in enriched cages (permitted in the Netherlands until 01-01-2021) and colony 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; - Keeping 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 This does not include cattle produced by beef on dairy crosses of double-muscled breeds x dairy breeds whereby the bull has been selected for calving ease; - Other activities that (may) conflict with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. 	Verify and record whether the farm (UBN) 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 (UBN).	<p>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.</p>	Verify and record whether there are any genetically modified animals on the farm.	Exclusion
UIT03	Standard for mega-housing	The calves are not kept in a mega-house. A mega-house is considered to be one UBN (or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE (Dutch size units).	<p>To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the number of calves based on the Better Life operating capacity (see A07) must be multiplied by the following numbers of NGE per animal category: 1 veal calf = 0.130 NGE</p> <p>For example, the following site is designated as a mega-house within the Better Life label scheme and is excluded from participation: - Vea calf farm with more than: 2538 veal calves (2539 x 0.130 = 330.07 NGE)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This does not apply to existing houses that were Better Life label participants before 01-01-2012. These houses may maintain the number of animals that were kept on 01-01-2012. With new construction or renovation, the number of animals kept must be decreased to 330 NGE or less.</p>	Verify whether the farm does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size. Record the number of NGE on the farm based on the number of BLL animal places.	Exclusion
UIT04	Chain manager	The livestock farm is registered with at least one chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label Foundation.	A chain manager is, for example, an abattoir 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 primary producers 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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UIT05	Multiple storeys	There are no houses on the farm (UBN) that consist of more than one storey.	<p>A farm (UBN) with a house in which animals are kept on multiple floors/storeys/tiers that applies to register for the Better Life label after 01-09-2016 is not eligible for the Better Life label.</p> <p>This criterion does not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A farm (UBN) with a house in which animals are kept on multiple floors/storeys/tiers that was already a participant in the Better Life label scheme before 01-09-2016. With new construction or renovation, farms are not permitted to build or add a house with more than one floor/storey/tier. - Raised living areas/platforms. Platforms are not included in the definition of houses with multiple storeys. - Aviary and free-range houses (or a combination of both housing systems); aviary and free-range houses for hens in which no more than two storeys are used to keep animals are (always) exempt from this ban on houses with multiple storeys. The exemption applies to both existing and new participants. This is consistent with local legislation in the Netherlands (e.g. the Brabant Care Quality Score Livestock (Brabantse Zorgvuldigheidsscore Veehouderij) and Overijssel). 	<p>Verify and record whether the farm (UBN) only keeps animals on one storey. If there is a house on the farm (UBN) in which animals are kept on multiple storeys, verify whether the farm (UBN) participated in the Better Life label scheme before 01-09-2016 and whether, in case of new construction or renovation, no houses with more than one storey were built or added after this date.</p> <p>Verify in aviary houses or free-range houses whether the animals are kept on no more than two storeys.</p>	Exclusion
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 company or no cooperation is given, the company 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.	Record whether the participant provided full cooperation.	Exclusion
UIT07	All calves present are BLL-eligible	All calves on the farm (UBN) comply with the Better Life label criteria calf 3-star.		Verify and record whether there are any calves on the farm (UBN) that are not eligible for BLL calf 3 star.	Exclusion
General					
A01	Certification	The veal farm is certified for the Vital Calf Quality Scheme and the calves fall under the regulations of the Foundation for Quality Guarantee of the Veal Sector (SKV).	The farm holds a valid Vital Calf certificate (the Dutch veal sector's quality system). Each group of calves delivered to the abattoir has a valid SKV quality certificate.	Verify and record whether the farm has a valid Vital Calf certificate and verify on InfoKalf whether the calves comply with the SKV regulations. Record the dates of the last two deliveries to the abattoir and the number of animals.	Suspension
A02	Integrated farms	Participation is exclusively reserved for veal farmers who rear the calves on the same site from the suckling phase until they are sent to slaughter at the abattoir.	This is to avoid calves being transported from the suckling farm to a separate rearing farm where fattening takes place.	Record whether the farm is integrated.	AR
A02a	Copies of cattle passports	A copy of the cattle passport is kept in the administrative records of imported calves.	This also applies to calves imported from other EU Member States. These copies are kept on the farm for at least one year after the calf's arrival. The records may be paper versions or digital.	Verify and record for at least five imported calves (up to one year back) whether a copy of the cattle passport has been kept in the administrative records.	RI
A02b	Origin of calves RECOMMENDATION	The calves supplied to the veal farm originate from farms that are certified for the Better Life label.	Once there are Better Life label certified dairy farms, the potential to supply the veal sector with BLL calves will be investigated. This criterion will state a specific percentage of animals that must originate from BLL certified farms, working towards 100%.	Verify the BLL dairy certificate of the farms that supply the calves. Record the UBNs of these farms. N/A when no BLL calves are available.	RECOMMENDATION

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A03	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.	The personnel employed on the farm must have at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondary vocational education in livestock farming or - 1 year of working experience in veal farming, or - work under the responsibility of a person with these qualifications. 	Verify in the administrative records whether the farm's own personnel comply with the qualifications, demonstrated by a diploma, or in the form of a registration form or overview of the personnel. Record the training/working experience of two employees and the last time this was updated.	AR
A04	Human-animal interaction workshop	The manager/farm manager of each site that participates in BLL where animals are kept must have followed a human-animal interaction workshop approved by the Society for the Protection of Animals. This criterion will enter into force from 01-01-2025 so there is an opportunity to develop and participate in workshops.	Conditions human-animal interaction workshop: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The course must be given by an experienced, external expert in the field of veal calf well-being and health; 2. At least three hours of training are dedicated to practical examples (in the barn and/or using videos and photos) during which the participant learns to translate signals given by the behaviour or appearance of the animal into concrete; positive or negative causes for this behaviour or appearance; 3. Attention is paid to the impact of the stockperson's behaviour on the animals being cared for, 4. Attention to the positive consequences of good human-animal interaction on financial and production results. 	Verify from 01-01-2025 whether the manager/farm manager has obtained proof of participation in a workshop approved by the Society for the Protection of Animals. Record the name of the workshop followed and the date.	AR
A05	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, the Certification Body and the chain manager.	Developments include, but are not limited to: <ol 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 number; d. Loss of an accreditation or a certificate meaning the applicable BLL criteria can no longer be complied with; 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. <p>The participant reports the developments to the Better Life foundation, Certification Body and the chain manager.</p>	Verify and record whether developments have taken place in the period between the present and previous inspection that affect participation in the Better Life Label scheme. Verify and record whether these developments have been reported to the BLLF, the CB and the chain manager by requesting proof of notification from the farmer.	AR
A06	Cross-bred calves	No calves or cross-bred calves of breeds with a double-muscled factor who give a high incidence of caesarean sections are kept on the farm. RECOMMENDATION	Breeds of double-muscled bulls who give a high incidence of caesarean sections are, for example, Belgian Blue and Dutch Improved Red Pied. Calves and cross-bred calves from breeds that are not double-muscled are permitted. This criterion does not apply to cross-bred calves from the dairy sector where the semen was selected for maternal calving ease.	Record whether there are any calves or cross-bred calves by doubled-muscled bulls on the farm.	RECOMMENDATION

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A07	Determine the Better Life operating capacity	The operating capacity for keeping BLL animals is calculated and recorded by the Certification Body that issues the Better Life label certificate.	If changes have been made to the operating capacity since the previous inspection, the operating capacity must be recalculated and recorded during the current inspection.	Calculate the capacity for keeping animals during the entry inspection and when any changes were made to the operating capacity within the past year. The operating capacity for keeping animals is calculated based on the Better Life label criteria for the relevant category Record the operating capacity by determining the number of animals per type of pen/section and multiplying this figure by the number of pens/sections of this type on the farm.	Suspension
Feed					
V03	Roughage	The calves have unlimited access to roughage.	Roughage means feed with a minimum dry matter content of 50%.	Verify based on feed delivery notes whether sufficient fibrous feed, e.g. straw, hay or grass silage, has been purchased in order to provide the prescribed amount of fibrous dry feed. Record the age of the animals, the number of animals and the feed that has been purchased. Verify whether roughage is permanently available at all eating places.	Suspension
V04	Length of feeder	There is a minimum of one feeding place for roughage for each calf.	The length of the feeder is at least 0.55 m for each calf.	Verify the length of the feeder for each calf.	RI
V05	Feed storage	The feed is stored in a way that prevents contamination.	<p>The storage area is in good condition.</p> <p>If silage is used, measures are in place to ensure clean, dry feed all year round. E.g. The silage is covered with film/sheeting and good drainage is provided. The feed and storage area are free of signs of heat damage or mould. If the feed shows any signs of heat damage or mould, these patches are removed before the feed is loaded/fed to the animals. This prevents damaged or mouldy rations being fed to the animals. Leftover feed is removed so that no feed is left in the barn for longer periods of time.</p> <p>The feed storage area is free of waste or toxic substances. For example, no pesticides or other toxic substances/materials are used in the vicinity of the feed storage area. Bait stations that contain pest control products are placed in a safe place.</p> <p>Contamination of feed is prevented, e.g. contamination caused by any remains of sheeting/wrapping films.</p>	Verify and record whether the feed storage area is properly maintained, the storage area is clean and dry, there are no signs of heat damage or mould, leftover feed is removed, the feed storage area is free of waste or toxic substances, and there is no contamination caused by the remains of sheeting/wrapping film, etc.	AR
V06	GMP+	The purchased feed is certified by GMP+ or an equivalent quality assurance system.	An equivalent quality assurance system is an animal feed chain in which all links/companies (including transport) are certified by a quality assurance system that has been declared equivalent by the Society for the Protection of Animals. See the Better Life Label Foundation website for a list of quality assurance systems that have been declared equivalent by the Society for the Protection of Animals.	Verify the feed and record the name and address of the feed supplier. Record, in case of an equivalent quality assurance system, which quality assurance system(s) the different links in the chain comply with.	AR

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V07	Drinking water	The animals have unlimited access to drinking water.	Drinking water is permanently available, in addition to the provision of milk.	Verify whether a permanent supply of drinking water is available in the barn in addition to milk and record how the water is supplied.	Suspension																																										
V07a	Drinking water in the pasture	There is a functioning supply of drinking water supply in the pasture.		Verify and record whether there is a functioning supply of drinking water supply in the pasture.	RI																																										
V08	Water quality analysis	The drinking water quality is analysed at least twice per year. One of the samples is taken by the farmer, the other by an independent sampler.	The laboratory that performs the analysis is NEN-ISO/IEC 17025 accredited. The drinking water is therefore analysed at least twice a year. There is at least 4 months between the two analyses.	Verify and record whether the analyses have taken place.	AR																																										
V08a	Water quality analysis	At least 1 sample is taken by an independent sampler per year.	An independent sampler is, for example, the inspector of the Certification Body, the farm's own contracted veterinary practitioner or a specialised drinking water sampler (e.g. a person who professionally advises livestock farms on drinking water quality and regularly samples drinking water). If the farm uses drinking water supplied by a water company, no chemical analysis is necessary, as the water company must regularly perform statutory chemical analysis.	Ask who took the samples and which drinking points were sampled. Verify this based on invoices and test reports. Record the findings.	AR																																										
V08b	Water quality analysis	A sample must be taken in each barn at the point just before water flows into the drinker or flows from the tap.	If the farm uses drinking water from the tap, a sample must be taken on each farm at the point just before water flows into the drinker or flows from the tap at the back of the barn, in accordance with point 4 of the GD brochure Water Analysis Bovine (<i>Wateronderzoeken rund</i>).	Verify whether the samples were taken animal level (nipple or drinker). Ask the farmer how the samples were taken. Record the findings.	AR																																										
V08c	Water quality analysis	The annual analysis must demonstrate that the drinking water is of sufficient quality for the calves.	The limits below apply to suitability as drinking water for calves. 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 comply with this criterion. <table border="0"> <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 (D):</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>< 1000</td> <td>> 10,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Source: Dutch Animal Health Service	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 (D):	> 4 & < 15	> 25	Yeasts and moulds:		> 10,000	E. coli (cfu/ml):	< 1	> 10	Total aerobic plate count (cfu/ml):	< 1000	> 10,000	Assess test results and, if applicable, verify whether recovery measures have been taken and samples have been analysed again. Record the findings.	AR
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HY01	Hygiene plan	The farm has a farm-specific hygiene plan that systematically indicates how hygiene is safeguarded on the farm.	<p>This plan should always contain a description of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The method of prevention and, if necessary, control of undesirable animals/pests (e.g. rodents, wildlife, birds, insects). 2. The strict separation between clean zones (the hygienic areas where the calves are kept) and dirty zones (the non-hygienic areas to which visitors, suppliers, trucks, etc. have access). 3. Hygienic access to the farm for employees, suppliers and visitors via mandatory use of a hygiene lock. 4. The origin and quality of water (drinking water and cleaning water). 5. The method of cleaning and disinfecting the pens and barns. 6. The origin and storage method of feed. <p>The hygiene plan must be regularly updated, at least once every two years.</p> <p>See the Better Life Label website for an example of a hygiene plan</p>	Verify and record whether the farm has a farm-specific hygiene plan that complies with the criteria.	AR
HY02	Use of equipment in separate sections	Equipment must not be moved between sections. Each section must have its own dedicated and marked equipment.	<p>Standard equipment includes a broom, a shovel and a driving board. This does not include a feed mixer. A feed mixer may be used in various sections.</p> <p>If calves of the same age are set up at the same time in two or more sections, these sections form a veterinary unit. Equipment may be used within the same veterinary unit.</p>	Verify and record whether the definition of a veterinary unit applies and whether dedicated standard material is present and marked in each veterinary unit.	RI
HY03	Use of clothing and footwear in separate sections	Clothing and footwear must be changed when entering each separate section. Each section must have its own dedicated and marked clothing and footwear.	If calves of the same age are set up at the same time in two or more sections, these sections form a veterinary unit. Clothing and footwear does not need to be changed within the same veterinary unit.	Verify whether the definition of a veterinary unit applies and whether there are facilities where clothing and footwear can be changed when moving between these units. At the least, overalls and boots must be changed. Record the findings.	RI
HY04	Pest control	Pest control and prevention of undesirable animals on 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 <i>Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagement</i> (pest management label) from the KPMB - If the veal farmer uses rodenticides outside the buildings, they or their personnel must have valid proof of professional competence for <i>Knaagdierbeheersing op het agrarisch bedrijf</i> (Rodent control on agricultural farms). (KBA). KBA certification is issued by certification body <i>Bureau Erkenningen</i>. <p>Pest control and prevention companies certified for the European CEN standard have the so-called CEPA certificate. These companies are listed here: https://www.kpmb.nl/register/cepa-gecertificeerd</p> <p>Pest control and prevention companies certified for the Dutch <i>Keurmerk voor Plaagdiermanagement</i> (Pest management label) from the KPMB also comply with this criterion. These companies are listed here: https://www.kpmb.nl/register/keurmerk-plaagdiermanagement</p>	<p>Verify that undesirable animals are prevented from gaining access and, if necessary, controlled in accordance with CEN-EN 16636.</p> <p>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 KPMB <i>Keurmerk Plaagdiermanagement</i> (pest management label).</p> <p>If the veal farmer uses rodenticides outside the barn, verify that they and/or their personnel have valid proof of professional competence for rodent control on agricultural farms <i>Knaagdierbeheersing op het agrarisch bedrijf</i> (Rodent control on agricultural farms). (KBA).</p> <p>Record the findings.</p>	AR

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HY04a	Natural methods of pest prevention	Natural methods of pest prevention are used as far as possible and the products used do not contain biocides. RECOMMENDATION	Natural methods are used to prevent undesirable pests in the barns and in the immediate surroundings. Natural methods include: a. Attracting raptors who prey on mice and rats or eat insects, by planting shrubs and trees and providing nest boxes on and around the farm; b. Creating several strips around the barn using material that rodents dislike walking over and burrowing into, such as sharp-bladed grass, shells or gravel; c. Creating strips around the barn using wild plants and herbs known to repel rodents; d. Placing poles near the barns sprayed with scents known to repel rodents; e. Placing CO ₂ traps to catch rodents. This approach not only prevents rodents and flies, but also enhances the natural appearance of the farm and harmonises better with the landscape.	Describe the method of pest control used.	RECOMMENDATION
HY05	Empty between rearing cycles	Each section is left empty for two weeks in between two rearing cycles of calves.	An all-in,-all-out system is used for all the animals in one section.	Verify using the I&R administration whether the sections were empty for two weeks in between two rearing cycles. Record the findings.	AR
HY06	Cleaning and disinfection of empty sections	All the pens are cleaned and disinfected at the start of the two weeks in between rearing cycles.		Verify using purchase orders or invoices whether the pens have been cleaned and disinfected. Record the findings.	AR
HY07	Separation between clean and dirty zones	There is a strict separation between clean zones (the hygienic areas where the calves are kept) and dirty zones (the non-hygienic areas to which visitors, suppliers, trucks, etc. have access). RECOMMENDATION	The clean zone of the farm is the hygienic zone where the calves are kept. This includes, for example, the sections, central corridors, working areas and routes between barns. The dirty zone of the farm is all zones outside the clean zone. This includes, for example, the entrance and exit routes, the farmhouse and area immediately adjoining the farmhouse. A line of separation in the form of a fence, wall or chain, for example, has been placed to separate the clean from the dirty zone. Transport trucks are not permitted access to the clean zone. Entrance and exit routes for, e.g., feed or manure cannot be accessed from the dirty zone.	Verify whether there is a strict separation between the clean zone and the dirty zone.	RECOMMENDATION
Housing					
H01	Ventilation	The barns/animal housing are naturally ventilated	If necessary, to ensure sufficient air quality, natural ventilation is backed up by mechanical ventilation.	Record the type of ventilation used.	Warning
H01a	Air quality	The ventilation system maintains the air quality so as to prevent irritation to the respiratory tract and mucous membrane of the calves and/or humans during inspection.	If the air quality is inadequate, an improvement plan for air quality must be established in consultation with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and, if desired, with other experts (e.g. climate expert).	Assess whether the air quality standards are complied with. If the standards are not complied with, verify whether there is an improvement plan. Record the findings.	AR i.e. if not compliant, then submit an improvement plan.
H01b	Monitoring the barn climate	The temperature, humidity, CO ₂ and ammonia concentration of the barn climate are monitored. RECOMMENDATION	The standards for air quality are maximum 2,000 ppm CO ₂ and 25 ppm NH ₃ .	Verify whether the temperature, humidity, CO ₂ and ammonia concentration are monitored.	RECOMMENDATION

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H01c	Measuring the barn climate	<p>There is an automatic system that measures the following climate parameters in the barn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indoor temperature - CO₂ concentration - Ammonia concentration - Humidity <p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	<p>The equipment complies with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A minimum of three months memory capacity to store historical measurement data; - Sampling takes place at least four times an hour; - Sensors are suspended in the middle of the pen above the calves; - Sensor maintenance takes place at least once every two years; - The sensor automatically reports malfunctioning. <p>The standards for air quality are maximum 2,000 ppm CO₂ and 25 ppm NH₃.</p>	Verify whether there is an automatic system and whether the standards are complied with.	RECOMMENDATION
H01d	Monitoring the barn climate is discussed	<p>The results of monitoring the barn climate are discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner at least once every six months.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	If the standards have been complied with three consecutive times, monitoring the results once a year is sufficient.	Record whether the indicators for the barn climate are below the set standards. Record, for farms that fail to comply with these standards, whether the standards for the barn climate are complied with within two consecutive years.	RECOMMENDATION
H01e	Action plan barn climate	<p>If the standards for the barn climate are systematically exceeded for two months and correcting these standards permanently is not possible, an improvement plan for the air quality must be established.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p>		Verify whether there is an action plan for the barn climate.	RECOMMENDATION
H01f	Climate expert barn climate	<p>If the standards have not been complied with after one year, an external climate expert should be contacted for second line advice in the form of an action plan that will enable the farm to comply with the standards for the barn climate within the next year.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION</p>		<p>Verify whether a farm that failed to comply with the barn climate standards for more than one year has contacted an external climate expert and verify whether an action plan has been established.</p> <p>Verify whether the farm is able to comply with the barn climate standards within one consecutive year (i.e. after 2 consecutive years).</p>	RECOMMENDATION
H02	Manure and urine separation and removal from the barn	<p>Manure and urine are separated immediately and removed from the barn daily.</p> <p>This criterion will enter into force for new construction from 01-01-2025, but no later than from 01-01-2040.</p>		Record, with new construction from 01-01-2025, the method of manure and urine separation.	RI
H02a	Cooling or storing manure and urine in the manure pit in acid or water	<p>Manure and urine are cooled or stored in the manure pit in water or an acid to prevent urease activity.</p> <p>This criterion will enter into force for renovation from 01-01-2025. This criterion will cease to be valid from 01-01-2040, as criterion H02 will then apply to all farms.</p>		Record, with renovation from 01-01-2025, the method of manure and urine storage.	RI
H03	Ventilation system	Mechanical ventilation systems on the farms are inspected by an authorised installer at least once every five years.		Verify whether annual maintenance of the ventilation system takes place and whether there is a report of the last inspection. Record the date of the last inspection.	Warning

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
H03a	Preventing heat stress	Heat stress is prevented.	Heat-reducing measures are available and can be taken on the farm when temperatures exceed 25° Celsius. Examples of heat-reducing measures include: - Equipment to provide additional air circulation (propeller type fan / suspended fan) - Incoming air is conditioned (only in combination with mechanical ventilation) - For further advice, please refer to the GD website: https://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/nl/Hittestress/adviezen-hittestress-kalf	Record which measures have been taken to prevent heat stress.	Suspension
H04	Daylight	The barn has a daylight-permeable area that covers at least 10% of the floor area.	All daylight permeable surfaces/sections are included in the calculation unless the normal way of closing this section (door/shutter/curtain) is not daylight permeable.	Record the % of the daylight permeable surface.	Suspension
H04a	Daylight	The daylight permeable material is clean.	The daylight permeable material is not clean if daylight is obstructed, for example due to algae growth or other types of dirt or soiling.	Verify and record whether the daylight permeable material is clean.	AR
H04b	Artificial light	Lighting is provided in the barns to allow inspection of the veal calves at all times.	The lighting level intensity must allow the veal calves to be seen properly. The lighting level intensity must be at least 40 Lux at animal height.	Use a Lux meter in each section to measure whether lighting level intensity of the artificial light is at least 40 Lux at animal height. Record the findings.	Warning
H04c	Day-night rhythm	During the night, there is a continuous period of at least six hours with a low light level to allow the calves to rest.		Verify whether a day-night rhythm is used on the farm. This may be, for example, a timer on the artificial lighting or allowing daylight to enter the barn. Or ask the veal farmer how this is arranged. Record the method used or the answer given by the veal farmer.	AR
H06	Group housing	The calves are group housed from their arrival on the farm.		Verify and record whether calves are group housed.	Suspension
H06a	Space allowance per calf in a group	The floor space allowance per calf from set up must be at least 4 m ² .	Groups that comprise 15 to 40 calves may be kept on a floor space of 3.6 m ² per animal.	Verify, using a number of pens, whether the group pens comply with the conditions. Record the floor surface area of these pens and number of animals per pen. Measure the pen dimensions from centre to centre. If there is a wall, use the wall as the starting point for measurement. Space under the feeder/the floor section under a slanted feed fence is not included in the measurement of floor surface area.	Suspension
H06d	Length of pens	The length of the pen must be at least 3.60 m.	The feeding area must be at least 1.45 m, the space to move behind this must be least 0.5 m, and the lying space must be at least 1.45 m.	Verify and record whether the length of the pens complies.	Suspension
H06e	Larger groups	The calves are housed in groups of 20 or more animals.	The maximum size of the group is 40 animals.	Verify and record whether calves are housed in groups of 20 or more animals.	RI
H07	Floor lying area	The floor must be covered with straw or similar bedding material.		Record whether the floor is fully covered with bedding material.	Suspension
H07a	Quality of floor lying area	The floor must be covered with straw or similar bedding material.		Record what type of covering is used for the floor, and whether this bedding/covering is of adequate quality.	RI

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
H08	Regrouping calves	Calves are only regrouped within the same section to prevent any spread of pathogens.		Verify, if possible based on a management system and otherwise based on an interview, whether the calves have been regrouped and whether relocation has only taken place within the same section. Record the findings.	AR
H09	Rubbing device	There must be a permanently accessible rubbing device in each pen.		Verify in half of the sections/compartments (at least one and a maximum of four), whether there is a rubbing device in the pens. Record the findings.	RI
H09a	Quality of the rubbing device	The rubbing device must be of good quality and suitable for use.	A rubbing device consists of vertically placed brushes. The device must be easily accessible to the animals and must have enough bristles for the animals to rub against it effectively.	Verify and record whether the rubbing device complies with the criteria.	RI
H11	Grazing	The calves over 14 weeks old must have permanent access to a pasture unless the weather or soil conditions do not permit access.		Verify and record whether the calves over 14 weeks old have access to a pasture.	Suspension
H12	Grazing registration	The periods of pasture access are recorded for all calves over 14 weeks old. If grazing is impossible, the farmer must record the days on which grazing did not take place stating the reason.	Grazing is, for example, impossible outside the grazing season or in the case of extreme weather conditions.	Verify and record whether the farmer registers the grazing times and the non-grazing times, stating the reason.	RI
Management					
M01	Emergency plan	There must be an emergency plan for calamities, such as the malfunctioning and failure of farm equipment. The personnel are familiar with the emergency plan and know what action to take in case of an emergency.	The emergency plan clearly describes who does what in the event of an emergency. The personnel are familiar with this. See the Better Life Label website, under business and calf, for an example of an emergency plan	Verify and record whether there is an emergency plan and that it is visibly displayed at the farm.	AR
M02	Emergency power supply	There must be an emergency power supply for systems that depend on power and that are critical for the animals. In other cases, there must be a contract to install a working emergency power supply within four hours.		Verify and record whether an emergency power supply can be used in the event of a power failure.	RI if no emergency power supply is present.
M02a	Emergency power supply	The emergency power supply must be tested every two months.		Verify and record the dates in the last year when the emergency power supply was tested.	AR
M02b	Alarm system	In the event of systems that are critical for the animals, there must be an alarm system that sends alerts to the farmer's telephone to warn of a malfunction or failure of these systems. RECOMMENDATION	Critical systems include ventilation and feed systems.	Verify whether there is an alarm system and whether it is functioning.	RECOMMENDATION

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
M02c	Testing alarm system	With an alarm system, the alarm system is tested every month. RECOMMENDATION	The monthly alarm system tests are registered in a log. Examples of aspects to include in a protocol for testing the alarm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Test the telephone dialler weekly by unplugging the cord. - Test the alarm units weekly by unplugging the cord. - Test the temperature alarm every cycle by setting the alarm limit to below the current temperature. - Test the ventilation alarm monthly by switching off the end group. - Test the emergency power supply by running it unloaded monthly and running it loaded every two months. - Following a repair, all aspects must be tested with the installer. - Test the alarm system by telephoning it after a thunderstorm and always check the settings before leaving the farm. 	Verify whether the alarm system is tested monthly.	RECOMMENDATION
M03	Agricultural electrical inspection	For fire safety reasons, an agricultural electrical inspection must be carried out 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 (Scios scope 8). However, other types of electrical inspection requested by the insurer (such as the Netherlands Technical Agreement, NTA, 8220, Scios scope 10) are also permitted. Not applicable in the event of a farm without electrical installations (except lighting). Electrical installations include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feeding installations - Straw spreaders - Mechanical ventilation or air scrubbers - Solar panels or heat exchangers - etc. 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 NEN-EN 50110. Companies that can perform the inspection are listed here: https://www.averochmea.nl/zakelijk/voor-uw-bedrijf/Meer%20informatie/Paginas/Agro-Elektra-Inspectie.aspx	Verify and record whether an agricultural electrical inspection has been performed. Not applicable in the event of a farm without electrical installations (except lighting).	AR
M04	Property information card	A card showing the plan of the building(s) is present.	The property information card is a plan that shows: floor plans for buildings/barns, access doors, materials used, utilities, fire-extinguishing water point, locations with flammable materials/activities, evacuation routes for animals, etc. See www.objectinformatiekaart.nl for an example.	Verify whether there is a property information card. Record the findings.	AR
M04a	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).		Verify and record whether the property information card is available immediately.	AR
M05	Smoke and heat detection in technical area	The technical area must be equipped with a smoke and fire detection system. With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.	The technical area is e.g. the area with the central heating boilers, electric boilers, wood burners, feeding/drinking installations, pump (for spring water), ventilation systems, emergency power generator, control computer, drive system for manure removal or switch box. The fire detection system complies with NEN2535. All fire detectors are connected to alarm and fire extinguishing installations in the barn/technical areas and send alerts to at least two people. This criterion applies to the entire barn building (including renovations and extensions).	Verify whether there are smoke and heat detectors in the technical area. Record the findings. With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.	RI

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
M06	Fire extinguisher technical area	<p>The technical area is equipped with an automatic fire extinguisher that, in the event of smoke and/or heat, can extinguish a small fire.</p> <p>With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.</p>		<p>Verify whether there is a fire extinguisher in the technical area. Record the findings.</p> <p>With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.</p>	RI
M07	Thermal protection	<p>Electric motors are equipped with thermal protection to detect overheating.</p> <p>With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.</p>	N/A if no electric motors are present.	<p>Verify whether thermal protection on electric motors is present. Record the findings.</p> <p>With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025. N/A if no electric motors are present.</p>	RI
M08	Lightning protection	<p>The highest structure of the block of buildings is equipped with external lightning protection, installed according to NEN 1014.</p> <p>With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.</p>		<p>Verify whether there is an installation and acceptance certificate that confirms the correctness of the installation and its functioning. Record the findings.</p> <p>With new construction and renovation but no later than from 01-01-2025.</p>	RI
Health					
G01	Contracted veterinary practitioner	<p>The veal farmer has a bilateral contract with an assured veal calf veterinary practitioner who is responsible for the entire veterinary supervision on the farm.</p>	<p>The veterinary practitioner may contract other specialists/veterinary practitioners to provide full cover, for example as a replacement during illness or holidays. If the farm changes its veterinary practitioner, the veal farm file shall be transferred by the 'old' veterinary practitioner to the 'new' veterinary practitioner.</p> <p>Certified, assured veal calf 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. An example of a bilateral contract that should be used has been included in the Regulations of Guaranteed Veterinarians.</p> <p>The bilateral relationship may also be registered in InfoKalf.</p> <p>For foreign participants, an agreement must be concluded with a regular veterinary practitioner, with knowledge of the history of the farm and expertise in the field of cattle husbandry. This veterinary practitioner does not have to be registered as an assured certified bovine veterinarian.</p>	<p>Verify whether there is a bilateral agreement with a certified, assured veal calf veterinary practitioner. Record the name of the veterinary practitioner.</p>	Suspension
G02	Farm health plan	<p>The veal farmer has a farm-specific health plan in which they and the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner describe which measures are taken to inspect and improve animal health.</p>	<p>This farm-specific health plan is regularly updated (at least annually).</p> <p>Information from extra diagnostic tests, epidemiological conditions in the region and feedback systems of the abattoir are used to update the farm health plan, e.g. improvement to the barns, vaccinations, use and documentation of veterinary medicines, etc.</p>	<p>Verify and record whether there is a farm-specific health plan at the farm and whether it has been established with the contracted veterinary practitioner.</p>	Suspension

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
G02a	Farm treatment plan	The veal farmer has a farm treatment plan for the use of veterinary medicines in which they and the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner describe which treatments and methods of treatment are used for the most common diseases.	The plan describes which veterinary medicines are used as the first and second choice to treat a certain disease/disorder.	Verify and record whether there is a farm treatment plan at the farm and whether it has been established with the contracted veterinary practitioner.	AR
G02b	Health registration	All cases of increased mortality, disease, outbreaks of disease and euthanasia of seriously ill and/or injured calves are registered and discussed with the veterinary practitioner. If necessary, a thorough investigation will be conducted, the results of the investigation and actions and measures taken are recorded.		Verify and record whether there is a health registration system at the farm and that, based on reports made by the veterinary practitioner, health has been discussed.	AR
G03	Visiting frequency of veterinary practitioner	Each production unit on the farm is regularly visited by the contracted veterinary practitioner (at least quarterly). The veal farmer ensures that the veterinary practitioner visits the farm at least once quarterly to	perform a clinical inspection and provide advice (based on e.g. production data, AM and PM inspection results).	Verify the reports made by the veterinary practitioner in the administrative records of the past year. Record the findings.	AR
G04	Consultation with veterinary practitioner	The veterinary practitioner (practice) is consulted in case of signs of serious (contagious) animal diseases, injuries, an abnormal decrease in the feed intake and/or calf mortality.	The veterinary practitioner can be consulted by telephone and if necessary a visit is made.	Verify by interviewing the farmer and, if necessary, based on reports made by the veterinary practitioner, whether the veal farmer complies with the provisions. Record the findings.	Suspension
G05	Sick bay	Sick and injured calves may be isolated, if necessary, in adequate conditions (individual calf hutch/isolation pen) with, if necessary, dry and comfortable bedding, unless the veterinary practitioner advises against using bedding for veterinary reasons. The required space of the area is at least 1% of that of the calf places, with a minimum of one place.	If this area is not permanently present, but is created when necessary, the participant can demonstrate this.	Verify whether there is an area in the barn that is permanently present, or can be created when necessary, in which sick and injured animals can be kept separately from the healthy animals. Calculate the available space based on the number of calf places and whether this area is sufficient. Record the calculation.	RI
G06	Amount of antibiotic use	Antibiotic use must be below the relevant action threshold as established by the Netherlands Veterinary Medicines Institute (SDa) and must be within the signalling threshold as established by the SDa within two years.	Use of antibiotics by existing participants must be within the signalling threshold as established by the SDa within two years calculated from 01-12-2022. New participants in the Better Life label scheme for calves must comply with the criterion within two years of the start of their participation. However, participants who participated in the Better Life label scheme for calves less than two years ago must comply with the criterion within one year. In the event of an unexpectedly serious outbreak of animal disease, e.g. an outbreak of salmonellosis, the level of antibiotic use must return to within the signalling threshold as established by the SDa within two years.	Record whether the farm's daily dose animal is below the action threshold as established by the SDa. Record, for farms that are not within the action threshold as established by the SDa, whether the use of antibiotics within two consecutive years is within the action threshold as established by the SDa.	AR, action plan
G07	Slaughter findings	Slaughter findings provided as feedback by the abattoir are discussed with the veterinary practitioner in order to adapt the calf management system if necessary.	Relevant slaughter findings include the inspection results of: - livers - kidneys - lungs - injection sites - rumen wall - abomasal lesions - supply of clean animals - gut fill	Verify whether findings are noted in the veterinary practitioner's visiting record. Record the dates on which this was discussed and any adaptations to the calf management system.	AR

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
G07a	Action plan slaughter findings	When the findings structurally exceed the slaughter average, an action plan must be established with the contracted veterinary practitioner. This plan must identify the possible underlying health problems and describe measures to reduce the number of slaughter defects to (below) the slaughter average. RECOMMENDATION	In addition, the slaughter findings are discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner at least twice a year.	Verify, when the findings structurally exceed the slaughter average, whether an action plan has been established and whether, based on a signed visiting record, the slaughter findings are discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner at least twice a year.	RECOMMENDATION
G08	Treatment of lice and mange mites	Calves are treated for lice and mange mites as soon as they arrive at the farm.		Verify invoices of products used to treat lice and mange mites Record the findings.	AR
Transport					
T01	Electric cattle prods	No electric cattle prods are used on the veal farm and during transport.	There are no electric cattle prods on the farm.	Verify whether there are no electric cattle prods on the farm and record which alternatives are used.	RI
T02	Livestock transport	The distance travelled by the calves to the veal farm must comply with a maximum transport distance of 560 km. The calves should preferably not travel more than 100 km and are transported directly to the rearing farm where fattening takes place. RECOMMENDATION	The maximum transport distance of 560 km corresponds to a maximum transport time of eight hours, assuming an average speed of 70 km per hour based on the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) guidelines for livestock transport. The departure and arrival address are stated on the official (export) document (signed by an authorised, official inspection veterinary practitioner). The transport distance between the farm supplying and the farm receiving the calves must be verified based on Routenet.nl with a 40 ton trailer selected as the transport vehicle. For calves imported from abroad (Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg) the distance is calculated from the collection point for export. For calves from the Netherlands the transport distance is calculated from the first collection point.	Calculate the distance by 40 ton trailer between the farm supplying and the abattoir receiving the calves using the Routenet website and estimate the corresponding kilometres and/or travel time. Verify based on I&R and transport documents Record the findings. Record UBN(s) of the farms supplying/receiving the cattle.	Suspension
T02a	Transport of livestock for slaughter	The distance travelled by the veal calves to the abattoir must comply with a maximum transport distance of 280 km.	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. The transport distance between the livestock farm and the abattoir must be verified based on Routenet.nl with a 40T trailer selected as the vehicle.	Calculate the distance by 40 ton trailer between the farm supplying and the abattoir receiving the calves using the Routenet website and estimate the corresponding kilometres and/or travel time. Verify based on I&R and transport documents Record the findings. Record the name of the abattoir.	Suspension
T03	Collection	The calves are not supplied via a cattle market.	The animals supplied come from another livestock farm and are not supplied via a cattle market. Animals for slaughter are transported directly from the farm to the abattoir and are not supplied via a cattle market. Sorting the calves at a calf registration site is permitted.	Verify, based on the transport data, whether the animals have not been transported via a cattle market. Record the findings.	Suspension
T04	Transport	All calves must be transported in closed, climate controlled trailers from 01-01-2025. RECOMMENDATION		Record, if known, whether the calves were transported in climate controlled trailers.	RECOMMENDATION
T05	Age of calves	Calves are not transported to the veal farm under the age of 3 months old.		Verify the age at which calves are transported. Record the findings.	Suspension

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
T06	Abattoirs/veal farms receiving the calves	The calves are supplied to abattoirs that have been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLL calves and the corresponding number of stars).	If the abattoir/veal farm has not been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope, the animals must be downgraded to non-Better Life-eligible or to a Better Life scope for which the abattoir/veal farm has been certified/approved.	Verify the administrative records. Record the UBN of the veal farmers receiving the calves and/or the name and address of the abattoirs receiving the calves. Record per abattoir/veal farm receiving the calves whether they are approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLL calves and the number of stars). If not, verify whether the animals are downgraded to non-Better Life-eligible or a lower scope for which the receiving company has been approved/certified.	RI
Supplementary					
A00	Number of BLL animal places	During the annual inspection, the total number of BLL animal places on the farm is 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 on the farm (UBN). The BLL inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm (UBN) 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 (UBN) 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 (UBN) 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 calf places	The number of BLL calf places on the farm (UBN) is:		Record the number of BLL calf places on the farm.	
A00A1	Number of BLL calves present	The number of BLL calves present on the farm (UBN) is:		Record the number of BLL calves present on the farm.	