

**Following the conclusive formal adoption of these criteria, the supplementary decisions and interpretations below have been drafted in conjunction with the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. These decisions/interpretations have not yet been formally adopted and, in the event of exceptional circumstances, are subject to change before being included in the established BLL criteria. In anticipation thereof, certification will be carried out on the basis of these supplementary decisions and interpretations.**

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
16-10-18	SP013 Animal welfare training	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training is provided by SVO but only at certain times of the year</li> <li>- 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</li> <li>- Without practical experience in an abattoir, the SVO certificate is difficult to obtain</li> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Such personnel may work with live animals without a certificate of competence for slaughter operations for a maximum of three months.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
29-05-20	SP018 Camera surveillance	<p>The criterion states that camera surveillance must be installed and used within two years of the regulation entering into effect. The BLL criteria for poultry abattoirs entered into effect on 6 May 2020 but the interpretation states that the criterion will enter into effect on 1 September 2021. Which date should we take for this criterion?</p>	<p>This criterion enters into effect two years after the poultry abattoir criteria entered into effect. Version 2.1 of the poultry abattoir criteria entered into effect on 6 May 2020. This means that camera surveillance must be in place at the abattoir by 6 May 2022 at the latest.</p>



27-05-21	SP026c Transport time	The BLL Poultry Abattoir criteria state that animals supplied may not be transported for more than 4 hours or 250 km. Assuming an average speed of 70 km per hour, a transport distance of up to 280 km can be achieved within a maximum transport time of 4 hours. What transport time and distance should be observed for transport to the abattoir?	<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.</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>
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<p>8-3-22</p>	<p>SP042 Spare stunning equipment</p>	<p>The criteria for Abattoir Poultry state that spare operational stunning equipment is available at the slaughter site. Spare stunning equipment may be a water bath, but only if the water bath is not the standard method used in the slaughter line.</p> <p>When is the water bath (or other type of spare stunning equipment) not the standard method in the slaughter line and how is this verified?</p>	<p>In case of emergency*, it must be possible to quickly switch to using the spare stunning equipment in order to avoid unnecessary animal suffering. In case of emergency, a water bath may be used as spare stunning equipment in accordance with COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, Annex II, Article 5 (10). The water bath or other type of spare stunning equipment may therefore be part of the slaughter line and does not need to be disconnected from the line. However, the spare stunning equipment must not be a standard step in the normal slaughter process and must not hinder the animals in any way.</p> <p>The water bath is not a standard part of the slaughter line if it is not the standard method of the slaughter process; the water bath is empty, the water bath is switched off and the water bath is positioned lower than the slaughter line so that animals are prevented from hitting against the water bath when moving over the slaughter line.</p> <p>Whether spare stunning equipment is only used at a permitted moment and whether it is used correctly, is verified using one or several points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request the maintenance log of the stunning equipment. This log registers which technical malfunction occurred, when this malfunction started and when the malfunction was solved.</li> <li>• A report on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in the event of a malfunction of gas stunning equipment can also be requested. This report should describe the SOP in case of a malfunction of gas stunning equipment, which inspections are performed in that case, where the results of these inspections are noted, and what the applicable criteria are when switching over to spare equipment. Verify whether this procedure is described in the quality manual.</li> <li>• And/or an inspection of the use of the water bath may be performed by requesting the data on the device which displays and records the details of the electrical key parameters used in the water bath, in accordance with COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, Annex II, Article 5(10).</li> </ul> <p>*: An emergency is an exceptional situation in which fast/alternative action is necessary to avoid exceptional and disastrous consequences and circumstances. For example, an emergency during the stunning phase applies if there has been a (technical) malfunction of the gas stunning equipment for at least 15 minutes, or when it is immediately apparent that solving the malfunction will take longer than 15 minutes.</p>
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2-09-21	SP057 Interval between bleeding and further processing	The interpretation of the criterion includes the fact that the animal is left alone for at least 30 seconds after the neck is cut. However, the measurement method includes that the animal is left alone for a maximum of 30 seconds. Must the animal be left alone for at least or for a maximum of 30 seconds?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has indicated that after the neck is cut, the animals should be left alone for at least 30 seconds. Further processing occurs when at least all brain stem reflexes have ceased. The lack of these reflexes results from unconsciousness and leads to numbness (brain death).  Signs of unconsciousness and numbness (brain death) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A completely flaccid body;</li><li>• No breathing;</li><li>• No third eyelid response;</li><li>• No pupil response to light.</li></ul>
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