

Self-evaluation participant processor

This self-evaluation checklist is intended for processor considering participation in the Better Life label. The checklist aims to provide a quick assessment of the feasibility of participating in the Better Life label for your business. As a participant, it is your responsibility to comply with the complete list of Better Life criteria for your company type. In order to proceed with the application for participation in the Better Life label, please complete this self-evaluation checklist and confirm that you have read it. Additionally, ensure that all required information is filled out in the Better Life portal.

Upon approval from the Better Life Certification Body, the Certification Body of your choice will be notified. The Certification Body will conduct an Entry Check and, upon successful completion, will issue a certificate valid for a specific duration. Once you have obtained the Better Life certificate from your chosen Certification Body, you are allowed to receive, process, and distribute Better Life raw materials. Within four months following the approval and the entry check, the Certification Body will conduct an unannounced check of the new secondary participant. The Certification Body must have unrestricted access to your business at all times. Any business location that is considered a product owner of Better Life products, must be registered for participation in the Better Life label.

Disclaimer: Please be aware that this is an abridged version of the complete list of criteria. It is essential to meet all criteria relevant to your business type. You can find them on our website at betterlife.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk. Your quality manual/work instructions should demonstrate that your business operates in accordance with the Better Life criteria.

Code	Criteria	Interpretation	Reference to quality manual
S3.2.2	The participant verifies whether the suppliers and buyers/customers of BLL eligible products are registered with the BLLF for the corresponding Better Life scope.	The receiving participant verifies and records whether the supplier and buying participants are certified for the correct Better Life scope for the supplied animals/products at least once every six months by consulting the Better Life Register on the Better Life website or the BLL portal	
S4.1	Better Life products must always be produced on a clean production line to prevent the carryover and mixing of non BLL-eligible products. Production must	Production must proceed as follows to prevent products being mixed: Better Life label products are produced at the beginning of the day/production cycle. Production starts with the higher number of BLL stars and works towards the lower number of stars. Or The production line must be cleaned if a Better Life label product is produced after organic, or non BLL-eligible products.	

	<p>start with the higher number of BLL stars and work towards the lower number of stars to prevent products being mixed</p>	<p>The times of cleaning are recorded in the cleaning plan. The cleaning method is site-specific and are specified in the quality manual. The cleaning method must be validated. The procedure for emptying components from the production line must be validated (N=3). (for example, using a tracing test) so it is clear that no mixing is present after a certain number of kg. Products with traces of mixing must always be downgraded to non-BLL product .</p>	
S4.4	<p>The participant has a visible, strict separation between animals/products with different Better Life scopes (BLL species of animal and number of stars) and non-BLL-eligible animals/products throughout the entire production process.</p>	<p>Throughout the entire production process (from arrival to delivery and invoicing) of BLL-eligible and non-BLL-eligible raw materials/animals, work is carried out in accordance with the separation system laid down in the quality manual. Separation can be demonstrated by means of coloured crates, stickers, coloured crate bags, labels and so on.</p>	
S5.2.1	<p>The Better Life label product to be supplied indicates the correct Better Life scope (species of animal and number of stars) on the packaging, transport document and invoice.</p>	<p>The Better Life label designation with the corresponding scope (see glossary) is stated on both the products (label) and on the accompanying packing slip and the invoice. The invoice does not need to be present at delivery. It may also arrive at a later date (after delivery). If the invoice is not present at delivery, it does not need to be verified at the entry inspection. However, verification must take place at some point. The applicable Better Life label scope must be stated on each product line on the invoice and packing slip. The abbreviations below may be used with without further explanation: V= Pig R = Beef K = Chicken F = Calf A = Turkey O = Rabbit E = Egg Z = Dairy</p>	
S6.1	<p>The participant has a system that safeguards the traceability of Better Life products throughout the entire production process.</p>	<p>There is a traceability system that covers the entire process from arrival through processing up to and including shipping. There is clear separation on the workfloor between BLL products and non-BLL products. This must be clearly described in the quality manual. Separation is made physically visible throughout the entire</p>	

There is a visible, strict separation between animals for slaughter/meat/products with different Better Life label scopes. In addition, there is a strict separation between BLL animals/meat/products and non-BLL eligible animals for slaughter/meat/products.

The entire production process is considered to be:

1. Incoming inspection (if applicable, including waiting time in the lairage);
2. Slaughtering process(if applicable, including waiting time in the lairage);
3. Production process (cutting, processing, grading);
4. Storage (of both raw materials and finished products);
5. Shipping.

production process. Separation can be demonstrated by coloured labels, stickers and stamps, by marking the first and last carcass/cut of meat/product with a label or ribbon, etc. Control Method must be described in a procedure. Procedure must at least describe the following: Traceability and identification of various better life scopes and animals/products with the BLK and non-BLK-worthy animals/meat /products.

<p>S6.2.1</p>	<p>The participant should be able to demonstrate the traceability of products with a Better Life scope (see glossary) at all times.</p> <p>Traceability of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raw material with a Better Life scope to a final product with a correct Better Life scope 2. Final product with a BBL to a raw material a correct Better Life scope. 	<p>The following steps in the process must substantiate the quantity of BLL product:</p> <p>Raw material to final product:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantity of raw material (received batch + any initial stock). 2. Quantity used in the batch of semi-finished/final product recipe. 3. If applicable, the quantity in the next step or waste flow. 4. Quantity of batch of final product with the quantity of BLL raw material it contains. 5. The quantity delivered of this batch. 6. Any current stock. <p>Final product to raw material :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The quantity produced of the batch of final product . 2. The quantity delivered of this batch. 3. If applicable, the current stock. 4. Quantity of batch of final product with the quantity of BLL raw material it contains. 5. Quantity used in the batch of semi-finished/final product recipe. 6. Any quantity in the next step or waste flow. 7. Quantity of raw material. 	
<p>S6.4</p>	<p>The number of BLL products delivered may not exceed the number of BLL products/raw materials supplied.</p>	<p>The participant is responsible for being able to demonstrably prove at all times that the delivered products are BLL-eligible. This proof may be requested for the applicable period of the cross-check/mass balance, but also for a more limited period. The participant is able to account for any changes in the stocks. Inventory positions of stock must not be incorporated into the substantiation if this is not based on demonstrable proof.</p>	

<p>S7.1.2</p>	<p>Records of trained personnel are kept, including the training courses they have completed.</p>	<p>The training register includes at least: all personnel who handle live animals in abattoirs. all personnel who work with critical operational processes such as the entry inspection or separation into channels. An induction programme and in-house training can also be part of the training register.</p>	
<p>S7.4.1</p>	<p>Personnel are aware of the BLLF principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel are aware of the characteristics used to recognise BLL products. - Personnel have access to the composition of products approved by the BLLF. <p>Personnel are aware of the criteria and conditions Better Life label products must comply with</p>	<p>Personnel involved in the (production) process (e.g. purchasing, product composition, sales and communication about Better Life products) are aware of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BLL criteria and the procedures established in the quality manual and working instructions concerning the production of Better Life label products; • The characteristics used to recognise BLL products; These personnel have the latest BLL recipes. Recipes are closely followed if there is a risk of a too high percentage of non-BLL product. 	
<p>S9.4.1</p>	<p>Personnel involved in the (production) process (e.g. purchasing, product composition, sales and communication about Better Life products) are aware of: The BLL criteria and the procedures established in the quality manual and working instructions concerning the production of Better Life label products; The</p>	<p>All new or amended compositions of BLL products are always assessed by the participant (head office or branch/site) and then submitted to the BLLF for approval. N/A with Food service raw material certification.</p>	

	<p>characteristics used to recognise BLL products; These personnel have the latest BLL recipes. Recipes are closely followed if there is a risk of a too high percentage of non-BLL product.</p>		
S10.1	<p>A verification inspection has verified whether activities relating to the Better Life label scheme comply with the procedures established in the quality manual</p>	<p>INTERPRETATION The frequency may vary depending on the complexity of the system. A verification inspection must be performed at least once every three months. The verification inspection may be part of the regular hygiene inspection. The verification inspection may include, but is not limited to, the method of separation into channels, how live animals are handled, aspects of building construction that relate to animal welfare, the labelling of finished products and raw materials. The results and findings of the verification inspection are included in the quarterly analysis</p>	
S10.2.1	<p>An internal audit has verified whether activities relating to the Better Life label scheme comply with the set requirements and the effectiveness of the quality assurance system has been established. Any findings stated in the internal audit report have been demonstrably followed up.</p>	<p>An internal audit must be performed at each department at least once a year. The frequency of internal audits is established in an annual plan. This frequency may be altered if a particular department has to be audited more often. The audit must be performed by an independent, qualified and trained auditor. The audit programme (day plan) is drawn up in consultation with the auditor. The information necessary to assess the quality assurance system can be obtained by asking questions, observations of the auditor and verification of the information supplied.</p>	

S10.4	The management must ensure that the management system applied for the Better Life criteria is reviewed at regular, planned intervals, but at least once every 12 months. The review must address whether the management system is suitable, appropriate and effective. Records of management reviews are maintained	This assessment must also include investigating possible improvements. The board must provide resources to enable appropriate corrective/preventive measures to be taken.	
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