

Self-evaluation participant processor in affiliated supermarket outlets

This self-evaluation checklist is intended for processor in affiliated supermarket outlets 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
S1.4.2	Procedures have been established and there is a signed declaration between the branch and the head office concerning communication regarding purchasing, processing and/or packing products that consist of Better Life meat and/or meat products.	<p>The declaration states at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Better Life scope(s) that are processed and/or packed at the branch.• Which suppliers are approved for which Better Life scope. <p>If the head office is exclusively responsible for central purchasing, a declaration at the head office is sufficient.</p>	
S3.2.3	The head office has implemented a procedure and monitors that before processing the branches verify whether all	The received product must be physically identifiable (packaging/labelling) and identifiable in the accompanying documents (delivery note) as BLL eligible, including the	

	<p>purchased/delivered raw materials/products with BLL comply with the corresponding Better Life scope.</p>	<p>corresponding Better Life scope. The head office selects and assesses the suppliers of BLL products. BLL products are only purchased from companies that are certified for the production or sale of the Better Life scope concerned. The head office instructs the branches how to perform the entry inspection of products with BLL and how to record the results. The head office instructs the branches how to deal with BLL product that are not recognisable as BLL eligible when supplied. The BLLF assesses whether product type is eligible for certification as a raw material.</p>	
S3.2.10	<p>All (bulk) products with the BLL that are supplied/are present demonstrably comply with the registered Better Life scope. Suppliers of Better Life products to the branches are known to and registered at the head office, and the branches are informed who these suppliers are.</p>	<p>Bulk meat and/or meat products are not supplied in final/consumer packaging to the branch. These products still have to be processed at the branch (cut, seasoned, heated etc.) and/or packed in the final/ consumer packaging. In consultation with the BLLF, switching to a certain Better Life scope for each species of animal, or within a species of animal for each product category, is possible as long as BLL and non-BLL products are not interchangeable. N/A with raw material certification.</p>	
S4.1	<p>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 start with the higher number of BLL stars and work towards the lower number of stars to prevent products being mixed.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>The production line must be cleaned if a Better Life label product is produced after organic, or non BLL-eligible products. 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</p>	

		<p>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.</p> <p>Products with traces of mixing must always be downgraded to non-BLL product</p>	
S9.2.2.	<p>There is a system for each participating branch and each Better Life scope that demonstrates the correspondence between the quantity of purchased bulk products with the BLL and the quantity of BLL products traded.</p>	<p>Purchased: Bulk meat and/or meat products that are not (yet) packed in the final/consumer packaging and that will be processed at the branch (cut, marinated or seasoned, etc.) and/or packed. Sold: Better Life products packed in final/consumer packaging. The correspondence between the two is demonstrated by linking the quantity of purchased Better Life scope per branch (e.g. based on delivery notes) and the quantity of Better Life products traded per branch (e.g. based on printed labels). The quantity of Better Life scope products traded may never exceed the quantity of purchased Better Life scope (with the exception of any added non-animal ingredients such as seasoning, marinade etc.)</p>	
S9.3.	<p>If a BLL product is used, there is no other identical non-BLL product present.</p>	<p>No other identical non-BLL products/raw materials may be included in the range in addition to BLL products/raw materials or identical products/raw materials with a different number of stars. Consumers must clearly be able to see that they are choosing a BLL product. This does not apply to products delivered in consumer packaging that remains closed from when it arrives, to when it is sold. The product range and recipes must prevent BLL products being replaced by similar non-BLL products when stocks have run out.</p>	

S9.4.1	Only Better Life label products that have been approved by the BLLF are supplied with a BLL logo. A product specification for all BLL products (including compound products) must be submitted to the BLLF for approval.	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.	
S10.2.1	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.	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.	
S10.2.2	There is an audit report of the internal BLL audit performed by, or on behalf of the head office, to verify compliance with the BLL criteria. If the report contains findings that need to be followed up, these have been demonstrably followed up.	The audit report must not be older than one year. The follow up actions to findings in the internal audit report are recorded. The internal audits are performed in accordance with the planning.	