



Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
<p>Not for circulation. No rights may be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.</p> <p>Better Life Beef is meat that originates from beef cattle that have been kept in compliance with the Better Life criteria for beef cattle. A calf kept in compliance with the Better Life criteria for calves must be legally designated as beef when they become older than one year, however if the calf fails to comply with the Better Life criteria for beef cattle stated below, it cannot be marketed as Better Life beef.</p>					
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; - Rearing 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 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
UIT03	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 whether there are any genetically modified animals on the farm (UBN).	Exclusion
UIT05	Standard for mega-housing	The cows are not kept in a mega-barn. A mega-house is considered to be one UBN (or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE (Dutch livestock units).	<p>To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 male (young stock) (under 1 year old) = 0.165 NGE 1 female (young stock) (under 1 year old) = 0.148 NGE 1 beef bull/ steer (1 year and older) = 0.165 NGE 1 beef cow (1 year and older) = 0.141 NGE 1 suckler cow (incl. calf) = 0.250 NGE <p>For example, the following farms (UBN or EU registration numbers) are designated as a mega-houses within the Better Life label scheme, and are excluded from participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - beef bull farm with more than: 2000 beef bulls (2001 x 0.165 = 330.17 NGE) - beef and pasture cow farm with more than: 2340 beef cows (2341 x 0.141 = 330.08 NGE) - suckler cow farm with more than: 1320 suckler cows (1321 x 0.250 NGE = 330.25 NGE) <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 (UBN), a factory farm refers to a livestock farm with animal houses in multiple locations (UBNs). 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 farms (UBNs) that were Better Life label participants before 01-09-2016 (date of establishment of exclusion criteria). These farms (UBNs) may maintain the number of animals that were kept on 01-09-2016. With new construction or renovation, the number of animals kept at a farm location is not increased further.</p>	<p>Verify whether the farm (UBN) does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size. Record the average number of NGE present on the farm (UBN) in the previous year.</p> <p>This does not apply to existing farms (UBNs) that were Better Life label participants before 01-09-2016 (date of establishment of exclusion criteria). These farms may maintain the number of animals that were kept on 01-09-2016. With new construction or renovation, the number of animals kept at a farm location is not increased further.</p>	Exclusion

UIT06	Tiered barn	Only the ground floor inside buildings is used to keep animals.	<p>"Tiered houses", i.e. barns where animals are kept on several storeys/floors/tiers are excluded from participation in the Better Life label.</p> <p>This criterion came into force on 01-09-2016 (date of establishment of exclusion criteria).</p> <p>New farms with a tiered barn that register for the Better Life label after this date, are not eligible for the Better Life label scheme.</p> <p>This does not apply to existing barns that were Better Life label participants before 01-09-2016. However, no new tiered barns with multiple storeys can be built or added after 01-09-2016.</p>	Verify whether the farm (UBN) only keeps animals on the ground floor. If there is a tiered barn on the farm (UBN), verify whether the farm (UBN) participated in the Better Life label scheme before 01-09-2016 and whether no new construction or renovation has taken place after that date.	Exclusion
UIT07	Chain Manager	The livestock farm (UBN) 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 party that registers livestock farms for certification with the Better Life label Foundation and monitors the livestock farms that are affiliated with their supply chain. The manager also links various components within their 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 (UBN) 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
UIT08	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the farm (UBN) 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 farm (UBN) or no cooperation is given, the farm will be excluded from participation, unless it can invoke force majeure.		Exclusion
UIT09.2	All beef cattle present are BLL-eligible	All beef cattle (incl. calves) on the farm (UBN) comply with the Better Life label criteria Beef Cattle 2-stars.	<p>Animals including dairy cows and double-muscled cattle (including crossbreeds) or veal calves that do not comply with the Better Life label criteria are not permitted on the farm (UBN).</p> <p>Both beef cattle that are BLL-eligible and beef cattle that are not BLL-eligible may be present at the same farm provided the farm uses different UBNs (issued by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RvO)).</p> <p>Rearing BLL and non-BLL beef cattle on the same farm is permitted under strict conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BLL beef cattle registered under one UBN must be kept separately from non-BLL beef cattle registered under another UBN in the meadow and in the barn. A physical separation must be present between beef cattle that are BLL-eligible and beef cattle that are not BLL-eligible in the meadow and in the barn. - The beef cattle registered at different UBNs are housed and cared for completely separately. - The plot on which BLL-eligible beef cattle are grazed is linked to the BLL certified farm (UBN). The administrative records of the BLL participant state that the relevant plot is owned or leased by this farm (UBN). In cases where it is unclear whether the plot is owned or leased by this farm (UBN), only BLL beef cattle may be grazed on the plot. <p>The only exception applies to new participants in the Better Life label scheme during the first year of participation. During the entry audit, non BLL-eligible cattle may be present on the UBN registered for the Better Life label in addition to BLL-eligible cattle. After the entry audit, the farmer concerned has the time until the next annual audit (1 year) to remove beef cattle that do not comply with the BLL criteria from the farm as not being BLL-eligible. Under no circumstances during this period are non BLL-eligible beef cattle permitted to be sold/traded as BLL-eligible cattle.</p>	<p>Verify whether there are any beef cattle present on the farm (UBN) that are not eligible for BLL-Cattle 2-stars.</p> <p>If BLL and non-BLL beef cattle are both kept on the farm, verify whether the farm uses different UBNs and complies with the conditions. Record the findings.</p> <p>Verify with new participants whether non-BLL beef cattle have been removed from the farm after the entry audit as not being BLL-eligible.</p>	Exclusion

General					
A01	Reporting obligation	Better Life label participant is required to report without delay any amendment that affects or may affect participation in BLL or the BLL certificate in writing to the Certification Body and the chain manager.	<p>Amendments include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>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 d. Loss of an accreditation or a certificate meaning the applicable BLL criteria can no longer be met f. Etc.</p> <p>The chain manager informs the Certification Body and the Better Life label Foundation of the amendments.</p>	Verify whether amendments that affect participation in the Better Life Label scheme from the previous year have been reported to the Certification Body and the chain manager.	AR
A02A	Knowledge & skills	The farmer and their own personnel must have at least: - have completed secondary vocational education in livestock farming or - 1 year of working experience in beef farming, or - work under the responsibility of someone with the above qualifications.	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. Professional diplomas and certificates if applicable are present at the farm.	Verify and record whether the knowledge and qualifications of the farmer and the personnel satisfy the conditions. Record which education/ training/experience applies.	Warning
A02C	Human-animal interaction course	The manager/farm manager of each site that participates in BLL where beef cattle are kept must have followed a human-animal interaction workshop approved by the Society for the Protection of Animals.	<p>Conditions human-animal interaction course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The course must be given by an experienced expert in the field of bovine well-being and health from the beef cattle sector who has experience in keeping cattle, 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 positive consequences of good human-animal interaction on financial and production results, 4. Attention to the positive consequences of a good human-animal interaction on financial and production results. <p>See the Better Life Label Foundation website for a list of human-animal interaction workshops approved by the Society for the Protection of Animals.</p> <p>This criterion will come into force as soon as a human-animal interaction course is available.</p>	Verify whether the manager/farm manager has obtained proof of participation in a course approved by the Society for the Protection of Animals.	Warning
A03	Copies of cattle passports	A copy of the cattle passport is kept in the administrative records of imported cattle.	<p>This also applies to cattle imported from other EU Member States. These copies are kept on the farm for at least one year after the arrival of the cattle.</p> <p>Dutch animals are not accompanied by a passport. The ear tag numbers of Dutch animals can be used to request information digitally about the origin of the animals concerned from the various databases (Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), I&R). Dutch animals comply in this way with criterion A03.</p> <p>Digital information of imported animals or foreign animals is only listed in Dutch databases from the moment the animals arrived in the Netherlands. Foreign databases may also be consulted to obtain the full origin of the imported animals or foreign animals concerned, in addition to a copy of the cattle passport. The farmer must obtain consent from the database owner.</p>	Verify for imported cows (up to one year back) whether a copy of the cattle passport has been kept in the administrative records.	RI

Feed					
V01A	Forage	Feeding too much concentrate is not permitted.	<p>This means that at least 60% (based on dry matter) of the daily ration must consist of (energy-rich) forage, e.g. fresh grass, silage grass, silage maize, hay, straw, lucerne.</p> <p>Forage: feedstuff with a structure value higher than 1.10/kg DM. The structure value is assessed based on the structure values as listed in the CVB feed tables, see http://www.cvbdiervoeding.nl CVB for the current CVB feed tables.</p> <p>Grazing in nature areas is considered to be forage.</p>	<p>Record the ration in kilograms per type of feedstuff that is provided daily. Determine the structure value of each type of feedstuff based on CVB feed tables, and whether the feedstuff is classified as a concentrate or forage based on its structure value. Calculate the percentage of forage based on this SV. Record the percentage of forage.</p>	Suspension
V01B	Concentrate	A maximum of 40% of the daily ration may be concentrate.	<p>Concentrate: feed with a structure value of less than or equal to 1.10/kg DM. Forage: feedstuff with a structure value higher than 1.10/kg DM.</p> <p>The structure value is assessed based on the structure value as listed in the CVB feed tables, see www.cvbdiervoeding.nl for the current CVB feed tables. The following feeds are considered to be concentrates: Corn cob mix (CCM), corn cob silage / corn cob scrap, pressed sugar beet pulp, brewer's spent grain, potato fibres, grass and lucerne pellets.</p> <p>The following feeds are considered to be forage: fresh grass, silage grass, maize, hay, straw, lucerne.</p> <p>In order for 40% concentrate to be sufficient, a large part of the forage share in the ration should consist of energy-rich forage, namely: fresh grass, silage grass, maize or other comparable, energy-rich forms of roughage/forage. Other comparable, energy-rich forms of animal feed must contain at least the same quantity of VEVl (forage units for beef production) per kg as maize. This is assessed based on the CVB feed tables at www.cvbdiervoeding.nl.</p> <p>This criterion can be considered complied with if the beef cattle are grazed outside all year round.</p>	<p>Determine the structure value of each type of feedstuff based on CVB feed tables, and whether the feedstuff is classified as a concentrate or forage based on its structure value. Calculate the percentage of concentrate based on this SV. Record the percentage of concentrate.</p>	RI
V01C	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>	<p>Verify 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 sheeting/wrapping film, etc.</p>	AR
V01D	GMP+	The purchased feed is certified by GMP+ or an equivalent quality assurance system.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Verify the feed and record the name and address of the feed supplier.</p> <p>Record, in case of an equivalent quality assurance system, which quality assurance system(s) the different links in the chain comply with.</p>	AR
V02A	Feeding place	With unlimited (ad lib) feeding systems, one feeding place is provided for every two animals.		<p>Verify whether the feeding system is unlimited. If so, verify whether one feeding place is provided for each two animals. Record the findings. N/A with limited feeding systems.</p>	RI
V02B	Feeding place	With limited feeding systems, one feeding place is provided for each animal.		<p>Verify whether the feeding system is limited. If so, verify whether one feeding place is provided for each animal. Record the findings. N/A with unlimited feeding systems.</p>	RI



V02C	Feeding place	The feeding place is at least 75 cm wide.		Verify the dimensions of the feeding place. Record the width.	RI																																										
V04A	Drinking water	All beef cattle must have permanent access to drinking water.	With e.g. pasture access or grazing in nature areas, this may also be surface water (river, stream, ditch, seepage water, etc.).	Verify and record whether the animals have permanent access to drinking water.	RI																																										
V04B	Drinking water	The drinking water is clean.	The drinking water is clear and free of obvious contamination.	Verify and record whether the drinking water is clean.	RI																																										
V04C	Analysis of drinking water quality from own source	If the farm uses drinking water from its own source, the drinking water is sampled once a year at animal level at the drinking points and its bacteriological and physicochemical quality is analysed by an accredited laboratory.	The laboratory that performs the analysis must be NEN-ISO/IEC 17025 accredited. N/A with water supplied by a water company or surface water (river, stream, ditch, seepage water, etc.).	If the farm uses drinking water from its own source, verify whether its bacteriological and physicochemical quality has been analysed annually. Record the last date of analysis and the name of the laboratory. N/A with water supplied by a water company or surface water (river, stream, ditch, seepage water, etc.)	AR																																										
V04C1	Analysis of drinking water quality from own source	The analysis must demonstrate that the water sample from the farm's own source is of sufficient quality for beef cattle because it complies with the drinking water standard for cattle.	<p>The limits below apply to suitability as drinking water for cattle. 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 meet this criterion.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Parameter:</td> <td>Good</td> <td>Abnormal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>pH:</td> <td>5 to 8</td> <td>< 4 & > 9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ammonium (mg/L):</td> <td>< 2</td> <td>> 10</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>< 800</td> <td>> 1500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iron (mg/L):</td> <td>< 0.5</td> <td>> 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manganese (mg/L):</td> <td>< 1</td> <td>> 2</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>> 10,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E. coli (cfu/ml):</td> <td>< 10</td> <td>> 100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total aerobic plate count (cfu/ml):</td> <td>< 10,000</td> <td>> 100,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>Source: Dutch Animal Health Service</p> <p>If the results are abnormal, the farmer must implement measures as soon as possible to improve the water quality. The water must be sampled and analysed again until compliance with the above standards is demonstrated.</p> <p>N/A with water supplied by a water company or surface water (river, stream, ditch, seepage water, etc.).</p>	Parameter:	Good	Abnormal	pH:	5 to 8	< 4 & > 9	Ammonium (mg/L):	< 2	> 10	Nitrite (mg/L):	< 0.1	> 1,0	Nitrate (mg/L):	< 100	> 200	Chloride (mg/L):	< 250	> 2000	Sodium (mg/L):	< 800	> 1500	Iron (mg/L):	< 0.5	> 10	Manganese (mg/L):	< 1	> 2	Sulphate (mg/L):	< 100	> 250	Hardness (°D):	> 4 & < 15	> 25	Yeasts and moulds:	> 10,000		E. coli (cfu/ml):	< 10	> 100	Total aerobic plate count (cfu/ml):	< 10,000	> 100,000	<p>Assess test results and record whether the water from the farm's own source is suitable as drinking water for cattle. If the drinking water is not suitable, verify whether recovery measures have been taken and samples have been analysed again.</p> <p>N/A with water supplied by a water company or surface water (river, stream, ditch, seepage water, etc.).</p>	AR
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V04C2	Number of indoor drinking points RECOMMENDATION	For each group of up to 20 animals, there must be at least two functioning drinking points that are evenly distributed throughout the barn. There must be one additional drinking point for each subsequent group of 20 animals.	<p>Drinking points are evenly distributed throughout the barn, i.e. the drinking points are not all adjacent, but are spread throughout the space.</p> <p>The following table is used to determine the number of drinking points.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Number of beef cattle</u></td> <td><u>Number of drinking points</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>< 20 cattle</td> <td>2 drinking points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 – 40 cattle.....</td> <td>3 drinking points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>41 – 60 cattle.....</td> <td>4 drinking points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>61 – 80 cattle.....</td> <td>5 drinking points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>81 – 100 cattle</td> <td>6 drinking points</td> </tr> </table> <p>Etc.</p>	<u>Number of beef cattle</u>	<u>Number of drinking points</u>	< 20 cattle	2 drinking points	21 – 40 cattle.....	3 drinking points	41 – 60 cattle.....	4 drinking points	61 – 80 cattle.....	5 drinking points	81 – 100 cattle	6 drinking points	Record the number of beef cattle per group and the number of drinking points in the group. Verify whether there are a sufficient number of drinking points.	This is a recommendation. No sanction will be imposed (yet) if this criterion is not complied with.																														
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V04D	Drinking water supply in the pasture	There is a functioning supply of drinking water in the pasture.	This may also be surface water (river, stream, ditch, seepage water, etc.).	Record non-conformities. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI																																										
V04E	Drinking water supply in the pasture	The distance to the drinking water supply in the pasture/nature area must not exceed 500 m.		Record the distance from the furthest point of the pasture to the drinking point. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI																																										

Management					
AM01	Daily inspection of animals	All animals are inspected for signs of care needs, injury, poor health, stress, etc. at least once a day.		Interview the stockpersons about their inspection activities and their findings. Assess a number of pens for signs of animals requiring care, signs of injury, poor health, stress, etc. Record the findings.	AR in 2nd consecutive year RI
AM02	Emergency plan	An emergency plan must be established for calamities.	An emergency plan must be displayed in a visible, easily accessible location near the entrance of the barn and/or the farm. The plan describes the action to take in the event of an emergency and lists important telephone numbers. This list includes at least the telephone number of the fire services, the police, and a general practitioner. See the Better Life Label website for the BLL 'Emergency Plan' template.	Verify whether an emergency plan is present on the farm (in accordance with the BLL template).	AR
AM02c	Property information card	A property information card is present.		Verify whether a property information card is present.	Warning
AM02c1	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).	This property information card does not need to be visible from the edge of the yard but it must be easy to locate/ visible (outside the barn) when the premises are entered.	Verify whether the property information card is available immediately.	Warning
AM02c2	Property information card	The property information card shows: floor plans of buildings/barns, access doors, materials used, utilities, fire-extinguishing water point, locations containing flammable materials/or with activities that could cause fires, animal evacuation routes etc.		Verify whether the contents of the property information card comply with the requirements.	Warning
AM03	Fire safety	For fire safety reasons, an agricultural electrical inspection must be performed at least once every five years.	Any new installation must be tested in accordance with NEN 1010 before operation. A reinspection must be performed every five years in accordance with NEN 3140. An agricultural electrical inspection accepted by the insurer also satisfies the conditions of BLL. 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, respectively. NEN-EN 50110. The criterion is not applicable in the event of a farm without electrical installations (except lighting). Electrical installations include, but are not limited to: - Feeding installations - Straw spreaders - Mechanical ventilation or air scrubbers - Solar panels or heat exchangers - etc.	Verify whether there is a certificate of the last inspection and record the date. Not applicable in the event of a farm without electrical installations (except lighting).	AR
AM04	Fire detection	Any technical areas, if present, must be equipped with a fire detection system. This system also sends alerts to the farmer's telephone.	A technical area is e.g. the area with the mechanical control of e.g. feed/drinking installations, pump (for spring water), ventilation systems, control computer, drive system for manure removal or switch box.	Verify whether there are any technical areas. If technical areas are present verify whether there is a fire detection system that sends alerts to the farmer's telephone.	1 st year warning 2 nd year AR
AM05	Separate storage area for (heat generating) vehicles/equipment	There is a separate storage area for (heat generating) vehicles and equipment. With new constructions and renovation projects but no later than 01-01-2035.	Heat generating vehicles/equipment must therefore not be stored in the same space as the animals or in spaces where bedding or feed is stored. For example, the tractor or the feed mixer must not be kept in the barn.	Verify whether there are separate storage areas for (heat-generating) vehicles and equipment in new constructions and renovation projects.	HI Not applicable with existing houses. Exclusion for houses that were new or have been renovated after 01-01-2019 and do not comply with this standard.
AM07	Water supply for extinguishing fires	Sufficient water for extinguishing fires is available at the farm.	On farms with no water available for extinguishing fires (or insufficient water), additional water sources (source / well / pond / bioswale) must be installed in consultation with the municipality / fire services/ safety region.	Verify whether the municipality / fire service/ safety region has investigated the availability of sufficient water for extinguishing fires or whether an additional source (drilled well / pond / bioswale) is being built.	AR

Health and Interventions					
G01	Contracted veterinary practitioner	The beef farmer has a bilateral contract with a certified assured bovine veterinary practitioner who is responsible for the entire veterinary supervision on the farm. The veterinary practitioner may contract other specialists/veterinary practitioners to provide full cover, for example as a replacement during illness or holidays.	<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 farm file shall be transferred by the 'old' veterinary practitioner to the 'new' veterinary practitioner.</p> <p>Certified, assured veterinary practitioners are listed in the register of Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation (<i>Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts</i> (for quality control of the services provided by veterinarians in the Netherlands)), see www.geborgdedierenarts.nl. An example of a bilateral agreement is provided in the regulations of the Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation. This example should be used.</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 beef cattle husbandry. This veterinary practitioner does not have to be registered as an assured certified bovine veterinarian. The bilateral agreement to be signed can be found on the Better Life label website. This agreement must be used for foreign participants. In France, the so-called <i>Bilan Sanitaire d'Eleveage</i> can be used for this.</p>	Verify whether there is a bilateral agreement with a certified, assured bovine veterinary practitioner. Record the name of the veterinary practitioner.	AR
G02A	Farm health plan	The beef 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.	The plan includes information about the herd, the health status and the conditions on the farm. Information from diagnostic tests, epidemiological conditions in the region and feedback systems of the abattoir are used to plan future interventions (e.g. improvement to the barns, vaccinations, use of and documents concerning veterinary medicines, etc.).	Verify whether a farm health plan is present. Verify whether the farm health plan is followed.	AR if incomplete. Suspension if not present.
G02B	Farm treatment plan	The beef 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 /antibiotics are used as the first and second choice to treat a certain disease/disorder.	Verify whether a farm treatment plan is present. Verify whether the farm treatment plan is followed.	AR if incomplete. Suspension if not present.
G02C	Evaluation	The farm health plan and the accompanying farm treatment plan are evaluated and updated (at least) annually.		Verify whether the FHP and FTP are evaluated and updated annually.	RI
G03	Visiting frequency of veterinary practitioner	Each production unit of the farm is visited by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner to perform a clinical examination and provide advice (based on e.g. production data, ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection results).		Verify the veterinary practitioner's visiting reports for the last two years in the administrative records and record the dates of visits in the last year. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
G04	Consult veterinarian in case of illness/injury	The farm's contracted veterinary practitioner must be consulted immediately in the event of serious illness or injury, or in the event of highly contagious animal diseases, an abnormal reduction in feed intake and/or mortality in the herd.		Verify, based on the frequency of visits in relation to the prescribed treatments of the group, and assessment of the farm health plan whether the beef farmer complies with the criteria.	RI
G05	Euthanising seriously ill or injured animals	Very seriously ill or injured animals with no prospect of recovery must be euthanised on the farm as soon as possible. Euthanasia is based on legislation and is performed according to a method approved for the animal species in a way that minimises pain, discomfort and stress for the animal.	An approved humane method of killing leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal. The contracted veterinary practitioner describes (in the farm health plan, for example), how untreatable animals can be euthanised humanely on the farm as soon as possible.	Verify based on the visiting reports and/or log book whether euthanasia has been performed. If yes, record the method of euthanasia.	AR
G05A	Euthanising seriously ill or injured animals	Euthanasia is performed by or under the responsibility of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	Euthanasia by the farmer using a penetrating captive bolt is permitted, provided the user has the necessary permits (storage and possession of ammunition) and this method is only used in consultation with the veterinary practitioner .	Verify based on the visiting reports and/or log book whether euthanasia has been performed by the veterinary practitioner.	AR
G05B	Euthanising seriously injured or sick animals in emergency situations	Arrangements have been made with the veterinary practitioner for them to visit the farm as quickly as possible, if necessary, to euthanise untreatable animals in emergency situations.	These agreements are registered in the farm health plan or are part of, or an appendix to, the agreement with the veterinary practitioner.	Verify whether the agreement with the veterinary practitioner contains agreements for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously injured or sick animals (e.g. in emergency situations).	AR
G06	Sick bay	Sick and injured cattle must be removed from the group (if necessary) and treated in the sick bay .	An exception is if the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner indicates that this is not necessary for veterinary reasons.	Verify whether there is a sick bay in the barn in which sick and injured animals can be kept separately from the healthy animals.	RI

G06A	Sick bay	The sick bay must contain dry, comfortable bedding.	An exception is if the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner advises against bedding for veterinary reasons.	Verify whether dry, comfortable bedding is used.	RI
G06B	Sick bay	The sick bay covers an area of at least 1% of that of the animal places, with a minimum of one place.	If this area is not permanently present, but is created when necessary, the participant can demonstrate this.	Calculate the available space based on the number of animal places and whether this area is sufficient. Record the calculation.	RI
G06D	Sick bay	Visual contact with other cattle is possible from the sick bay.		Verify whether the animals can make eye contact with each other. Record non-conformities.	RI
G06E	Cleaning the sick bay	The sick bay must be constructed in such a way that it can easily be cleaned and disinfected between each occupation. It must be easy to remove any dead animals so the risk of contact with other animals is minimised.		Verify whether the sick bay complies. Record the findings.	RI
G06F	Disposal of excrement from the sick bay	Urine and manure from the sick bay must be prevented from coming into contact with the other animals. Excrement must be disposed of in such a way that the risk of contact with other animals is minimised.	The sick bay must be constructed in such a way that manure, urine and animals from the sick bay cannot come into contact with other animals. This can be achieved, for example, by: - separating the sick bay from other animals by means of a walkway/free space. - preventing run off of manure or urine from the sick bay in the direction of other animals. - moving the sick bay to another building. The animals in the sick bay must be able to make eye contact with other animals (criterion G06D). For non-infectious diseases, for example, in the case of injuries, strict physical separation of manure and urine from the sick bay from other animals does not apply.	Verify whether sick bay complies. Record the findings.	RI
G07A	Antibiotic use only on prescription from the veterinary practitioner	All antibiotics used on the farm are prescribed by the (farm's contracted) veterinary practitioner.	This can be registered by the veterinary practitioner in the visit report based on prescriptions issued.	Verify using a random check whether the antibiotics used over the last year were prescribed by the (farm's contracted) veterinary practitioner. For example, verify whether there is a corresponding prescription present on the farm, or whether the veterinary practitioner has registered this in the visit report. Record the findings.	RI
G07B	Use of 3rd choice of antibiotics	Use of 3rd choice antibiotics (fluoroquinolones and 3rd, 4th generation cephalosporins) is restricted to an absolute minimum. Use is only possible if bacteriological testing including sensitivity determination has shown that 1st and 2nd choice antibiotics are not effective.	The <i>Formularium voor Vleeskalveren en Vleesvee of the Werkgroep Veterinair Antibiotica Beleid</i> is leading in this respect. The document indicates which antibiotics are 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice treatments for certain conditions and is leading in this respect. 3rd choice antibiotics are antibiotics that are of critical importance for human health (e.g. fluoroquinolones and 3rd, 4th generation cephalosporins). These antibiotics are only used: - for individual animals - if bacteriological testing has shown that 1st and 2nd choice antibiotics are not effective.	Verify whether 3rd choice antibiotics (fluoroquinolones and 3rd, 4th generation cephalosporins) are only administered to individual animals and only if bacteriological testing including sensitivity determination has shown that 1st and 2nd choice antibiotics are not effective. Record the findings.	Suspension
G07C	Ban on preventive antibiotic use	Preventive use of antibiotics is not permitted.	There are no antibiotics present that do not correspond to a prescription. Preventive use is the use of antibiotics in the absence of any disease being suspected or detected in the animals concerned. A major risk associated with the preventive use of antibiotics is that this can lead to antibiotic resistance in pathogens.	Verify during the random check whether the antibiotics were used as a result of suspecting or detecting a disease in the animals concerned, whether any antibiotics are present that do not correspond to a prescription and whether these antibiotics have been used preventively. Record the findings.	RI
G07D	Registration of antibiotic use	All antibiotic use on the farm is recorded on a daily basis in the farm administration and states the specific animals.		Verify whether all antibiotics present on the farm, or that were demonstrably present on the farm, have been registered on a daily basis in the farm records for veterinary medicines/antibiotics and that the specific animals are stated. Record the findings.	AR
G08	Slaughter findings	Slaughter findings provided as feedback by the abattoir are discussed at least twice a year with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner in order to adapt the management system if necessary. The veterinary practitioner includes this in the visit report. Comes into force no later than 01-01-2020	This includes results of inspections for inflammation of the liver, lung and pleurisy, rejection of carcase parts and average deviations/rejections (e.g. in % per delivered herd) of all suppliers to the abattoir. These data are from previous deliveries (up to at least two years, and any previous deliveries of the same rearing cycle) present on the farm.	Verify whether after 01-01-2020, slaughter findings were discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner at least twice a year. Verify whether findings provided as feedback by the abattoir are available in the records for the last 2 years. Record the last findings provided as feedback by the abattoir and discussion with the veterinary practitioner. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI

G09	Assessment of claws	The condition of the claws is discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and a claw care plan is established if necessary.	This may be part of the health and welfare plan.	Verify whether the farmer discusses the condition of the claws with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner. Record the findings.	RI
G10	Tail docking	Tail docking is not permitted.		Verify this with 10% of the animals by inspecting the barn. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
G11	Hot or freeze branding	Hot or freeze branding cattle is not permitted.		Record which method is used to identify individual animals.	Suspension
G12	Disbudding	Disbudding (preventing horn growth) is performed before the calves are two months of age.	Disbudding (removing full-grown horn or partially removing it, blunting) in bovine animals older than six months of age is only permitted in incidental cases that involve veterinary necessity/problems. For example, if the horns are deformed which leads to self-injury or injury to other cows or if the horn is broken.	Record the age at disbudding. If the animal was older than six months, verify whether the procedure was a veterinary necessity.	Suspension
G12A	Disbudding	Disbudding is performed by or on the instructions of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	Disbudding is performed by or on the instructions of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner or by an organisation/person authorised to perform this veterinary procedure in accordance with the applicable, national legislation. Anaesthesia is performed by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner or by an organisation/person authorised to perform this veterinary procedure in accordance with the applicable, national legislation. The farmer may subsequently disbud the animal on the instructions of the veterinary practitioner. Analgesics may be administered after disbudding by the farmer on a veterinary prescription.	Verify whether disbudding was performed by or on the instructions of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	Suspension
G12B	Disbudding method	If the animals are disbudded, this should be done by: - using a hot iron with cattle under two months (preventing further horn growth) - using a wire saw with cattle older than six months (removing fully grown horn).	In the Netherlands using a wire saw is a statutory requirement when disbudding cattle older than six months. In other Member States, other disbudding methods may also be used if the regulations in the relevant Member State permit. The application of disbudding paste is not permitted in the Better Life label scheme due to the risk of pain after the procedure and the risk of the paste running (e.g. running into the eyes because of rain, or being licked by other calves).	If disbudding is performed, verify whether a hot iron is used with cattle under two months and a wire saw with animals older than six months of age.	Suspension
G12C	Anaesthetic at disbudding	Disbudding is performed under anaesthetic.	The anaesthetic was administered by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner or by an organisation/person authorised for veterinary procedures in accordance with national legislation.	Verify whether disbudding is performed under anaesthetic.	Suspension
G12D	Analgesic at disbudding	The animals are administered an analgesic after disbudding (for up to at least three days) by or under the responsibility of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	Analgesics may be administered after disbudding by the farmer on a veterinary prescription.	Verify whether the treated animals receive pain relief and whether the analgesic used remains effective for at least three days after disbudding.	Suspension
G12E	Disbudding registration	Disbudding of animals is registered by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner in the visit report.	For beef cattle originating from non-Better Life label beef certified farms the supplying farm's contracted veterinary practitioner registers the disbudding method used on the disbudding declaration that accompanies the animals to the fattening farm.	Verify whether disbudding is registered or whether a declaration of disbudding from the veterinary practitioner has been supplied with the animals.	Suspension
G13	Castration	If cattle are castrated, this is performed by a veterinary practitioner.		Verify whether there are visit reports of the veterinary practitioner for two recently castrated animals. N/A if the cattle have not been castrated or not castrated on the farm concerned. Refer to criterion ST04.	RI
G13A	Anaesthetic at castration	Castration is performed under anaesthetic.		Verify whether the visit reports of the veterinary practitioner for two recently castrated animals demonstrate compliance with this criteria. N/A if the cattle have not been castrated or not castrated on the farm concerned. Refer to criterion ST04.	RI
G13B	Analgesic at castration	The animals are administered an analgesic after castration (for up to at least three days) by or under the responsibility of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.		Verify whether the visit reports of the veterinary practitioner for two recently castrated animals demonstrate compliance with this criteria. N/A if the cattle have not been castrated or not castrated on the farm concerned. Refer to criterion ST04.	RI
G13C	Castration registration	Castration of animals is registered by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner in the visit report.	For beef cattle originating from non-Better Life label beef certified farms the supplying farm's contracted veterinary practitioner registers the castration on the castration declaration that accompanies the animals to the fattening farm. See the Better Life Label website for the BLL 'Declaration Castration' template.	Verify whether castration is registered or whether a declaration of castration from the veterinary practitioner has been supplied with the animals. N/A if the cattle have not been castrated.	AR

G14	Beef cattle breeds with high incidence of caesarean sections	Beef cattle breeds with a high incidence of caesarean sections are excluded from the Better Life label.	Double-muscled breeds of cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections, such as Belgian Blues and Dutch Improved Red Pied, including beef on dairy crosses, are not permitted on the beef farm. For new participants, beef cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections that are currently present must be removed as not being BLL-eligible before the next annual inspection.	Verify whether there are any double-muscled breeds of cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections, such as Belgian Blues and Dutch Improved Red Pied, including beef on dairy crosses, on the farm. Verify with new participants whether beef cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections have been removed from the farm after the entry audit as not being BLL-eligible.	Exclusion At entry audit: RI
G14A	Caesarean section	Caesarean sections are only performed in emergencies and not routinely.	Caesarean sections are only performed in emergencies, with a maximum of 5% of births per year.	Verify whether caesarean sections are only performed in emergencies. Record the percentage of beef cattle born using a caesarean section. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	Suspension (action plan)
G15	Reproductive techniques	Routine use of embryo transfer and Ovum Pick Up are not permitted.	ET or OPU have been used with maximum 5% of the animals.	Record the reproductive method used and the percentage of animals with ET or OPU. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	Suspension
G16	Prevention of IBR and BVD RECOMMENDATION	The farm is free from Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and Bovine Virus Diarrhoea (BVD).	A farm is considered IBR-BVD free if none of the animals present has any IBR or BVD antibodies. If a farm is not IBR-BVD free, the farm must participate in an IBR-BVD control programme.	Verify whether the farm has IBR-BVD free status or whether the farm is participating in an IBR-BVD vaccination programme .	This is a recommendation. No sanction will be imposed (yet) if this criterion is not complied with.
G17	Prevention of IBR and BVD RECOMMENDATION	Only beef cattle from farms considered IBR and BVD free are supplied.	A farm can demonstrate IBR-BVD-free status with a certificate issued by the GD, or an equivalent (foreign) certificate.	Verify whether the farms that supply animals have an IBR-BVD-free certificate issued by the GD or an equivalent (foreign) certificate.	This is a recommendation. No sanction will be imposed (yet) if this criterion is not complied with.
Housing					
H01A	Grazing	All beef cattle are grazed.	Exceptions are: outside the grazing season, during extreme weather conditions, beef bulls under 1 year old that have complied with the mandatory grazing period, beef bulls older than 1 year and/or beef cows (max. 4 months) which are fattened and permanently housed in the barn.	Verify whether the beef cattle are grazed. Record the findings. N/A outside the grazing season, during extreme weather conditions, beef bulls under 1 year old that have complied with the mandatory grazing, beef bulls older than 1 year and/or beef cows (max. 4 months) which are fattened and permanently housed in the barn. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
HB01.2	Minimum number of grazing days	The beef cattle are grazed for 12 hours a day for at least 180 days a year or for 24 hours a day for at least 135 days a year .	Exceptions are: calves where the first year of life does not include sufficient days in the grazing season and beef bulls older than 1 year. Beef bulls only need to be grazed during their first year of life. If a bull calf has grazed from birth, the mandatory grazing period for the first year of life is complied with an age of 180 or 135 days (depending on the type of grazing, 12 or 24 hours a day). The bull calf can then be housed in the barn. Beef cows and steers may be housed/fattened in the barn for the remainder of the year provided they comply with the minimum number of grazing days every year. Exceptions are: beef cows and steers that are fattened in the barn during (part of) the grazing period. Beef cows and steers may not be fattened in the barn for longer than one consecutive period of maximum four months during the grazing period. These cows and steers must be sent for slaughter at the end of the fattening period.	Record whether the grazing obligation has been complied with. Record non-conformities. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	AR
H01AA	Grazing registration	The grazing periods are registered. 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 whether the farmer registers the grazing times and the non-grazing times, stating the reason. Record the findings. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI

H01B.2	Stocking density on cultivated grassland	The maximum stocking density on cultivated grassland is 7 cows per hectare of grassland available for active grazing.	Cow is defined as one animal that, according to the BLL criteria, must have access to grazing, e.g. 1 beef bull or 1 beef cow that are not (yet) permanently kept in the barn fattening, or 1 suckler cow including calf. Grazable grassland is defined as the number of hectares of cultivated grassland owned, leased (single year or multiple year lease) and the number of hectares of cultivated grassland with a user declaration. In nature areas, the beef cattle density depends on the available feed. The stocking density is regulated in the management agreement.	Verify and record the cattle density per ha. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
H02	Shelter during grazing	The beef cattle have sufficient shelter in the pasture (as protection against rain, cold winter weather or heat - temperatures above 25°C) or a shelter that offers sufficient space for all the animals present to shelter at the same time.	An exception is nature areas where there is sufficient natural shelter in the total area to be grazed for all the animals present to shelter at the same time.	Record the type of shelter. Verify whether all the animals present can shelter at same time. An exception is nature areas, provided there is sufficient natural shelter in the total area to be grazed for all the animals present. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
H03	Visibility from the barn	The barn/indoor pens are constructed in such a way that the beef cattle have at least 3 metres of unobstructed view on at least two sides.	There is clear visibility over the entire front of the barn (open fencing from the bottom to the top). In addition, there is at least 2 metres of unobstructed visibility at the side (open fencing over at least 2 metres of the pen partition, from the bottom to the top). Just a small opening is insufficient.	Verify whether the pen complies with the conditions. Record non-conformities.	RI
H04	Safe environment	The barn and outdoor housing are constructed and equipped to avoid the animals injuring themselves.	Injuries are defined as grainy scar tissue of at least 2 cm in size (larger than caused by a single knock or scratch). There are no protrusions that can injure the animals. The floors, walls and partitions are stable, flat and firm.	Verify and record whether the animals have any injuries and whether these injuries were caused by equipment in the barn or the outdoor housing. The size of the injury may be assessed visually from a distance.	RI
H05	Rubbing station	A rubbing device is provided permanently in each pen in the barn/indoor housing which the cows can use to rub their backs.	A rubbing device may include: - a pole (e.g. a wooden pole with a diameter of at least 15 cm), - a brush (e.g. the brush of a broom fixed to a wall or pole), or - a partition with a rough surface. - an angle iron The rubbing devices must be mounted in an easily accessible place.	Verify and record whether a usable rubbing device is present.	RI
H06A	Soft place to lie	The beef cattle have permanent access to a soft place to lie in the barn/indoor housing. This has a solid floor covered with straw bedding, or similar natural material.	Natural material similar to straw includes (but is not limited to) wood fibres, sawdust or sand.	Verify whether the beef cattle have permanent access to a soft place to lie with a solid floor covered with straw bedding, or similar natural material. Record the type of bedding used.	RI
H06A1	Dry and clean, soft place to lie	The straw or similar natural material must be scattered sufficiently to ensure all the beef cattle can lie in a clean and dry place.		Verify whether the straw or similar natural material is scattered sufficiently to ensure all the beef cattle can lie in a clean and dry place.	RI
H06A2	Cleanliness of beef cattle	The beef cattle kept indoors must be clean, taking into account the management system used.	With beef cattle kept indoors, fewer than 50% of the cattle should be soiled. An animal is considered to be soiled when: - it is clogged (clegged) (three-dimensional layers of soiling) on 25% or more of the side including the lower abdomen (without head, neck and legs below knee/hock) - there is liquid soiling on more than 50% of the side including the lower abdomen The likely cause of too much soiling is insufficient provision of straw or similar natural material as bedding. If cleanliness levels are insufficient (more than 50% of animals are soiled) verify whether sufficient straw or similar natural material is provided as bedding. If not, bedding must be provided at a higher frequency so the level of soiling is significantly reduced (<25% of the animals are soiled).	Assess the cleanliness of the cattle kept indoors. Record the percentage of soiled cattle.	If cleanliness is insufficient: Warning: In 2nd consecutive year: RI
H06B	Slope	The floor of the soft place to lie must be gently inclined with a maximum slope of 10%.		Verify whether the floor of the soft place to lie has a maximum slope of 10%.	RI

H07	Height of indoor housing	Above the entire pen there must be head clearance of 2.5 metres measured from the floor.	<p>The animals must have freedom of movement indoors.</p> <p>The height of the pen may be lower than 2.5 metres over no more than a third of the surface of the pen. This applies with sloping roofs or sloped floor barns, but also for the construction of a hay loft, for example. The roof, ceiling or beams must never be lower than 2 metres in this section.</p> <p>The remaining two thirds of the pen surface must provide head clearance of at least 2.5 metres so the beef cattle in this section of the pen can still exhibit their natural (jumping) behaviour.</p>	Verify whether at least two thirds of the head clearance is 2.5 metres and that a maximum of one third of the head clearance is never lower than 2 metres. Record non-conformities.	RI																											
H07A.2	Min. indoor surface area per cow	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Weight</th> <th>Bedding</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Up to 200 kg</td> <td>1.25 m²</td> <td>2.50 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>201 - 300 kg</td> <td>1.75 m²</td> <td>3.50 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>301 - 400 kg</td> <td>2.90 m²</td> <td>4.40 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>401 - 500 kg</td> <td>3,30 m²</td> <td>5.00 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>501 - 600 kg</td> <td>3.70 m²</td> <td>5.60 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>601 - 700 kg</td> <td>4.00 m²</td> <td>6.00 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>701 - 800 kg</td> <td>4.40 m²</td> <td>6.60 m²</td> </tr> <tr> <td>> 800 kg</td> <td>66 % of total</td> <td>+ 0.40 m² / 100 kg indoors</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Weight	Bedding	Total	Up to 200 kg	1.25 m ²	2.50 m ²	201 - 300 kg	1.75 m ²	3.50 m ²	301 - 400 kg	2.90 m ²	4.40 m ²	401 - 500 kg	3,30 m ²	5.00 m ²	501 - 600 kg	3.70 m ²	5.60 m ²	601 - 700 kg	4.00 m ²	6.00 m ²	701 - 800 kg	4.40 m ²	6.60 m ²	> 800 kg	66 % of total	+ 0.40 m ² / 100 kg indoors	For groups of 40 or more animals, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10% per animal..	Verify whether the surface area complies with the standards. Record non-conformities.	RI
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H07B	Housing breeding bulls	Breeding bulls kept permanently in the barn in individual pens must have at least 16 m ² of space to lie and rest, and a total space, including space for exercise and mating, of 20 m ² .		<p>Verify whether the surface area is complied with. Record non-conformities.</p> <p>N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.</p>	RI																											
H08A	Stable fattening groups	Beef cattle are kept indoors in stable fattening groups.	A stable fattening group is a group of animals that no more animals are added to after the group has been transferred to a fattening area (or after arrival at the fattening farm). Animals can however be removed (earlier) from the group.	<p>Verify whether the cattle are kept in stable fattening groups. Record the findings.</p> <p>N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.</p>	RI																											
H09A	Tethering	Beef cattle are not tethered.	Tethered barns or tie stalls are not permitted.	Verify whether the beef cattle are tethered. If beef cattle are tethered, record the reason.	RI																											
H09B	Tethering for short periods	Animals may be tethered temporarily for periods of max. 3 hours, provided that visual and audible contact with the herd is possible during the tethering period.	Temporary tethering is only permitted for the purpose of veterinary treatment or hoof trimming or to accustom the animals to being tied during transport to the pasture, for example.	Verify that animals are not tethered for more than 3 hours and that visual and audible contact with the rest of the herd is possible during the tethering period.	RI																											
H11	Flooring	Sections of the floor with no bedding must be non-slip, or maintained in a way to safeguard against slipping.	Flooring must never be rough enough to cause injury to the legs or so slippery that they cause slipping.	If in doubt about the quality of the flooring (too rough or too slippery), record any non-conformities. The farmer must have an FSC 2000 measurement performed to determine the floor surface quality, or must provide a certificate from the manufacturer that shows the floor surface quality has been measured. Record the findings.	RI																											
H12A	Air quality	The barn is naturally ventilated.	If necessary, to ensure sufficient air quality, natural ventilation is backed up by mechanical ventilation.	Verify whether the barn is naturally ventilated. Record whether and how ventilation is backed up by mechanical ventilation.	RI																											
H12B	Air quality	All barns must be ventilated in such a way that dust levels, relative humidity and ammonia levels are not harmful to cattle.	During the inspection of the barns, no signs of eye or nose irritation were observed in the beef cattle or humans present.	Verify in the barns whether there are any signs of eye or nose irritation in the beef cattle or humans present. Record any non-conformities regarding dust levels, relative humidity and ammonia levels in the air.	RI																											
H12C	Air quality RECOMMENDATION	There is an air inlet of at least 2400 cm ² per animal place in the side wall of the barn.		Verify whether there is an air inlet of at least 2400 cm ² per animal place in the side wall of the barn.	This is a recommendation. No sanction will be imposed (yet) if this criterion is not complied with.																											
H13	Daylight	The barn has a daylight-permeable area that covers at least 6.7% 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 percentage of daylight permeable surfaces.	RI																											

H13A	Daylight permeability	The daylight permeable surfaces are clean.	The daylight permeable surfaces are clean and allow sufficient daylight to permeate.	Verify and record whether the daylight permeable surfaces (light panels, windows) are clean and allow sufficient daylight to permeate.	RI
H13B	Artificial light	Sufficient lighting is provided in the barns to allow inspection of the beef cattle at all times.	The light intensity must be sufficient, at least 50 lux, to see the beef cattle easily.	Verify whether there is sufficient light intensity in the barn to allow the beef cattle to be inspected at all times. Measure the light intensity at eye level of the animals at 3 different places in the barn using a lux meter that is calibrated annually. Record the average lux reading.	RI
H14	Day-night rhythm	During the night, there is a continuous period of at least six hours with a low light level to allow the beef cattle to rest.		Record the lighting schedule used.	AR
Calves (beef cattle under 1 year old)					
VB01.2	Weaning age	Calves are weaned from the cow at an age of at least 5 months.	Compliance with this criterion can be assumed with (suckler) cows kept outdoors all year round, where weaning occurs naturally without intervention by the farmer.	Verify, e.g. via an interview, which weaning system is used. Record the weaning system used.	RI N/A if the herd is permanently kept outdoors and weaning occurs without intervention by the farmer.
VB02.2	Gradual weaning	Weaning occurs gradually by giving the calf more forage and drinking water.	Compliance with this criterion can be assumed with (suckler) cows kept outdoors all year round, where weaning occurs naturally without intervention by the farmer.	Verify, e.g. via an interview, which weaning system is used. Record the weaning system used. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI N/A if the herd is permanently kept outdoors and weaning occurs without intervention by the farmer.
VB03.2	Gradual weaning	Weaning occurs gradually by temporarily separating the calf from the cow with eye contact only.	Compliance with this criterion can be assumed with (suckler) cows kept outdoors all year round, where weaning occurs naturally without intervention by the farmer.	Verify, e.g. via an interview, which weaning system is used. Record the weaning system used. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI N/A if the herd is permanently kept outdoors and weaning occurs without intervention by the farmer.
V03	Additional feed	Calves are given additional feed with fresh water and forage from the age of 14 days.		Verify whether calves are fed with fresh water and forage from the age of 14 days. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
VB04A	Fostering	If suckler cows are used as foster cows, there are a maximum of 3 calves per foster cow.		Verify the maximum number of calves per foster cow. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	AR
VB04B	Fostering	If several calves have been fostered to one suckler cow (foster cow), the calves are offered sufficient drinking water to satisfy their fluid intake requirements.		Record if several calves have been fostered to one suckler cow (foster cow), whether the calves are offered sufficient drinking water to satisfy their fluid intake requirements. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	AR
Calves/beef cattle from non-certified beef cattle farms					
ST01	Calves/beef cattle from non-certified beef cattle farms	The calves/beef cattle can originate from beef cattle farms that have not been certified according to the Better Life label scope (beef and number of stars), provided they meet the following criteria.		Verify using a random check of the I&R data which farm (UBN) the calves/beef cattle originate from and whether this farm is certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (beef and number of stars). Refer to the BLL register. If the farm is not certified for the Better Life label, verify compliance with the additional criteria below.	Suspension
ST02.2	Age of calves when leaving the farm of birth	The calves are at least 5 months old before leaving the farm of birth.	Exceptions are: 1. Calves under 5 months of age that leave the farm of their birth with the suckler cow (dam). Otherwise, the criterion for the age at weaning cannot be complied with.	Verify using a random check of the I&R data copies of the cattle passport (date of birth and date of leaving the farm of birth) whether the calves were at least 5 months old when they left the farm of birth.	RI

ST03	Disbudding	If the beef calves have been disbudded, there is a declaration from the supplying farm's contracted veterinary practitioner stating that disbudding was performed under anaesthetic and that an analgesic was administered afterwards, in compliance with the Better Life label criteria.	If the animals are genetically polled, this option must be selected on the declaration. See the Better Life Label website for the BLL 'Declaration Disbudding' template.	Verify whether there is a declaration from a veterinary practitioner (in accordance with Better Life label template) that disbudding was performed in compliance with the criteria.	Suspension
ST04	Castration	If the calves have been castrated, there is a declaration from the supplying farm's contracted veterinary practitioner stating that castration was performed under anaesthetic and that an analgesic was administered afterwards, in compliance with the Better Life label criteria.	See the Better Life Label website for the BLL 'Declaration Castration' template.	Verify whether there is a declaration from a veterinary practitioner (in accordance with Better Life label template) that castration was performed in compliance with the criteria. N/A if the cattle have not been castrated.	Suspension
ST05	Stay at the fattening farm	Beef bulls and beef cows stay an average of 9 months, and no animal stays for less than 7 months, at the-BLL certified fattening farm from which the animals are transported to the abattoir. If animals stay for between 3 and 7 months (no animal stays less than 3 months) at the fattening farm, this farm and the preceding supplying beef cattle farms must be certified as a Multi-site annually.	To demonstrate to the Certification Body that beef cattle stay at the fattening farm for an average of 9 months, the farmer has calculated the average stay of the beef cattle on the farm based on the official I&R data of the past year. For beef cattle that are temporarily placed once on a BLL certified reception beef farm, the stay on a BL label certified reception beef farm may be included in the calculation of the average of 9 months, no individual animal stays less than 7 months, at a BLL certified fattening farm. See the see the Better Life website for the Certification Regulations (chapter 14.2.2) regarding Multi-site certification. With grazing in nature areas, the beef cattle may be moved to various areas/fattening farms with different UBNs provided the animals at these sites are kept together as a group for at least an average of 9 months, no individual animal stays less than 7 months, until are transported to the abattoir. A stay of less than 3 months at a BLL certified fattening farm is permitted provided: 1. the preceding supplying beef cattle farm is certified for the correct Better Life label Beef scope (2 or 3 stars); 2. the cattle stay on the preceding supplying beef cattle farm for at least 9 months (if applicable, including the stay at the BLL certified reception beef farm); 3. the beef cattle are only moved to another location (fattening farm) for a certain period of fattening; 4. This fattening farm is also certified for Better Life label Beef (same number of stars or lower). N/A if animals are moved sooner on instructions of the veterinary practitioner.	Verify using a random check of the barn list whether the animals stayed on the fattening farm for an average of 9 months, no animal stays less than 7 months, in the previous year (including the stay at the BLL certified reception beef farm). If individual animals stayed between 3 and 7 months on the fattening farm, verify whether the preceding supplying beef cattle farms were inspected based on Multi-site certification. With nature grazing, verify whether the animals spent an average of 9 months and a minimum of 7 months before slaughter in nature areas or on fattening farms. If animals stayed on the fattening farm for less than 3 months, verify and record whether the criteria were complied with. N/A if animals are moved sooner on instructions of the veterinary practitioner. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	Suspension
Beef bulls					
HB03	Housing beef bulls	Beef bulls older than 1 year old that are being fattened at the farm may be kept indoors permanently.	To ensure the safety of stockpeople who handle beef bulls, beef bulls may be housed indoors from the age of 1 year.	Record whether and from which age the beef bulls are housed indoors permanently. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
Grazing in nature areas					
NB01	Permitted beef cattle breeds for nature grazing.	Only beef cattle of domestic breeds that are also kept in the regular beef industry are kept for nature grazing.	Only domesticated beef cattle accustomed to humans are permitted to ensure that stress is minimised during care, gathering and transport. Large, wild, self-regulating herds of beef cattle such as those in the Oostvaardersplassen and beef cattle from breeds such as Heck, Galloway and Scottish highland cattle are excluded from participation in the Better Life label.	Record the breed of cattle. Heck, Galloway and Scottish highland cattle are excluded from participation. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	Exclusion At entry audit: RI
NB02	Analysis nutritional values of nature areas and necessity for additional feed	The nature area must be able to satisfy the nutritional requirements of the beef cattle concerned.	Before cattle are kept in a nature area, the farmer, possibly in cooperation with the manager of the nature area, analyses the extent to which the area to be grazed satisfies the nutritional needs of the cattle and whether additional feed will be necessary to compensate for a nutrient or mineral deficiency. The analysis result is recorded, e.g. in the management agreement.	Check whether the extent to which the area to be grazed satisfies the nutritional needs of the beef cattle has been analysed. Verify whether this has been recorded and if the cattle are given addition feed if necessary. Record the findings. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	Suspension

NB03	Addition feed (e.g. minerals) with nature grazing	If necessary (to satisfy the nutritional needs of the animals concerned), beef cattle with nature grazing are provided with additional feed, e.g. certain minerals.	With nature grazing, the farmer and the manager of the nature area assess beforehand which/how many nutrients the cattle can intake from the nature area. On areas with poor soil, deficiencies of certain minerals can occur. These deficiencies must be supplemented. The necessary additional minerals are recorded, e.g. in the management agreement for nature grazing.	Verify whether the management agreement for nature grazing states the expected nutritional value of the nature area and whether providing additional minerals is necessary. If yes, verify in the nature area whether the necessary additional minerals are provided. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
NB04	Shelter during grazing in nature areas	The beef cattle have sufficient shelter during grazing in nature areas as protection against rain (cold winter weather or heat - temperatures above 25°C) or a shelter that offers sufficient space for all the animals present to shelter at the same time.	If there is no or insufficient shelter, the animals must be moved to an area with adequate shelter, e.g. during extreme rain, cold winter weather or temperatures above 25°C.	Verify and record whether all the animals present can shelter at the same time. Record the type of shelter. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
NB06	Housing breeding bulls from a herd	Adult breeding bulls from a herd are kept indoors in individual pens of at least 32 m ² of space to lie and rest, and a total space, including space for exercise and mating, of 44 m ² .	With nature grazing, there may sometimes be one or more bulls in a herd. During the time a herd is kept indoors, the bull should be provided with a sufficiently large living space.	Verify whether the living space of breeding bulls from a herd complies with the criteria. Record non-conformities. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
NB07	Information for visitors area with nature grazing	At the entrances to a nature grazing area signs inform the public that a herd of beef cattle is grazing there, and how to behave if they come across the herd.	This information states e.g. no access for dogs, dogs must be kept on a lead, keep a safe distance from the cattle, do not walk through the herd, etc. In practice, the manager of the area can provide this information, but the farmer must always ensure this information is made available at the entrances to the nature grazing area.	Verify whether there are signs with the necessary information for visitors at the entrances to the grazing area. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	AR
NB08	Information for visitors area with nature grazing	At the entrances to a nature grazing area signs inform the public who to contact in case of an emergency.	In practice, the manager of the area can provide this information, but the farmer must always ensure this information is made available at the entrances to the nature grazing area.	Verify whether there are signs with the necessary information for visitors at the entrances to the grazing area. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	AR
NB09	Sick animals with nature grazing	In herds with nature grazing, any sick animals remain with the herd, unless the contracted veterinary practitioner decides otherwise.		Record, if applicable, how sick animals are treated during nature grazing. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
NB10	Gathering animals with nature grazing	Beef cattle in nature grazing areas are gathered calmly in a secluded part of the nature area prior to being transported by a livestock truck.	Gathering animals from nature grazing areas must take place as calmly as possible, to minimise stress.	Verify, e.g. via an interview, how cattle are gathered. Record the findings. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	RI
Temporary reception beef farm (reception site)					
O01	Temporary reception beef farm (reception site)	If the fattening farm is further away than 850 km, the beef cattle (young stock) must be temporarily placed once on a BLL certified Beef reception beef farm (reception site), where the cattle are kept for at least 21 days. The maximum duration of time on the reception beef farm is 4 months.	Pending further transport to the final fattening farm.	Verify using a random check of the I&R data copies of the cattle passport (the arrival date of the cattle on the reception beef farm and the departure date to the fattening farm) whether the cattle stayed at the reception beef farm for at least 21 days with a maximum duration of 4 months.	Suspension
O02	Visiting frequency of veterinary practitioner	Each herd on the reception beef farm is visited at least once by the contracted veterinary practitioner to perform a clinical examination and provide advice.		Verify the veterinary practitioner's visiting reports for the last two years in the administrative records and record the dates of visits in the last year.	RI
O03	Copies of cattle passports	The reception beef farm must keep a copy of the cattle passport of all the cattle (young stock) present in the administrative records.	These copies are kept on the farm for at least one year after the arrival of the cattle.	Verify and record for all cattle present whether a copy of the cattle passport has been kept in the administrative records.	RI
O04	Relationship between temporary reception beef farm (reception site) - cooperative	There is a contractual relationship between the reception beef farm and a cooperative.	If there is no cooperative in a given country, the Society for the Protection of Animals will assess whether and to what extent there may be another legal entity corresponding to a cooperative.	Verify at the reception beef farm whether there is a contract between a cooperative and the reception beef farm. Record the findings.	RI

O05	Origin of cattle	Together with the cooperative, the reception beef farm must be able to demonstrate that the animals originate from cooperative members, whose farm is located within 140 km of the reception beef farm.	The information held by the reception beef farm must demonstrate this in the form of clearly recognisable cooperative documents (e.g. transport documents).	Verify, based on information provided by the reception beef farm, whether the animals originate from cooperative members whose farm is located within 140 km of the reception beef farm, based on Routenet.nl with a 40 ton trailer selected as the transport vehicle. Record the findings.	RI
O06	Duration of travel cattle	The transport distance of beef cattle from the address of birth to the reception beef farm is a maximum of 140 km.	Information can be obtained from the cattle passport (address of birth). This reception beef farm must be able to provide this.	The transport distance between the address of birth to the reception beef farm must be verified based on Routenet.nl with a 40 ton trailer selected as the transport vehicle. Record the findings.	Suspension
O07	Time between registering/deregistering cattle	The time between deregistering at the address of birth and registering with the reception beef farm must not exceed 48 hours.	Information can be obtained from the administrative records of the reception beef farm (reception site). In many cases, the cooperative acts as a 'sorting station' where the animals undergo a veterinary examination and are vaccinated. The animals may stay for a maximum of one night at the cooperative reception site ('centre di tri').	Verify using a random check of the administrative records of the reception beef farm the maximum time between registering/deregistering. Record the findings.	Suspension
O08	Reception beef farm vs fattening farm.	A farm (UBN) certified as a reception beef farm must not operate as a fattening site if it has not been certified as a fattening farm.	A reception beef farm may be changed to a fattening farm, provided this farm complies with the relevant criteria. However, operating as a reception beef farm and a fattening farm is possible provided the site uses several UBNS. This is permitted under strict conditions: - Beef cattle from the reception beef farm (one UBN) must be kept separately in the barn and in the pasture from cattle from the fattening farm (different UBN). A physical separation must be present in the barn and the pasture between BLL-eligible beef cattle from the reception beef farm and the fattening farm. - The beef cattle registered at different UBNS are housed and cared for completely separately.	Verify whether the certificate of the farm (UBN) complies with the criteria for the reception beef farm or fattening farm.	Exclusion
Transport					
T01	Abattoirs/beef farms receiving the cattle	The beef cattle are supplied to abattoirs that have been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLL beef and the corresponding number of stars).		Verify the administrative records. Record the UBN of the beef farmers receiving the beef cattle and/or the name and address of the abattoirs. Record per abattoir/beef cattle farm receiving the cattle whether they are approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLL beef and the number of stars). If not, verify whether the animals are downgraded to non-BLL.	RI
T02.2	Duration of travel cattle	The distance travelled to the fattening farm must comply with a maximum transport distance of 850 km.	Calves under 5 months of age are always transported with their mother. Otherwise, the criterion for the age at weaning cannot be complied with. Transport proceeds directly from farm of birth (or reception beef farm) to the fattening farm. 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 of birth/ reception beef farm and the fattening farm must be verified on the basis of Routenet.nl with a 40T truck selected as the vehicle.	Verify and record the transport distance of the animals, based on the departure and arrival addresses, using Routenet.nl with a 40T truck selected as the vehicle.	AR
T04	Duration of travel beef cattle to the abattoir	The distance travelled by the cattle 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 on the basis of Routenet.nl with a 40T truck selected as the vehicle.	Verify and record the transport distance of the cattle, based on the departure and arrival addresses, using Routenet.nl with a 40T truck selected as the vehicle. Record the name of the abattoir. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	Suspension
T05	Electric cattle prods	No electric cattle prods are used on the farm and during transport/when moving cattle.	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.	Suspension
T06	Ban on cattle markets	The beef cattle 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.	Verify, based on the transport data, whether the animals have not been transported via a cattle market.	RI

Supplementary					
A00	Number of BLL animal places	During the annual inspection, the number of BLL animal places and the number of animals present are 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 at the farm. The BLL inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm 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 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 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 suckler cow places	The number of BLL suckler cow places at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL suckler cows at the farm. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	
A00A1	Number of BLL suckler cows	The number of BLL suckler cows at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL suckler cows at the farm. N/A for a BLL reception beef farm.	
A00B	Number of BLL places for animals under 1 year old	The number of BLL places for animals under 1 year old at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL places for animals under 1 year old at the farm.	
A00B1	Number of BLL animals under 1 year old	The number of BLL animals under 1 year old at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL animals under 1 year old at the farm.	
A00C	Number of BLL beef bull places	The number of BLL beef places, animals older than 1 year old , at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL beef places, animals older than 1 year old , at the farm.	
A00C1	Number of BLL beef bulls and steers	The number of BLL beef bulls and steers at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL beef bulls and steers, animals older than 1 year, at the farm.	
A00D	Number of BLL beef cow and steer places	The number of BLL beef cows and steers places, animals older than 1 year old, at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL beef cows and steers places, animals older than 1 year, at the farm	
A00D1	Number of BLL beef cows and steers	The number of BLL beef cows and steers, animals older than 1 year old, at the farm is:		Record the number of BLL beef cows and steers, animals older than 1 year, at the farm.	