

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

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
28-03-24	A04 Pest control	<p>Criteria A04 states that pest control and prevention on the farm is performed in compliance with European standard CEN-EN 16636.</p> <p>Legislation regarding KBA certification has been amended since 01-01-2023. Does this mean that criteria A04 will also be amended?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals complies with amended legislation. This means that KBA certification is no longer sufficient. Practically all chemical control products may only be used by trained pest controllers who work for certified pest control companies. This implies that only companies certified for CEPA or IPM Rodent Control (see Keurmerk Plaagdier Management Bedrijven - Register (in Dutch) (kpmb.nl)) may apply chemical control products.</p>
20-01-23 and 09-10-23	H24 Dimensions of cubicles (BLL 2 and 3 stars)	<p>Criterion H24 states that dairy cows must be able to assume different positions when lying. Minimum conditions apply for cubicles. Due to an internal error when establishing the BLL 2 and 3 star criteria for dairy cattle, the total minimum length was amended from 240 cm to 260 cm. It could be assumed that this amendment does not mean a tightening of the criterion. However, it does in relation to the previous version. Due to this change some farms can no longer comply with this criterion. Can the total minimum length be reversed to 240 cm?</p> <p>In case of a correction of the total minimum length of the cubicles it is not possible to achieve at least 80 cm of unobstructed space between the cubicles and the wall for the cow to lunge its head. Can the minimum unobstructed space between the cubicles and the wall for the cow to lunge its head be modified to at least 60 cm?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to amend the total minimum length to 240 cm. Besides, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to amend the unobstructed space between the cubicles and the wall for the cow to lunge its head to at least 60 cm. The unobstructed space between the opposite cubicles for the cow to lunge its head of at least 80 cm remains unchanged. Both amendments are interim steps towards enlarging the cubicles in the future.</p>
12-12-22	H29a Passageway cubicles (smaller breeds)	<p>Various criteria for Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars state dimensions for smaller breeds, as modified dimensions permit animals with a smaller stature as defined in H20 to comply with BLL criteria.</p> <p>However, specifications of dimensions for smaller breeds were missing in criterion H29a. Can modified dimensions be drawn up for smaller breeds?</p>	<p>Based on amendments concerning the dimensions in other criteria, the modified dimensions relating to smaller breeds in H29a are as follows:</p> <p>1 star</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width of passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall 2.1m • Width after new construction or renovation 2.5m • Width if there is an open space after every 20 cubicles 2m <p>2 stars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width of passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall 2.1m • Width after new construction or renovation 3m • Width if there is an open space after every 20 cubicles 2m <p>3 stars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width of passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall 2.1m • Width after new construction or renovation 3m • Width if there is an open space after every 20 cubicles 2m

16-03-23	H29a Passageway cubicles	<p>Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars states requirements for the minimum width of the passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall. The width is at least 2.5 m for lactating cows to allow the cows to pass each other easily without any conflict. If there is an open space of at least 2 m between every 20 cubicles, a passageway of 2.2 m wide is sufficient.</p> <p>Can this be deviated from if there is a passageway/open space that enables access to the milking robot or the pasture?</p>	<p>There is considered to be a passageway with a width of at least 2.5 m (or 2.2 m if there is an open space of at least 2 m between every 20 cubicles) if this passageway is between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall. If this passageway is used as a passageway/open space to access a specific destination such as for example the milking robot or the pasture (for grazing) where the cows can only move in one direction, this criterion does not apply.</p>
16-03-23	HK04 Duration of stay dairy farm	<p>Criterion HK04 states that for 1 star the calf remains on the farm of its birth for at least the first 28 days and for 2 and 3 stars that the calf must remain on the farm of its birth for at least the first three months, or is sent, after at least 28 days on the farm of its birth, to a rearing farm within a 50 km radius. The criterion came into effect on 01-01-2023. However, in practice, this criterion is not yet workable. Must this criterion be complied with at the moment?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that criterion HK04 does not need to be complied with at the moment. This criterion will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined.</p>
31-03-23	<p>HK05a Width calf hutches</p> <p>HK05b Length calf hutches</p> <p>HK05c Height calf hutches</p>	<p>Various criteria for Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars state dimensions for smaller breeds, as modified dimensions permit animals with a smaller stature as defined in H20 to comply with BLL criteria.</p> <p>However, specifications of dimensions for smaller breeds were missing in criteria HK05a, HK05b and HK05c. Can modified dimensions be drawn up for smaller breeds?</p>	<p>Based on amendments concerning the dimensions in other criteria, the modified dimensions relating to smaller breeds in HK05a, HK05b and HK05c for 1, 2 and 3 stars are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width is at least 80 cm (HK05a) • Length is at least 115 cm (HK05b) • Height is at least 110 cm (HK05c)
20-01-23	HK15 and HK15a Dimensions cubicles young stock (smaller breeds)	<p>Various criteria for Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars state dimensions for smaller breeds, as modified dimensions permit animals with a smaller stature as defined in H20 to comply with BLL criteria.</p> <p>However, specifications of dimensions for smaller breeds were missing in criteria HK15 and HK15a. Can modified dimensions be drawn up for smaller breeds?</p>	<p>Based on amendments concerning the dimensions in other criteria, the modified dimensions relating to smaller breeds in HK15 and HK15a for 1, 2 and 3 stars are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of 4 to 12 months (HK15): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Width is at least 70 cm - Length is at least 155 cm - Height of the neck bar is at least 75 cm • Age of 12 to 18 months (HK15a): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Width is at least 75 cm - Length is at least 175 cm - Height of the neck bar is at least 85 cm
16-02-23	<p>Gd01 Animal-related measurements</p> <p>Gd02 Incidence of animal diseases</p> <p>Gz11 Prevalence of mastitis</p> <p>Gz11a Mastitis treatments</p> <p>Gz19 Average age at culling</p> <p>Gz21 Mortality</p>	<p>The BLL criteria Dairy cattle include criteria that concern animal-related measurements (Gd01, Gd02, Gz11, Gz11a, Gz19 and Gz21). The criteria came into effect on 01-01-2023, but the 'Protocol for performing animal-related measurements among dairy cattle' has not yet been published. Must these criteria be complied with at the moment?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that criteria Gd01, Gd02, Gz11, Gz11a, Gz19 and Gz21 do not need to be complied with at the moment. These criteria will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined, at the moment that the animal-related measurements have been developed/the protocol is available and has been established by means of a supplementary decision.</p>



16-03-23	T02 Supply of cattle	<p>Criterion T02 states that all cattle supplied to the dairy farm originate from farms that are certified as Better Life label Dairy cattle of at least 1 star. The criterion came into effect on 01-01-2023. However, in practice, this criterion is not yet workable. Must this criterion be complied with at the moment?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that criterion T02 does not need to be complied with at the moment. This criterion will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined, at the moment that the criterion is achievable.</p>
27-02-24	T05 Electric cattle prods	<p>The 'Electric cattle prods' criterion states that no electric cattle prods are used on the dairy farm and during the transport of cattle.</p> <p>Imposing sanctions on farmers for using an electric cattle prod during transport is illogical. Once the animals have left the farm, they are no longer the farmer's responsibility. How can we deal with this aspect?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals emphasises that the use of electric cattle prods is not permitted under the conditions of the Better Life label. However, the 'during transport' section is worded in a way that may cause confusion. It will therefore be removed from the criteria at the next revision.</p> <p>In the context of the Better Life label, no electric cattle prods must be used while the animals are housed at the BLL certified farm and during unloading at the BLL certified abattoir for which the relevant BLL participant is responsible.</p> <p>This aspect will be inspected (unannounced) by the CB.</p>