

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 |
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| 4-10-16 | UIT04 Anaesthetised slaughter | How can a livestock farm find out where its animals are slaughtered and whether the abattoir practices unanaesthetised slaughter? | This criterion is verified directly with the BLL-certified abattoir, therefore does not need to be verified with the poultry farmer. This criterion will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review. |
| 1-01-18 | UIT05 Factory farming | A factory farm is defined as a single farm location (note one UBN or one roof) housing 120,000 laying hens or more. What does one farm location mean? | It has been decided to follow the definition used by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RvO). One farm location is equivalent to one UBN. This criterion will be amended as part of a subsequent review. |
| 7-07-17 | A5 Supply chain quality system | Is a Quality British Turkey (QBT) certificate equivalent to a QS certificate? | The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has assessed the QS and QBT systems, and declared them to be equivalent. As such, a QBT certificate is sufficient to satisfy criterion A5. |
| 1-11-17 | A6a Separation | There are still not enough sales to justify converting entire turkey farms to the BLL turkey scheme. There are not enough BLL turkey breeds of different colours currently available. This makes it impossible to channel based on feather colour. How can we keep both white BLL and non-BLL turkeys on one farm? | <p>In the short term, it is acceptable for two turkey breeds (fast and slow growing) to be kept on one farm with the same feather colour (white). On the condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a comprehensive record of the number of turkeys and the breed in each shed, the losses per shed and the number of animals per shed that have been delivered to the abattoir and slaughtered (data from the abattoir). • The Better Life turkeys are not housed on the same date as the non-Better Life turkeys. There is a difference in age (two to three days), with the Better Life turkeys being housed later (i.e. they are younger) than the non-Better Life turkeys. This way, there will be visible differences between the two breeds based on age and size, even though they are all white. • The Better Life turkeys are not delivered to the abattoir on the same day as the non-Better Life turkeys. • The Better Life turkeys and non-Better Life turkeys are physically separated from one another throughout their stay on the farm, such that there is no possibility of the two breeds being confused. <p>In the medium term, a visual separation system based on different feather colours should be implemented. This will be discussed with respective breeding organisations.</p> |

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| <p>18-7-18 and 25-07-24</p> | <p>A9 Slower growing breed</p> | <p>Are any other turkey breeds accepted for Better Life?</p> | <p>On 18-07-18, a supplementary decision was taken to recognise, in addition to the breed defined in criterion A9, Kelly BBB, the turkey breeds Caringa Cartier, Wycombe White, Ayrshire Auburn and Cheshire Bronze as BLL Turkey.</p> <p>Addition 25-07-24: Through this amended supplementary decision, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals also recognises the B.U.T Premium and Hybrid Grademaker Evo as a BLL turkey breed. This means that this breed can be used on farms certified for BLL Turkeys.</p> <p>These breeds will be added during the next revision of the criteria for turkeys. In anticipation of that amendment to the criteria, BLL turkey farms may use the aforementioned breeds.</p> <p>As a result, criterion A9 will be formulated as follows: Interpretation: Slower-growing turkey breeds are: Kelly BBB, Caringa Cartier, Wycombe White, Ayrshire Auburn, Cheshire Bronze, B.U.T Premium, Hybrid Grademaker Evo, or another breed approved by the Animal Protection Society, with a maximum average growth rate for cockerels and hens of 110 grams per day, with special focus on the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slower-growing than the current BIG 6, BIG 7, XL or Converter (maximum of 110 grams/day (cockerels) • loss + cause of loss • gait score • foot pad dermatitis • tibial dyschondroplasia • welfare of parent animals |
| <p>1-11-17</p> | <p>A11 Transport time of day-old chicks</p> | <p>By limiting the transport time to six hours, most foreign turkey hatcheries are excluded from BLL. This limits turkeys to a single hatchery in the Netherlands. This is not desirable.</p> | <p>In the short term, this criterion will be amended to a maximum transport time of sixteen hours. In the medium term, this criterion will be reviewed and the possibilities of <i>Early feeding</i> will be explored.</p> |



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| 29-12-20 | M03 Fire safety | The criterion states that an agricultural electrical inspection must be held at least once every five years in accordance with NEN 1010 or (HD) IEC 60364 Low voltage electrical installations. Do the NEN 3140 and NTA 8220 inspections also meet the criterion and which inspections are allowed for foreign farms? | <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals states that two types of inspections are held at a farm, namely an inspection before putting new systems into use and a five-yearly reinspection.</p> <p>New systems must be inspected before use in accordance with NEN1010 or (HD) IEC 60364 Low voltage electrical installations. The NEN 3140 and NTA 8220 inspections are not permitted as an inspection before the commissioning of new systems. However, the fiveyearly reinspection can be held on the basis of NEN 3140 or NTA 8220.</p> <p>Foreign livestock farmers must have an electrical inspection carried out every five years when their house is taken into use, in accordance with the CENELEC HD 60364 standard of the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization.</p> |
| 21-12 16 | VV2A, VV2B, VV2C Straw/hay/alfalfa bales | How should straw/hay/alfalfa be provided? Can it be provided in a straw rack or net? | <p>These criteria intend for a whole bale, including twine, to be placed on the ground for the turkeys.</p> <p>Straw in a rack or net is not as readily available as a straw bale on the ground. Turkeys prefer a varied environment, e.g. through differences in height, and to be able to explore in groups. A straw bale on the ground is a good way to facilitate this. Turkeys cannot jump onto a rack or net, and fewer turkeys can be at a rack or net at the same time; it is also harder for the turkeys to pull straw from a rack or net, etc.</p> <p>Providing suspended straw, either loose or in a bale, in a net or rack does not satisfy the Better Life criteria.</p> |
| 22-08-18 | VV2A, VV2B, VV2C Straw/hay/alfalfa bales | Can the bales be provided in plastic? | <p>Providing bales (alfalfa, rapeseed, etc.) in plastic to prevent the straw from falling out of the bales too quickly is strongly discouraged by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals from an animal welfare perspective. The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) also discourages the provision of bales in plastic for both product quality/food safety as well as animal welfare reasons.</p> <p>To prevent the straw from falling out of bales too quickly, straw bales laid on the ground may be provided in a straw net.</p> |

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| 21-06-24 | VV3B Feed composition | The BLL criteria for turkeys state that the feed must not contain any products of animal origin, with the exception of milk/dairy products. Does this also apply to fat derived from poultry? | <p>This criterion was established at the time in response to the European ban on the use of animal meal in animal feed. Animal meal is a protein raw material from a specific species. This is an entirely different raw material to animal fat. European legislation (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) permits the use of animal fat in poultry feed.</p> <p>The BLL criterion aimed to follow European legislation. This means that in addition to milk/dairy products, poultry fat is also permitted in feed for BLL turkeys and that the use of protein derived from animals is subject to European guidelines. The use of animal protein is therefore permitted in turkey feed under certain conditions. Protein derived from poultry and cattle is not allowed, with the exception of protein derived from milk/dairy products.</p> <p>The term "animal products" is incorrect. It will be replaced by "protein derived from poultry and bovines" at the next revision of the criteria.</p> |
| 1-11-17 | H1 Stocking | In practice, turkeys are kept in the rearing shed for between 35 and 42 days. They are then transferred to a more spacious shed with a covered run. The 21/35 days stated in the criteria are inconsistent with practice. Furthermore, seven animals per square metre is too many in view of the 36 kg per square metre criterion. | <p>21/35 days will be amended in the criteria to 42 days.</p> <p>Access to the run will also be amended from 35 to 42 days.</p> <p>In addition, the maximum number of animals will be amended. After 42 days, a maximum of three cocks and five hens may be kept per square metre.</p> |

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| <p>2-12-22</p> | <p>H1 Stocking density</p> | <p>The criterion states that the stocking density is no more than 7 turkeys per m² with a weight of no more than 36 kg per m² for females and no more than 40 kg per m² for males. Although the criteria for the number of turkeys per m² is complied with, unforeseeable circumstances may cause the number of kilograms per m² to be exceeded. This unplanned for deviation from the prescribed weight may lead to a shortcoming, resulting in a sanction (Suspension) being imposed. Can the criterion and/or the corresponding sanction be amended?</p> | <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to maintain the standards for both the maximum number of turkeys and the maximum number of kilograms. The corresponding sanction will not be revised at the moment.</p> <p>However, the measurement method used to determine the number of kg per m² has been amended. The number of kilograms per m² is initially still determined based on one rearing cycle, but if the standard is exceeded, either the exceedance is immediately assessed as being too high, or the number of kilograms per m² is determined based on the average of three rearing cycles per barn (depending on the exceedance of the standard in kilograms per m²). In other words, a turkey farmer exceeds the permitted weight:</p> <p>A. if the number of kilograms during one rearing cycle is more than 38.5 kg per m² (females) or 43 kg per m² (males) in one barn. Or,</p> <p>B. if the number of kilograms in one barn during one rearing cycle is between 36-38.5 kg per m² (females) or 40-43 kg per m² (males), a sanction will only be imposed if the average over the last three rearing cycles is more than 36 kg per m² (females) or 40 kg per m² (males) in one barn.</p> <p>A shortcoming arising from an excessively high (average) number of kg per m² can be rectified by reducing the stocking density next time a flock is set up in order to comply with weight standard during the recovery inspection. Therefore, during the recovery inspection, one rearing cycle will be taken into account to rectify the shortcoming.</p> |
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| 29-08-24 | H3A Daylight | <p>The criteria entail that at least 20 Lux daylight is available in the entire barn, with all artificial lighting turned off. On very dark and cloudy days, some livestock farms struggle to achieve 20 Lux in the entire barn using only daylight, although this is possible on clear, cloudless days. Is it also possible to meet the 20 Lux standard with artificial lighting on?</p> | <p>The standard of 20 Lux without the use of artificial light leads to arbitrariness that can be very weather-dependent and beyond the control of the poultry farmer. Therefore, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that measurements may be taken with artificial light on to determine if it meets the minimum of 20 lux of light.</p> <p>As a result, criterion H3A will be formulated as follows: <i>Welfare aspect: Light</i> <i>Criterion: At least 20 Lux light is available in the entire barn.</i> <i>Interpretation: In addition to daylight, artificial light may be used in the barn to achieve sufficient light at animal level. However, the use of artificial light alone is not permitted. Daylight-permeable surfaces are functional and clean.</i> <i>Method of measurement: Verify whether there is sufficient light in the barn and if the daylight-permeable surfaces are functional and clean. Use the Luxmeter to measure the light intensity in at least 2 places in the barn, if the artificial light is on when entering the barn, with artificial light on. If the lights are off when entering, take the measurements with artificial light off. Record whether this is at least 20 Lux at animal height.</i></p> |
| 2-1 18 | H3c Daylight provision, rearing/finishing | <p>Ventilation hatches are used during rearing and finishing, which can also allow daylight to enter. At the beginning of rearing, these hatches must remain shut to keep the temperature in the shed sufficiently high. In this case, the criterion for 3% of the area to be permeable by daylight will not be reached.</p> | <p>From 2020 at the latest, at least 3% of the floor area of the shed must be permeable by daylight to provide natural daylight. Ventilation hatches do not satisfy this requirement. This applies to both the rearing and finishing period. The justification for this is that the conditions must not change significantly between rearing and finishing – major changes cause stress and can provoke feather plucking. This justification is consistent with how we approach daylight provision for other animal categories, such as broilers and laying hens, and is even more flexible as daylight panels must be present in these sheds from the outset. This gives the turkey sector the opportunity to adapt the shed to the criteria.</p> |
| 1-11-17 | H3D, H3E, H3G Daylight | <p>Turkey sheds with natural ventilation do not have diffuse daylight, and sometimes have direct sunlight. Light enters the shed via the windbreak mesh, which is not permitted under the criteria. However, direct sunlight does not lead to more feather plucking among turkeys as it does in broilers. The criteria therefore lead to an unnecessary restriction.</p> | <p>As such, the criteria do not currently need to be verified. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals will be conducting further research and will determine whether or not changes need to be made to these criteria as part of a subsequent review.</p> |
| 2-10-18 | OU1a Covered run | <p>The interpretation of the criterion states, <i>'If the covered run is counted as usable area, it will be included when calculating the width of the shed.'</i> Does this mean that if the covered run is counted as available floor area, the shed + covered run may be max. fifteen metres wide as outlined in criterion O03?</p> | <p>No, that is not what is intended by the criterion. The maximum distance to the run openings may be up to fifteen metres. This means that sheds with run openings on one side (the long side) may not be deeper than fifteen metres. The covered run does not need to be included in the shed width. This passage of text will be removed from this criterion as part of a subsequent review.</p> |

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| 1-11-17 | OU5 Covered run area | It is stated that the covered run area may be a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 30% of the shed area. What if someone has a larger run? Should it not state that a maximum of 30% of the covered run may be included for the number of turkeys/the stocking density? | This criterion should be interpreted as follows: the covered run may count for a maximum of 30% of the available floor area. The covered run may be larger, but when calculating the minimum available floor area, the covered run may account for a maximum of 30%. |
| 26-10-18 | OU09 Daylight and air permeability | Can a rollable cover be used for the ventilation/windbreak mesh along the long wall of the covered run? Rolling the cover down would prevent wet areas in the covered run in the event of adverse weather conditions. | <p>The ventilation opening can be made from windbreak mesh that breaks a maximum of 80% of the wind and has a maximum 80% shading effect – this is fairly dense mesh, which should break plenty of the wind and may also stop rain.</p> <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals does not advocate closing run openings during bad weather, therefore a rollable cover may only be used on the long side of the run under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cover is only used during adverse weather (excess cold, damp, draught) to prevent rainwater from entering the covered run and its use is recorded in the run calendar • The cover must be made from daylight-permeable material • The turkeys can look out, even with the cover down • Use of the cover is recorded automatically • If a rollable cover is present, the covered run must be accessible to the hens during the prescribed open hours and in all conditions, including bad weather The run openings may remain closed overnight. |
| 17-01-20 | OU11 Opaque edge | The opaque, raised edge of the covered run is higher than the maximum permissible 75 cm, but cannot be lowered. How can this be resolved? | <p>The turkeys must be able to look outside from the covered run. If the opaque, raised edge is higher than 75 cm, their view is impeded and the requirement is not met. If it is not immediately possible to lower the edge to the maximum 75 cm, a platform or plank (not a perch) can be placed against the wall to allow the turkeys to see outside. The platform/plank must meet the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a permanent construction and cannot be dismantled • Length: Spanning the entire length of the shed • Height: Maximum 75 cm below the opaque edge and maximum 50 cm above the ground (excluding litter) • Width: Minimum 40 cm • The platform/plank may not be used to keep more turkeys in the same shed. The platform/plank is not counted as additional floor area when calculating the stocking density. The platform/plank may only be counted as floor area if doing so is required to be able to continue keeping the same number of hens in the shed after installing the platform/plank. |

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| 8-03-22 | VU1A Access to outdoor run | This criterion states that no later than on the 50 th day of life, the animals must be granted additional freedom of movement in the form of access to an outdoor run. At this age, the plumage of turkeys may not yet be fully developed and they may not be robust enough to go outside. Can turkeys only be granted additional freedom of movement in the form of access to an outdoor run on the 56 th day of life? | <p>Following investigation, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has established that standard of day 50 should be maintained. This age is considered sufficient to guarantee the welfare of turkeys under normal conditions.</p> <p>However, the poultry farmer is permitted to close and keep the openings to the outdoor run closed in one of the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the event of statutory/sector-wide compulsory indoor confinement, or; • with outside temperatures below 0° degrees Celsius and/or poor climatic conditions (high winds, draughts, damp conditions), or; • with a certificate issued by the veterinarian. <p>The outdoor access log must be updated daily, for each separate house, stating the times of access to the outdoor run (in accordance with criterion M04), including the reasons for possible deviations from the regular outdoor access times (as specified in criteria VU1A, VU1C and VO1D).</p> |
| 8-03-22 | VU6AB Openings to the outdoor run (BLL 2 stars) | Criterion VU6AB states that the openings to the outdoor run should be at least 65 cm high. Can the openings to the outdoor run also satisfy the criteria of the Better Life Label scheme 2 stars if they are at least 50 cm high? | <p>A minimum height of 65 cm has been established so that turkeys can walk through the openings to the outdoor run while upright. It can happen that dominant turkeys stand upright in the openings and hinder access to the outdoor run for other turkeys. Experience gained in practical situations shows that if the openings to the outdoor run are 50 cm high, dominant turkeys will not remain standing upright in the opening. A height of 50 cm therefore does not hinder entry/exit to and from the outdoor run. In addition, openings to the outdoor run of 50 cm high do not appear to cause any injuries to the animals.</p> <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has therefore established that openings to the outdoor run (BLL Turkey 2 stars) must be at least 50 cm high.</p> |
| 1-11-17 | G01A Sick bay | Currently, turkey farms do not have a sick bay – seriously ill or injured animals are euthanised. | This criterion does not need to be verified and this will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review. |
| 1-11-17 | S1 Method of slaughter, S2 Animal welfare policy statement | These criteria are for the abattoir. The criteria must be verified at the abattoir, not the turkey farm. | The criteria do not need to be verified and will be removed from the criteria as part of a subsequent review. |