

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
17-08-18	HB03 Housing bulls	Why is it that Better Life bulls are allowed to be housed indoors permanently from the age of one year?	Bulls reach puberty at around six months of age, which means that they can become a danger to their environment. Fattening bulls should therefore only have access to grazing pasture for the first year of their lives. If a bull calf has access to pasture grazing from birth, it can be permanently housed indoors in groups as soon as the required number of days of pasture grazing has been reached, until it is heavy enough to go to slaughter. Sheds must be spacious and have a soft sleeping area, fresh air and daylight.
10-11-14	H06A Solid floor covered with straw	Why should there be a soft sleeping area with a solid floor covered with straw? Why is a sleeping area with a slatted floor not permitted?	For indoor housing, beef cattle are best kept in a straw pen. With sufficient space for each animal, a thick layer of straw and daily replenishment with fresh straw offers the best comfort and necessary grip when standing up, lying down and walking. On slatted floors, beef cattle usually have less space per animal to encourage them to work their own manure and urine through the slats. Grip on a slatted floor is also lower. Lying down and standing up on a slatted floor are visibly more difficult. Since the floor is often soiled with faeces, the animals are usually less clean, which is in contrast with their self-cleaning behaviour. There is also the risk of a tail becoming caught, which could lead to infection (without prompt intervention into the spinal cord).
23-04-18	T01 Travel time for young cattle	How should the AR sanction for this criterion be interpreted if the travel time is exceeded?	If the travel time/distance is exceeded, these cattle are no longer BLL-eligible. The shortcoming can be remedied administratively by providing evidence that the non-BLL-eligible cattle were also transferred as non-BLL. If the cattle cannot (all) be transferred within the period prescribed for AR (six weeks), the sanction will change to RI. If the cattle cannot then (all) be transferred in the subsequent prescribed period (6 weeks), the sanction will change to a suspension. The livestock farm will then have a further three months to demonstrate the remedy before they are excluded. In theory, the livestock farm has six months to remove the cattle as non-BLL. If this requirement is not met, the livestock farm will be excluded.



27-02-24	T05 Electric cattle prods	<p>The 'Electric cattle prods' criterion states that no electric cattle prods are used on the farm and during the moving/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, while the animals are kept at the BLL certified reception site 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>
----------	---------------------------	--	--