

Standard	Aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
The specific standards for the quality label and the necessary inspections, insofar as not already provided for by IKB, are also included.					
Not for circulation. No rights may be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.					
<b>Exclusion criteria</b>					
UIT01	Other activities	No other activities are performed at the company 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"> <li>- Keeping fur animals for production purposes;</li> <li>- Keeping laying hens in enriched cages (permitted in the Netherlands until 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,</li> <li>- Keeping wild animals for production purposes,</li> <li>- Keeping geese or ducks for the production of goose or duck liver;</li> <li>- Rearing endangered species, such as eel,</li> <li>- Keeping double-muscled breeds of meat cattle, with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals</li> </ul>	Verify whether the farm 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.	<p>A genetically modified animal has been adapted using gene technology.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.	Exclusion
UIT05	Standard for mega-housing	The laying hens are not kept in a mega-barn.	<p>A mega-barn is considered to be one farm location (this is identical to one Unique Farm Number (UBN) that houses 120,000 laying hens or more.</p> <p>Not applicable to existing barns that participated in the Better Life label scheme before 1-1-2015. These houses may maintain the number of laying hens that were kept on 1-1-2015. With new construction or renovation, the number of animals kept at a farm location is not increased further.</p>	Verify whether the farm does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size.	Exclusion
UIT06	Tiered barn	The animals are kept in a barn with a maximum of one storey/floor/level.	<p>Tiered barns with multiple storeys/floors/levels are excluded from participation in the Better Life label, with the exception of aviary and free-range houses for laying hens, where a maximum of two storeys may be used.</p> <p>This criterion will come into effect on 1-9-2016.</p> <p>New farms with a tiered barn with more than two storeys 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 1-9-2016. However, no new tiered barns with multiple storeys can be built or added after 1-9-2016.</p>	Verify whether there is a tiered barn at the farm. If there is a tiered barn with more than two storeys, verify whether the farm participated in the Better Life label scheme before 1-9-2016 and whether any new construction or renovation has taken place after that date.	Exclusion

UIT07	Chain Manager	The livestock farm is registered with a chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label foundation.	A chain manager is, for example, an egg packing centre or intermediary that links various components of the supply chain, from the primary producer to the seller as well as all existing interim links.	Verify whether the farm is registered with a chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label foundation. Record the name of the chain manager.	Exclusion
UIT08	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the farm 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 or no cooperation is given, the farm will be excluded from participation, unless it can invoke force majeure.		Exclusion
<b>General</b>					
A05	Welfare legislation	The farm complies with Dutch Animal Keepers Decree of the Animals Act ( <i>Besluit Houders van Dieren van de Wet Dieren</i> ) and/or the EU welfare directives for laying hens (guidelines 1999/74/EG).	Foreign farms must comply with the EU welfare directives for laying hens (guidelines 1999/74/EG).	Verify whether the farm complies with Dutch Animal Keepers Decree of the Animals Act ( <i>Besluit Houders van Dieren van de Wet Dieren</i> ) and/or the EU welfare directives for laying hens (guidelines 1999/74/EG).	Exclusion
A06	Marketing standards	The farm complies with the marketing standards for eggs (EU Regulation 589/2008)		Verify whether the farm complies with the marketing standards for eggs.	Exclusion
A08	Barn measurement	There must be a valid measurement of the barn.	The barn has been measured by NCAE, KAT or IKB EI. The measurements are renewed after any renovations.	Verify whether there is valid measurement of the barn by NCAE, KAT or IKB EI.	RI
A01	Supply chain quality system	The farm has a valid certificate issued by a supply chain quality assurance system approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	For example, IKB EI or KAT. If no IKB or KAT certification takes place, the following is sufficient: 1. at least an equivalent certificate (see equivalent systems listed on the BLL website or following approval of the xx by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, which decides if it can be accepted as equivalent or not), 2. an IKB/KAT inspection is conducted at the same time as the BLL audit (without issuing an IKB/KAT certificate), whereby the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals determines in advance which IKB/KAT criteria are not necessarily compulsory for the foreign farm.	Verify whether the farm has a valid certificate issued by a chain quality system approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Exclusion
A02a	Stamping	Better Life eggs must be stamped on the farm with non-washable ink so they are easily legible at all times.	The code on the egg indicates which farm, farming system and barn the egg originates from.	Verify, based on a random check, whether the eggs on the farm are marked with a non-washable stamp and whether this stamp is easily legible. Record non-conformities.	Suspension
A02b	Traceability	Unstamped eggs will still be stamped at the egg packing centre, but cannot be sold under the Better Life label.	This also applies if the stamping device malfunctions. These eggs must be sold through another channel.	Verify whether unstamped eggs are demonstrably sold through another channel than under the Better Life label. Record non-conformities.	Suspension

A03	Separation	If the farm produces various types of eggs (e.g. BLL and non-BLL or BLL 1-star and BLL-2-star), the poultry farmer works according to an established system for separating the eggs into channels based on stamp codes, with comprehensive registration of egg production per barn and: a. different egg colour or b. different feather/leg colour.	The system of separation into channels is recorded in the farm administration.	Verify whether the farm has established a system for separating the eggs into channels based on stamp codes, a comprehensive registration of egg production per barn and: a. egg colour or b. different feather/leg colour for the various types of eggs. Verify whether the farm works according to an established separation system. This does not apply if the farm does not produce various types of eggs.	Exclusion
A7A	Emergency facilities	If mechanical ventilation is used, there is a functioning alarm system in case the ventilation fails.	This is not compulsory for naturally ventilated barns.	Verify whether an alarm is present and tested at least every two months. This does not apply with naturally ventilated barns.	RI
A7B	Emergency facilities	If mechanical ventilation is used, the alarm system must be tested at least every two months.	The two-monthly alarm system tests must be registered. This is not compulsory for naturally ventilated barns.	Record the last three dates of the tests. This does not apply with naturally ventilated barns.	AR
A7C	Emergency facilities	If mechanical ventilation is used, there is a functioning emergency power generator that ensures the ventilation remains operational in the event of a power failure, or the air inlets automatically open in the event of a power failure.	This is not compulsory for naturally ventilated barns.	Verify whether a functioning emergency power generator is present (test the generator) and that the air inlets automatically open in the event of a power failure, if the barn is not naturally ventilated.	RI
A7D.	Emergency facilities	If an emergency power generator is used, the generator must be tested at least every two months to ensure it is functioning correctly.	The two-monthly generator tests must be registered. This is not compulsory for naturally ventilated barns.	Record the last three dates of the tests. This does not apply with naturally ventilated barns.	AR
<b>Management</b>					
M01	Moulting	Forced moulting is not applied.	Forced moulting means decreasing the feed supply and maintaining a shorter lighting period than the day length. This practice forces the laying hens to stop laying eggs and to lose their feathers. Record the age of the laying hens in days.	Verify whether forced moulting was applied on the farm during the past year.	Suspension
M02	Preventing feather pecking	Feather pecking and cannibalism are prevented.	Feather pecking and cannibalism can be prevented through measures including using breeds with calm social behaviour, good breeding, undamaged plumage, enrichment material, proper handling of the birds and good management practice.	Enter the barn and observe the plumage. Do the birds generally appear to have good, intact plumage? Do the birds react calmly when someone enters the barn? (see Health section). Record any findings on entering the barn. Verify the farm health and treatment plan for the applicable points to prevent feather pecking.	AR

M03	Fire safety	For fire safety reasons, an agricultural electrical inspection must be performed at least once every five years in compliance with NEN1010 or (HD) IEC 60364 Low voltage electrical installations with new systems, and in compliance with the above standards or NEN 3140 or NTA 8220 for existing systems.	<p>The first inspection must have been performed before 1-1-2022. New systems must be inspected in compliance 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. After the first inspection has been performed, the five-yearly re-inspection may be performed based on NEN 3140 or NTA 8220.</p> <p>Consult the website of your insurance company for a list of companies authorised to perform the inspection.</p> <p>Foreign livestock farmers must have an electrical inspection performed with new systems and existing systems in compliance with the CENELEC HD 60364 standard of the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization.</p>	Verify whether there is a certificate of the last inspection and record the date.	Warning
M04	Maintaining a run access calendar	A daily record of the access times to the run for each of the separate quarters is noted in the run access calendar and the statutory/sector-wide compulsory indoor confinement or weather conditions at the time are stated.		Verify information about access to the open-air run	AR
<b>Feed and enrichment</b>					
V01	Enrichment material	At least 2 grams of grain/feed is provided as enrichment material for each laying hen daily.		Calculate: number of laying hens x 2 grams per day. Verify using purchase receipts whether sufficient grain/feed is provided daily. Record the name of the supplier.	Suspension if an insufficient quantity has been provided. Exclusion if no grain/feed has been provided
V01a	Enrichment material	The broiler farmer or stockperson walks at least once a day from the night quarters to the day quarters, scattering a portion of the enrichment material (grain/feed).	<p>Walking through the entire barn scattering grain/feed every day provides the laying hens with enrichment material and creates a positive association with people walking through the barn.</p> <p>The rest of the enrichment material (grain/feed) may be dispensed by an automatic feeding system (e.g. spin feeders).</p>	The poultry farmer must scatter grain/feed in the presence of the inspector. While the grain is being scattered by the poultry farmer, observe whether the birds are accustomed to grain being scattered.	Suspension
V01b	Enrichment material	The grain/feed is scattered onto floor.	The laying hens must have direct access to the grain/feed scattered on the floor. The grain/feed must be well distributed over the surface of the floor.	While the grain is being scattered by the poultry farmer, verify whether any grain is left on the floor from the previous session and whether the laying hens are accustomed to grain being scattered.	Suspension
V02	Enrichment material	The scattered enrichment material is of sufficient grain size.	The (average) grain size is equal to or larger than 1 mm.	Verify the grain/feed size.	AR

V03	Stomach grit	One gram of stomach grit per laying hen is scattered over the litter in the barn and in the covered run at least once a month.		Calculate: number of laying hens x 1 gram per month. Verify using purchase receipts in the administrative records whether sufficient stomach grit is provided monthly. Verify how much stomach grit is left in the night quarters and covered run.	RI if an insufficient quantity has been provided. Suspension if no stomach grit has been provided.
V04	Stomach grit	The grain size of the stomach grit is sufficient.	The grain size is 4 to 6.5 mm.	Verify the grain size of the stomach grit.	AR
V05	Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	A minimum of one straw, hay, or alfalfa bale of an average of 15-20 kg per 1000 laying hens is provided in the barn.		Verify using purchase receipts for straw/hay/alfalfa bales in the administrative records.	Suspension if an insufficient quantity has been provided. Exclusion if no straw, hay, or alfalfa bale has been provided.
V05A	Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	At least one straw/hay/alfalfa bale is provided in the night and day quarters.	Bales may be placed on the floor or suspended in a net at the laying hens' eye level from the floor. The full bales must be easily accessible for the laying hens. The bales may not be wrapped in plastic or placed in a straw rack.	Verify whether and how straw/hay/alfalfa bales are provided in the night and day quarters.	Suspension
V05B	Straw/hay/alfalfa bales	Straw/hay/alfalfa bales are replaced as soon as they reach floor level.		Verify for the presence of (remains of) bales in the night and day quarters. Verify this with the poultry breeder.	Suspension
V07	Beak and nail filing	At least one pecking block for each 1000 laying hens is provided for each of laying cycle/flock.	Pecking blocks must not be made of material containing dioxins.	Verify using purchase receipts for pecking blocks in the administrative records.	Suspension
V08	Beak and nail filing	At least one pecking block is provided in the barn and the covered run.		Verify for the presence of pecking blocks in the night and day quarters.	Suspension
V07C	Beak and nail filing	The pecking block is placed to give all the laying hens easy access to peck and scratch.		Verify for the presence of pecking blocks in the night and day quarters.	Suspension
V07D	Beak and nail filing	Pecking blocks are replaced as soon as they reach floor level.		Verify whether pecking blocks in the day and night quarters have reached floor level.	Suspension
<b>Housing</b>					
H01	Housing system	There are no more than three housing levels (including the barn floor).	Housing levels are levels above the barn floor, with a habitable, usable surface that is permanently available for the laying hens. This is at least 30 cm wide with a slope that does not exceed 8 degrees. There must be a free space of at least 45 cm high above the entire surface.	Verify the housing levels and measure the usable surface.	Suspension
H02	System requirements	The laying hens have permanent access to the litter area/barn floor.	Housing systems where access to the litter area/barn floor can be closed are not permitted.	Verify whether where access to the litter area/barn floor can be closed. Record non-conformities.	Exclusion
H03	Crossovers	With multiple system rows, crossover points of 2 metres wide are created across the system rows for each 3000 laying hens to facilitate access to the entire barn and covered run.	Crossovers are not necessary when the laying hens can cross the system rows unobstructed in the following three ways: 1. underneath the system row, 2. across the system row, and 3. over the first manure belt (under the laying nests)	Verify whether sufficient crossovers have been created with multiple system rows This does not apply if there is only one system row.	RI

H04	General stocking density	Set up flock is limited to 100% stocking capacity.	The number of laying hens present from set up flock may never exceed the number of animal places established by the measurement of the barn.	Compare the NCAE, IKB or KAT barn measurement with the information on set up flock recorded in the farm administration. Record the number of laying hens permitted according to the certificate and the number actually set up.	Suspension until the next flock is set up. Exclusion: on second incident of more than 100% of permitted number of laying hens being set up and housed.
H05	Stocking density in usable area (day and night quarters)	The stocking density in the barn is no more than 9 laying hens per m <sup>2</sup> of usable area at any time.	The covered run may be counted towards part of the usable area, provided it is permanently accessible during the day. The laying nest and any space used for feeding/water supplies do not count towards part of the usable area. In barns wider than 15 metres with covered runs on one side only, the area that is more than 15 metres distant from the covered run does not count towards the usable area.	Verify, based on information from the entry inspection, whether more than 9 laying hens are present per m <sup>2</sup> of usable area in the barn. Record the number of laying hens permitted according to the entry inspection and the number actually set up.	Suspension until the next flock is set up. Exclusion: on second incident of more than 100% of permitted number of laying hens being set up and housed.
H06	Group size	The maximum group size (barn or compartment in the barn) is 6000 laying hens.		Verify, based on administrative records that state how many laying hens were purchased, whether more than 6000 laying hens are kept per group (barn or compartment in the barn).	RI
H07	Litter	Laying hens must at least have access to a litter-covered surface of 250 cm <sup>2</sup> per laying hen.		Measure the litter-covered area and calculate whether this complies with the requirement of 250 cm <sup>2</sup> /laying hen. Record the calculation.	Suspension < 250 cm <sup>2</sup> /hen or if there is no litter.
H08	Litter	At least 1/3 of the floor surface area is covered with litter.			RI if < 1/3 of the area is covered with litter.
H09	Accessibility to the litter area	The litter area must not be raised.		Verify the condition of the litter area.	RI
H10	Litter area	The litter area (floor covered with litter) is covered with a layer of litter that is at least 2 cm thick.	This layer of litter must be constantly present from the start of the laying period.	Measure the thickness of the litter layer at a number of places in the barn to verify whether it is sufficient.	RI
H11	Litter material and quality	Litter in the barn consists of material with a loose structure that enables the laying hens to satisfy their behavioural needs (dust baths, roaming, and pecking). The litter is of sufficient quality.	Litter material is, for example, wood shavings, straw, chopped straw, peat, sand or other material. The litter runs easily through the fingers; it must be free of patches of mould and/or clumps of litter (except for limited areas that are adjacent to the popholes to the covered run or the outside of the barn).	Verify at three places in the barn whether the floors are visible and whether the litter is free of patches of mould and/or clumps of litter. Determine the litter quality in a number of places throughout the barn. Verify whether the litter runs easily through the fingers and record the type of litter.	RI if litter is of insufficient quality Exclusion if there is no litter.
H12	Perches	The laying hens have access to 15 cm of perch for each hen, of which at least 50% are raised. Integrated perches (max. 7.5 cm per laying hen) are 2 cm high.		Measure, based on a random check, five perches. Record the height and length of the perches and record the calculation of the number of cm of perch space per hen.	Suspension with 10% non-conformity. Exclusion > 10% non-conformity in availability.
H12a	New perches	New perches are rounded on top and flattened (oval/mushroom shape).	New perches are: perches that have been renovated or replaced after 1 January 2017.	Verify the perches. Perches that have been renovated or replaced after 1 January 2017 must be rounded on top and flattened (oval/mushroom shape).	RI

H14	Light	At least 20 lux light is available in the entire barn.	In addition to daylight, artificial lighting may be used in the barn to create sufficient light at animal level. However, using only artificial lighting is not permitted. The daylight permeable surfaces are functional and clean.	Verify whether there is sufficient light in the barn and whether daylight permeable surfaces are functional and clean. Measure the light intensity with the lux meter and the artificial light switched off in at least two places in the barn. If the artificial lighting is on when entering the barn, perform the measurement with the artificial lighting on. If the artificial lighting is off when entering the barn, perform the measurement with the artificial lighting off. Record whether the measurement is at least 20 lux at animal height.	Suspension
H14a	Daylight	There must be daylight in the barn achieved through a daylight-permeable surface, which is at least 3% of the floor surface of the barn.	The daylight-permeable surfaces may consist of skylights, side windows and/or light wells, for example. The total daylight-permeable surface excludes the covered run. If light wells are used, the daylight-permeable surface may be one-quarter, i.e. 0.75% of the floor surface of the barn. The 3% rule applies to daylight that enters via the roof or side wall.	Verify whether the daylight-permeable surfaces comprise at least 3% of the floor surface of the barn. If light wells are used, this is 0.75% of the floor surface. Record the type of light opening.	Suspension if < 3% of floor surface is daylight permeable. Exclusion if no daylight enters the barn.
H14c	Daylight	The daylight-permeable surfaces ensure an even distribution of light in the activities area of the barn.		Verify whether the daylight-permeable surfaces are evenly distributed throughout the barn.	Suspension
H14d	Daylight intensity for barns wider than 12 metres.	In barns that are wider than 12 metres (excluding the covered run), and use daylight-permeable surfaces in the side walls, daylight-permeable surfaces have been installed in the side walls on both sides of the barn.	This does not apply if there is only a daylight-permeable surface in the roof.	Verify in barns that are wider than 12 metres, and use daylight-permeable surfaces in the side walls, whether a daylight-permeable surface has been created on both sides of the barn.	Suspension
H14e	Daylight	It must be possible to fully cover light openings.	Daylight openings do not have to fully covered if sufficient other measures are taken to prevent feather pecking, see (see: <a href="http://edepot.wur.nl/283863">http://edepot.wur.nl/283863</a> ).	Record whether and how the light openings can be fully covered. Or record which other measures are taken to prevent feather pecking.	RI
H14f	Daylight	Direct sunlight in the barn is prevented.	For example, through the use of an open roof or side windows.	Verify whether no direct sunlight enters the barn, through the use of an open roof or side windows.	RI
H15	Artificial light	If the artificial light is supplied by fluorescent lighting, only high frequency fluorescent lighting must be used.	High-frequency fluorescent lighting is fluorescent lighting that has a frequency of at least 100 Hertz, or at least 100 flickers per second.	Verify whether the fluorescent lighting has a frequency of at least 100 Hertz. This does not apply if fluorescent lighting is not used.	RI
H16	Lighting pattern	The total light period does not exceed 16 hours a day.		Record the lighting schedule.	Unannounced RI. Suspension if > 16 hours of light
H17	Period of darkness	The laying hens have at least 8 consecutive hours of darkness every 24 hours.	An 8-hour period of artificial light cannot be applied between sunset and sunrise.	Record the lighting schedule.	Suspension if < 8 hours of darkness.
H18	Climate	The climate in the housing must be stable and good.	The air in the housing must not be too dusty and there must be no strong odour of ammonia. During the inspection, the inspector should not experience any irritation to their respiratory tract or eyes.	Record whether there is an abnormal climate in the barn.	Warning:
H19	Live wires	Live wires are not permitted in the areas of the barn that are accessible to the laying hens.	The use of live wires, whether or not under power, is not permitted.	Verify whether there are any live wires in the building.	RI

H21	Minimum height of the barn	All parts of the quarters (barn, covered run) are easily accessible to people.	Wherever possible, the quarters (barn, covered run) are 2 metres high. Along the edges of the quarters, 1.5 metres is sufficient.	Measure the quarters and record any non-conformities.	Suspension
H22	Covered run and open-air run	The laying hens have access to both a covered run and an open-air run.	The covered run and open-air run must both comply with the corresponding criteria, as described below.	Verify whether there is both a covered run and an open-air run.	Exclusion
<b>Covered outdoor run</b>					
O01a	Covered run	There is a covered run with a surface area of at least 50% of the barn.	The covered run is a cold, covered roaming area, which is directly connected to the barn via popholes and to which all the laying hens have easy and unrestricted access. The cold roaming area is clearly lighter than the interior of the barn, has an outdoor climate and the run is protected against weather influences in a way that permits use even during bad weather (e.g. by installing windbreak/ventilation mesh). The covered run may count towards the usable area when calculating the stocking density.	Verify whether the covered run complies with the criteria.	Exclusion
O01	Opening times	The hens have access to the covered run for an uninterrupted period of at least 8 hours from no later than 10 am and from no later than three weeks after set-up flock.	The poultry farmer may take appropriate measures by lowering part of the access wall or closing the popholes to the run to ensure an optimal climate in the day and night quarters only if temperatures fall below 0° Celsius in the day quarters and/or in poor climatic conditions (cold, draughts, humidity). This is registered daily on the run access calendar.	Verify whether the laying hens have access to the run and whether the run appears to be used.	With doubt regarding run use: Unannounced RI. Suspension if no access.
O02	Canopy	The canopy or roof of the covered run must prevent exposure to any droppings from birds flying overhead and must be weather and wind resistant.	The roof must be watertight and resistant to high winds, for example. Thin plastic film does not comply with the requirements. However, well secured corrugated sheets or thick tarpaulin that will not tear in high winds do comply. It must be possible to open the roof to allow sunlight and fresh air to enter the covered run.	Verify whether the covered run complies with the criteria.	RI
O02a	Position of the covered run in relation to the barn	The covered run is located along the entire length of the long side(s) of the barn.	If the covered run cannot be provided along the entire length of the long side of the barn (due to the presence of silos, for example), the maximum distance to the closest pophole to the covered run must be 15 metres.	Record whether a covered run is provided along the entire length of the barn.	Suspension
O02b	Barn-run separation	The covered run is separated from the barn by a solid wall containing popholes to the run.		Verify whether the covered run is separated from the barn by a wall containing popholes to the run.	RI
O03	Popholes	The distance from the furthest point in the barn to the covered run does not exceed 15 metres. Barns with popholes on one side (lengthwise), are not wider than 15 metres.	There must be no significant obstacles in this 15 metre space which could significantly hinder the passage of the laying hens. Normal feed or drinking water lines are not regarded as an obstacle when determining the maximum distance in the barn to the closest pophole to the covered run.  There are two options if the barn is longer/wider than 15 metres: - a covered run needs to be made on both of the long sides of the barn; - the maximum distance from the furthest system run to the popholes does not exceed 15 metres With this option, the laying hens can use this additional surface area, but his additional surface area may not be included when calculating the stocking density.	Verify whether the maximum distance is 15 metres. Record the distance in metres.	Suspension



O03a	Popholes	The popholes to the outdoor run must be constructed in such a way that the laying hens are not hindered by obstacles when entering and exiting the run.	<p>The passage of the laying hens is not hindered if the popholes to the outdoor run are positioned at a maximum height of 25 cm above the floor surface, measured from the floor (calculated without litter) on both the night quarter side and the covered run side.</p> <p>If the popholes to the outdoor run are currently positioned at a height of 25-50 cm above the floor surface, with new construction or renovation after 08-03-2022 any obstacles that hinder entry/exit should be removed by raising/lowering the floor of the night quarters and/or outdoor run and/or lowering the popholes to the outdoor run.</p> <p>If the popholes to the outdoor run are positioned at a height of 25-50 cm above the floor surface, a gradually increase in height such as a stair, step or slope must be placed between the night quarters and the covered run, and/or vice versa.</p> <p>An object that gradually increases in height must comply with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is a permanent construction and not demountable;</li> <li>- it is at least the same width as the pophole to the run.</li> </ul> <p>Recommendation: the width of the gradual increase preferably runs over the entire length of the barn;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the maximum height difference between each level (each step) is 25 cm, 25 cm below the pophole to the outdoor run, and a maximum space of 25 cm above the floor surface (measured without litter).</li> <li>- a slope that does not exceed 40 degrees and that provides sufficient grip;</li> <li>- a perch does not comply with the criteria for a gradual increase.</li> </ul> <p>An object that gradually increases in height is not part of the habitable area.</p> <p>Popholes higher than 50 cm do not comply with the criteria. A gradual increase is not possible in this case.</p>	Verify whether the covered run complies with the criteria. Record the main findings.	
O04	Popholes	Popholes to the covered run are evenly distributed over the entire length of the barn.		Verify whether popholes comply and record the findings.	RI
O05	Popholes	Popholes to the covered run are at least 40 cm high and 1 metre wide.		Measure the popholes and record the findings.	RI
O06	Popholes	At least 2 metres of pophole must be available for every 1000 laying hens.		Verify the number of popholes in relation to the number of laying hens. Measure the openings in the popholes. Record the findings.	RI
O07	Construction of the covered run	The covered run, including the roof, is constructed in a way that prevents the formation of condensation and excessively high temperatures.	<p>This can be achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. an insulated roof (including insulated daylight-permeable surfaces) or</li> <li>2. a (round) roof that drains the condensation into gutters, in combination with sufficient ventilation to prevent excessively high temperatures.</li> </ol>	Record whether the covered run complies with the criteria and describe any non-conformities, if applicable.	RI

O07a	Daylight and air permeable	In any case, the long side of the wall/outside wall must be permeable by daylight and air.	Daylight and air permeable material is material that breaks a maximum of 80% of the wind and has a maximum 80% shading effect (e.g. windbreak/ventilation mesh/ corrugated sheet min. 20% perforated). In poor climatic conditions, a roll up curtain installed along the long side of a covered run may be used under the following conditions: - Use is automatically registered on the run access calendar; - The curtain is made of daylight permeable material; - The laying hens can look outside even if the roll up curtain is closed; - The covered run must be accessible to the laying hens during the prescribed opening times, except at night.	Record whether the covered run complies with the criteria.	Suspension
O09	Height of the covered run	The covered run is at least 2 metres.	The covered run must be at least 2 metres high at all points so people can easily access it everywhere. Along the edges of the outdoor run, 1.5 metres is sufficient.	Measure the height of the run at its lowest point. Record the measurement.	RI
O12	Litter in the run	The covered run is covered with a layer of litter at least 2 cm thick from the beginning of the laying period.		Measure the thickness of the litter at four places. Record the measurement.	RI
O13	Litter material and quality	Litter in the covered run consists of material with a loose structure that enables the laying hens to satisfy their behavioural needs (dust baths, roaming, and pecking). The litter is of sufficient quality.	Litter material is, for example, wood shavings, straw, chopped straw, peat, sand or other material. The litter runs easily through the fingers and it must be free of mouldy patches.	Verify at three places in the covered run whether the floors are visible and whether the litter is free of mouldy patches. Determine the litter quality in a number of places throughout the covered run. Verify whether the litter runs easily through the fingers and record the type of litter.	RI if litter is of insufficient quality Exclusion if there is no litter.
O14	Drinkers in the covered run	There are at least two permanently functioning drinkers per group (max. 6000 laying hens).	These drinkers must function permanently and must be filled with water at all times. Drinking nipples may also be used: 10 drinking points/nipples are equivalent to one drinker.	Record the number of drinkers/drinking nipples for each 6000 laying hens.	RI

O15	Height raised edge	The laying hens must be able to look over the raised edge and see outside.	<p>If there is an opaque, raised edge in the covered run, the maximum height is 25 cm measured from the floor (excluding litter).                  If there is a raised edge that cannot be immediately lowered to the maximum height of 25 cm, a platform or plank (not a perch) may be placed against the wall to enable the laying hens to look outside. This platform or plank must comply with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is a permanent construction and not demountable;</li> <li>- length: over the entire length of the barn;</li> <li>- height: maximum 25 cm under the opaque edge and max. 25 cm from the floor (excluding litter);</li> <li>- width: at least 30 cm;</li> <li>- the platform/plank does not count towards an additional surface area when calculating the stocking density.</li> </ul> <p>The laying hens should have a clear view of at least 5 metres through material that provides an unobstructed view outside without causing any distortion or a restricted view.                  The following options are possible:                  Windbreak mesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plexiglass glass (acrylic glass) (if clear)</li> <li>- Scratch-resistant plastic sheets</li> <li>- Toughened safety glass</li> <li>- Coarse mesh (which cannot be blocked by dust), possibly combined with other transparent material to prevent pecking dulling the surfaces.</li> </ul> <p>Matt plexiglass glass, ribbed plexiglass glass or corrugated sheets do not comply with the criteria.                  The material must be finished smoothly with no sharp edges or protrusions. If the windbreak mesh/plexiglass used do not comply, the poultry farmer is given the opportunity until the next flock is set-up to replace the material and comply with the criteria.</p>	<p>Verify whether the laying hens can look outside from the covered run. If there is an opaque, raised edge, measure the edge.                  If the windbreak mesh/plexiglass used do not comply, the poultry farmer is given the opportunity until the next flock is set-up to replace the material and comply with the criteria.</p>	RI
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O16	Distance to other buildings	The distance between the outside of the covered run and any adjacent building or structures is at least 10 metres (entry inspection).	<p>If this is not possible, the covered run with existing barns may be sandwiched between two buildings under the following conditions: In this case a daylight and air permeable material that breaks a maximum of 80% of the wind and has a maximum 80% shading effect must be placed over the entire length between the wall of the adjacent building and the roof of the covered run:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- there is an area of at least 1 metre high on both long sides of the covered run OR</li> <li>- an area of at least 2 metres high on one long side of the covered run across the entire length</li> <li>- If there is an open area between the covered run and an adjacent building of 1 metre, the roof of the covered run does not need to be raised.</li> </ul> <p>a daylight permeable roof surface, evenly distributed over the roof, of at least 3% of the floor space of the covered run must be provided.</p> <p>With a tiered barn with a covered run sandwiched between two buildings, only the upper storey can comply with the Better Life label criteria.</p>	Verify the distance to adjacent buildings Verify whether the additional criteria have been complied with if the distance is less than 10 metres.	Suspension
<b>Open-air run</b>					
VU1	Open-air run	The laying hens have access to the open-air run from 10 am.		Verify whether the laying hens access to the open-air run from no later than 10 am.	Suspension
VU2	Open-air run	The laying hen have access to the open-air run for at least 8 hours a day.	With the exception of periods of statutory/sector-wide compulsory indoor confinement, the poultry farmer may take appropriate measures by lowering part of the access wall or closing the popholes to the run to ensure an optimal climate in the day and night quarters. This is registered daily on the run access calendar.	Verify whether the laying hens have access to the open air run, for at least 8 hours a day.	Suspension
VU3	Planting open-air run	The open-air run is mainly landscaped with planting/structures.	The planting/structures are designed to take into account the behaviour and needs of the laying hens. The planting/structures are placed so the laying hens can cross open areas. A form of shelter can be reached within 30 metres of any place in the open-air run. An open-air run does not have to be fully landscaped with planting/structures. Strips can also be created for the laying hens to walk along. Planting/structures may consist of trees, shrubs, corn, wooded banks, uprooted trees, sewage pipes, etc. The planting/structures also function as a shelter in winter.	Verify and record whether the open-air run is landscaped with planting/structures.	RI if <50% of the open-air run lacks shelter Suspension if >50% of the open-air run lacks shelter
VU5a	Planting open-air run	2 metres of popholes are available for every 1000 laying hens.	At each pophole, a run space is available that is at least as long as the total length of the corresponding pophole, irrespective of whether there is another building opposite this wall.	Measure the width of the popholes and measure the length of the run area. Compare the sum of the width of the openings with the length of the popholes. Record the figures and compare them.	RI if non-conformity is < 80% Suspension if prescribed length is not complied with.
VU5b	Height popholes	The height of all the pophole openings must be at 35 cm.		Measure the height at a number of places.	RI

VU6	Stocking density open-air run	No more than 2500 laying per hectare are kept in the open-air run.	This is equivalent to one laying hen per 4 m <sup>2</sup> . If a rotational system is used, at least 2.5 m <sup>2</sup> of open-air run space must be available for each laying hen.	Measure the surface area of the open-air run and calculate based on the permitted number of laying hens whether the maximum of 2500 hens per hectare is exceeded. Record the calculation.	Exclusion
VU7a	Other purposes open-air run	The open-air run accessible to the laying hens is not used for any other purposes.	Exceptions are trees and fruit trees, extensive grazing and mowing.	Verify whether the open-air run accessible to the laying hens is mainly planted with shrubs and grass and is not used for other purposes.	RI
VU8	Shelter open-air run	The open-air run must offer shelter against bad weather, predators, and wild ducks and geese.		Verify whether the open-air offers shelter against bad weather and predators. Record the type of shelter offered.	RI
VU9	Shelter open-air run	There is at least 16 m <sup>2</sup> of shelter available per hectare (with 2500 laying hens/ha) in the form of trees, shrubs and/or hides. Shelter is distributed evenly across the run.	No more than 50% of the shelter may consist of hides.	Calculate and record the number of m <sup>2</sup> of shelter in relation to total number of hectares.	RI if 12-16 m <sup>2</sup> per ha of shelter is present or if > 50% of the shelter consists of hides. Suspension if < 12 m <sup>2</sup> per ha of shelter is present.
VU10	Area immediately following popholes	To ensure the run is fully used, the first 5 metres of space immediately following the pophole must not be appealing to the laying hens. Discourage the hens from using this area by placing stones or grills on the ground.		Verify whether the first 5 metres after the pophole are not appealing to the laying hens.	RI
VU11	Structures open-air run	There must be structures such as guide strips, some hides to shelter under and trees or shrubs in the first 30 metres of space from the barn in the direction of the open-air run.		Verify whether there are guide strips and hides for the laying hens in the first 30 metres of space.	RI
VU12	Distance from open-air run to barn	The open-air run may not extend more than 150 metres from the closest pophole from the barn.		Measure and record the distance.	RI
VU13	Open-air run	The run may extend up to 350 metres from the closest pophole from the barn if there are drinking facilities and shelter evenly distributed across the run area.		Record the greatest distance between the end of the run and the closest pophole from the barn. Record whether the run complies with the conditions regarding shelter and water.	RI
VU14	Water adjacent to the open-air run	Any body of water where waterfowl can be found adjacent to the open-air run must be equipped with a partition.		Verify whether any bodies of water where waterfowl can be found are partitioned from the open-air run.	RI
Health					

G01B	Euthanising untreatable animals	If an animal cannot be treated, it must be euthanised in a humane way as prescribed by the veterinary practitioner.	<p>An approved humane method of killing leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal. The veterinary practitioner describes (in the farm health plan, for example), how untreatable animals can be euthanised humanely on the farm as soon as possible.</p> <p>The legally permitted methods of killing are accepted as humane methods of killing.</p> <p>The European Council Regulation 1099/20009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing prescribes the following, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for poultry up to 3 kg live weight by breaking the neck. Manual stretching and twist of the neck provokes cerebral ischemia.</li> <li>- for poultry up to 5 kg live weight by a percussive blow to the head. This is firm and accurate blow to the head provoking severe damage to the brain.</li> </ul>	Record how untreatable animals are killed.	RI
G01C	Euthanising untreatable animals in emergency situations	Arrangements have been made with the veterinary practitioner for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise untreatable animals in emergency situations.	These arrangements are stated in the agreement with the veterinary practitioner.	Verify whether the agreement with the veterinary practitioner contains arrangements for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise untreatable animals (e.g. in emergency situations).	RI
G04	Assured veterinary practitioner	The health of the flock is monitored by an assured, certified poultry veterinary practitioner with whom the poultry farmer has entered into a bilateral agreement for each KIP number.	<p>The veterinary practitioner may contract other specialists/veterinary practitioners to provide full cover, for example as a replacement during illness or holidays.</p> <p>Certified, assured veterinary practitioners are listed on the register of the Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation (<i>Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts</i> (for quality control of the services provided by veterinarians in the Netherlands), see <a href="http://www.geborgdedierenarts.nl">www.geborgdedierenarts.nl</a>). An example of a bilateral agreement is provided in the regulations of the Guaranteed Poultry Veterinarian Foundation. This example should be used.</p> <p>Foreign participants must enter into an agreement with a veterinary practitioner. This veterinary practitioner does not have to be registered as an assured certified poultry veterinarian.</p>	Verify whether there is a bilateral agreement with an assured veterinary practitioner. Record the name of the veterinary practitioner.	AR
G05	Farm health plan	The poultry farmer has established an up-to-date farm health plan (FHP) with the assured certified poultry veterinary practitioner with whom the poultry farmer has an agreement.	The plan established by the poultry farmer in cooperation with the veterinary practitioner, and any farm advisers, describes the farm treatment plan, as well as which other measures are taken by the farm to limit the use of antibiotics. The farm health plan is evaluated by the farmer and the veterinary practitioner at least once per year and, if necessary, updated.	Verify whether there is a farm health plan that complies with at least the criteria in the IKB Kip-model farm health plan.	AR
G06	Salmonella	The laying hens are vaccinated against Salmonella.		Verify using the vaccination schedule. Record the vaccination dates of the last two flocks.	AR
<b>Transport</b>					



T01	Catching	Catching is performed by a team of catchers accredited by IKB-PSB.	<p>Using family members or friends is permitted provided an exemption has been issued in advance by the IKB Ei scheme manager. If loading is exclusively performed by the poultry farmer's own employees, the farmer does not need to request an exemption. During the inspection, the poultry farmer must be able to demonstrate that the activities were performed by their own employees (using the payroll). The activities must be performed by a realistic number of the poultry farmer's own employees.</p> <p>Foreign farms do not have to use teams of catchers approved by IKB-PSB but must be able to otherwise demonstrate that they use trained, experienced teams of catchers and that a designated person is responsible for monitoring animal welfare during catching and loading.</p>	<p>The team of catchers must be approved by IKB PSB. Verify whether the team of catchers is approved using the list of approved catchers.</p> <p>Using family members or friends is permitted provided an exemption has been issued in advance by the IKB Ei scheme. If work is performed by the poultry farmer's own employees, the poultry farmer must be able to demonstrate that the activities were performed by a sufficient number of their own employees (using the payroll).</p> <p>Foreign farms must be able to otherwise demonstrate that they use trained, experienced teams of catchers and that a designated person is responsible for monitoring animal welfare during catching and loading.</p> <p>Record the name of the catching team and the date they were last used.</p>	RI
<b>Supplementary</b>					
ELBLA00	Number of animal places	The number of animal places is:		Record the number of animal places.	
ELBLA00A	Number of animals present	The number of animals present is:		Record the number of animals present.	