

| 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. | | | | | |
| Exclusion criteria | | | | | |
| 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"> - Keeping fur animals for production purposes; - 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, - 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 the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals | 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. 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 broilers 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 |

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| 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 |
| New concepts | | | | | |
| NC02 | Welfare Quality audit | New concepts must undergo a standard behaviour study (including a Welfare Quality audit) after 52 weeks. The costs are for the expense of the poultry farmer. | The study is performed by an institution for behavioural research and Welfare Quality audits as recognised by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. The costs are for the expense of the poultry farmer. The results of the behavioural study (including the Welfare Quality audit) should indicate that the housing system achieves at least the welfare level of a regular Better Life 3-star or organic farm for laying hens. | Verify in the administrative records of the farm whether a WQ audit has been performed. | RI |
| General | | | | | |
| 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 barn measurement certificate in the framework of NCAE, KAT or IKB EI. | | Verify whether a barn measurement certificate is present. | 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 |

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| 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 |
| Management | | | | | |
| 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 |

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| 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 the information about access to the covered outdoor run, the planted edge, planted edge covering, and, if present, the open-air run. | AR |
| Feed and enrichment | | | | | |
| 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 |
| V03a | Stomach grit | One gram of stomach grit per laying hen is scattered over the litter in the barn and in the day quarters 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 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. |

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| 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) straw//hay/alfalfa bales in the night and day quarters. | 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 |
| Housing general (applies to options 1 and 2) | | | | | |
| H01 | Housing system | There are no more than three housing levels (including the floor of the night quarters). | 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. | 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) | 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. |
| H05a | Stocking density of usable surface in the night quarters and day quarters/covered run | The stocking density in the night quarters and day quarter is no more than 6.7 laying hens per m2 of usable area at any time. | The day quarters and/or covered run may be counted towards part of the usable surface, provided they are permanently accessible during the prescribed period Laying nests, planted edge, and any open-air run cannot be counted as part of the usable surface. | Verify, based on information from the entry inspection, whether more than 6.7 laying hens are present per m2 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. |
| H05b | Stocking density in night quarters | The stocking density in the night quarters is a maximum of 12 hens/m2 of usable surface of the night quarters. | The available floor surface of the night quarters is equivalent to the floor surface of the night quarters plus the system surface area in the night quarters. | Verify, based on information from the entry control, whether the stocking density in the night quarters does not exceed 12 laying hens per m2 of usable surface in the night quarters (=floor surface in the night quarters + system surface area in the night quarters). | 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. |

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| H06 | Group size | The maximum group size (barn or compartment in the barn) is 6000 laying hens. | | Verify whether more than 6000 laying hens kept in each group (barn or compartment in the barn) based on the administrative records stating how many laying hens have been purchased. | RI |
| H07 | Litter in the night quarters | Laying hens must at least have access to a litter-covered surface of 250 cm ² per laying hen. | | Measure the litter-covered area and calculate whether this complies with the requirement of 250 cm ² /laying hen. Record the calculation. | Suspension |
| H08a | Litter in the night quarters | 100% of the floor surface in the night quarters must be covered with litter. | | Measure the litter-covered area and calculate whether this complies with the requirement of 100% of the floor surface area in the night quarters. Record the calculation. | RI if < 95% of the area is covered with litter. Suspension if there is no litter. |
| H09 | Accessibility to the litter area | Litter areas in the day and night quarters may 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 and three places in the covered run 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 and 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. |
| H12 | Perches | The laying hens have access to 15 cm of perch for each hen, of which at least 50% are raised. | Max. cm of the required 15 cm of perch per laying hen may be an integrated perch and this integrated perch should be 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 with more than 10% non-conformity. |
| 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 |

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| 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. | Daylight-permeable surfaces consist of, e.g., skylights, side windows, the rolled up access wall between the night quarters and covered run and/or light wells. 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 that only have side windows. | 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: http://edepot.wur.nl/283863). | 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. | Unannounced RI. Suspension if < 10 lux. |
| 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 all of quarters (barn, day quarters, covered run) | All parts of the quarters (barn, day quarters, covered run) are easily accessible to people. | Wherever possible, the quarters are 2 metres high. Along the edges of the quarters, 1.5 metres is sufficient. | Measure the quarters and record any non-conformities. | Suspension |
| Day quarters: a roofed area that allows daylight in over the entire floor surface of the day quarters. | | | | | |
| O01b | Day quarters | There are day quarters with a surface area that is at least equal (100%) to the surface area of the barn. | The day quarters are a cold, covered roaming area with a fully roll up wall (option 1) or popholes (option 2) , which is directly connected to the barn to which all the laying hens have easy and unrestricted access. The day quarters are 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). A non-conformity of up to 5% is only permitted for construction purposes. The day quarters can count towards in the usable area when calculating the stocking density. | Verify whether the surface area of the day quarters complies with the criteria. | Suspension |

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| O02 | Canopy | The canopy or roof of the day quarters must be daylight-permeable. It must also prevent exposure to any droppings from birds flying overhead and must be weather and wind resistant. | <p>The entire canopy must be daylight-permeable. A non-conformity of up to 5% is only permitted for construction purposes.</p> <p>The part of the canopy or roof that counts towards the daylight permeability across the surface area of the day quarters must comply with the following specifications Material: minimum 70% daylight-permeable tarpaulin or sheeting, but not completely transparent (no direct sunlight).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It must prevent exposure to any droppings from birds flying overhead. It must be weather and wind resistant. 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 day quarters. The material must be applied in combination with climate control to prevent excessive temperatures in summer, and prevent condensation forming in winter. Other roofing is insulated. | Verify whether day quarters comply with the criteria. | RI |
| O02a | Position of the day quarters in relation to the barn | The day quarters are located along the entire length of the long side(s) of the barn. | If the day quarters 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 must be 15 metres. | Record whether day quarters are provided along the entire length of the barn. | Suspension |
| O07 | Construction of the day quarters | The day quarters, 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"> an insulated roof (including insulated daylight-permeable surfaces) or a (round) roof that drains the condensation into gutters, in combination with sufficient ventilation to prevent excessively high temperatures. | Record whether the day quarters comply with the criteria and describe any non-conformities, if applicable. | RI |
| O10 | Access times to the day quarters | The hens have access to the day quarters 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 day quarters 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, based on the run access calendar, whether the laying hens have access to the day quarters for at least 8 hours a day and whether the day quarters are used daily. | AR if run access calendar not filled in daily. Suspension if doubts over use. (Unannounced RI). Exclusion if no day quarters present or if it is clear that day quarters are not used daily. |
| O13a | Extra roaming facility in the day quarters | An extra roaming facility is provided in the day quarters of at least 20.9 m2 per housing group (max. 6000 laying hens) covered with peat moss or sandy soil of sufficient quality. | The peat moss or sandy soil runs easily through the fingers and must be loose and dry. If sandy soil is used, it must be of sandpit quality due to animal health reasons. | Verify whether there is an extra roaming facility in the day quarters and whether the peat dust or sand is loose and dry. If sandy soil is used, it must be of sandpit quality. Record non-conformities. | Suspension |
| O13b | Ground cover in day quarters | The ground cover in the day quarters 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. | Examples include grass, artificial turf, peat dust, sandy soil, loose litter or a similar material. The litter runs easily through the fingers and it must be free of mouldy patches. If artificial turf is used it must not be clogged with manure and/or the material used as a ground cover. The individual blades of artificial grass must be visible. | Verify the ground cover. | 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 | Structures day quarters | There is sufficient shelter in the day quarters. | There are at least three trees or artificial trees (in pots) and/or tree stumps and/or other forms of shelter such as hides (min. 45 cm high) per group (max. 6000 laying hens). | Verify how much shelter is provided in the day quarters. | RI |

Options

AR = administrative recovery, RI = recovery inspection, Suspension = demonstrate recovery within 3 months via an RI, no deliveries under Better Life label in the interim period, Exclusion = exclusion from BLL for at least 1 year

| Standard | Aspect | Criterion | Interpretation | Method of measurement | Sanction |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| O17 | Different options: popholes in general | One of the two following options is used: Option 1: the laying hens do not have access to an open-air run Option 2: the laying hens not have access to an open-air run. | Option 1: Criteria nO18a to O18J apply Option 2: Criteria O19a to O19 apply | Record which option is used | Exclusion |
| Option 1: the laying hens do not have access to an open-air run | | | | | |
| O18a | Run option 1 | The night quarters provide access to a covered run and a planted edge. | | Verify whether the laying hens have access to a covered run and a planted edge and whether these comply with the applicable criteria. | Suspension if the criteria not complied with. |
| O18b | Number of system rows option 1 | There must only be one system row for each access wall that provides access to day quarters and/or a planted edge. | | Verify whether there is no more than one system row for each access wall. | Suspension if the criteria not complied with. |
| H20 | Access wall | The access wall between the night quarters and day quarters is rolled up to a height of at least 2 metres during the access times. | These may be deviated from extreme weather. In this case, the access wall is rolled up to a height of at least 50 cm. | Measure the opening at the access walls. | RI |
| H20a | Access wall | The access wall between the night quarters and day quarters can be completely rolled/folded up. | The access wall between the night quarters and day quarters must be able to be completely rolled/folded up. | Verify whether the access wall between the night quarters and day quarters can be completely rolled/folded up. | RI |
| H20b | Access wall | The wall that can be rolled/folded up is always on the side of the adjacent day quarters. | | Verify the quarters. | Suspension |
| H20c | Access wall | At least 50% of the total length of the wall between the night quarters and day quarters can be rolled/folded up. | | Measure the walls and the part that can be rolled/folded up. | HI, renovation must take place when the next flock is set up |

| Standard | Aspect | Criterion | Interpretation | Method of measurement | Sanction |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|------------|
| O16 | Visibility from the furthest quarters | The laying hens are able to look outside from the furthest part of the quarters (planted edge and/or covered run). | <p>If there is an opaque, raised edge in the covered run, the maximum height is 25 cm measured from the floor (excluding litter).</p> <p>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 provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is a permanent construction and not demountable; - length: over the entire length of the barn; - height: maximum 25 cm under the opaque edge and max. 25 cm from the floor (excluding litter); - width: at least 30 cm; - the platform/plank does not count towards an additional surface area when calculating the stocking density. <p>The laying hens should have a clear view through material that provides an unobstructed view outside without causing any distortion or a restricted view.</p> <p>Options are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - windbreak mesh - Plexiglass glass (acrylic glass) (if clear) - Scratch-resistant plastic sheets - Toughened safety glass - Coarse mesh (which cannot be blocked by dust), possibly combined with other transparent material to prevent pecking dulling the surfaces. <p>Matt plexiglass glass, ribbed plexiglass glass or corrugated sheets do not comply with the criteria.</p> <p>The material must be finished smoothly with no sharp edges or protrusions.</p> <p>The distance between the outside of the quarters and any adjacent building or structures is at least 10 metres. If this is not possible, the covered run with existing barns may be sandwiched between two buildings under the following conditions:</p> <p>In this case a daylight and air permeable material that breaks a maximum of 50% of the wind and has a maximum 50% 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"> - there is an area of at least 1 metre high on both long sides of the covered run OR - an area of at least 2 metres high on one long side of the covered run across the entire length - 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. 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>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> | <p>Verify whether the laying hens can look outside from the day quarters. If there is an opaque, raised edge, measure the edge.</p> <p>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 the distance to adjacent buildings and measure the distance.</p> | RI |
| Option 2: the laying hens have an open-air run | | | | | |
| O19a | Run option 2 | The night quarters provide access to an open-air run (possibly with access via a covered run). | | Verify whether the laying hens have access to an open-air run and whether this complies with the applicable criteria. | Suspension |
| O19b | Popholes option 2 | The popholes to a covered run and the open-air run must: | | Verify whether popholes comply. A 5 cm non-conformity is permitted regarding the height of the openings. | RI |
| O20 | Number of system rows option 2 | There may be a maximum of three system rows in the night quarters if the laying hens have access to an open-air run. | | Verify the number of system rows. | Suspension |

| Standard | Aspect | Criterion | Interpretation | Method of measurement | Sanction |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|------------|
| H03 | Crossovers | With multiple system rows, crossover points of 2 metres wide are created 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 |
| Planted edge, if applicable | | | | | |
| O18c | Access wall to the planted edge | The access wall from the day quarters to the planted edge can be rolled/folded up. | | Verify the specifications of the access wall. | RI |
| O18d | Width of access wall to the planted edge | The wall that provides access to the planted edge is at least 175 cm wide per 1000 laying hens. | | Measure the width of the access wall. | RI |
| O18d1 | Walls of the planted edge | The walls along the planted edge are daylight and air permeable. | Daylight and air permeable material is material that breaks a maximum of 50% of the wind and has a maximum 50% shading effect (e.g. windbreak/ventilation mesh/ corrugated sheet min. 50% perforated). The access wall does not have to be daylight and air permeable. 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. | Verify the daylight and air permeability of the walls along the planted edge. | Suspension |
| O18e | Surface area of planted edge | The surface area of the planted edge is at least 216 m ² per group of 6000 laying hens (min. 360 cm ² per hen). | | Calculate the area of the planted edge available for each hen. | Exclusion |
| O18f | Structures in the planted edge | The planted edge must offer sufficient shelter. | There are at least three trees or artificial trees (in pots) and/or tree stumps and/or other forms of shelter such as hides (min. 45 cm high) per group (max. 6000 laying hens). | Verify whether the planted edge offers shelter against bad weather and predators. Record the type of shelter offered. | RI |
| O18g | Ground cover in the planted edge | The ground must be (mainly) wood chips and/or soil. | | Verify the ground cover. | RI |
| O18h | Canopy planted edge | The planted edge is in the open air. The only permanent covering may be a mesh canopy to exclude birds/predatory birds. | The roof of the planted edge may only be temporarily closed with daylight permeable tarpaulin during rain or during a statutory period of compulsory indoor confinement. Rain sensors are used to automatically close the tarpaulin. This is registered on the run access calendar. | Verify the specifications of the canopy/roof. | AR |
| O18j | Access times to the planted edge | Access starts no later than half an hour after the beginning of twilight. Access continues for an uninterrupted period of at least eight hours | 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, based on the run access calendar, whether the laying hens have access to the planted edge for at least eight hours a day and whether the planted edge is used daily. | AR |
| Open-air run: if applicable | | | | | |
| VU1 | Open-air run | The laying hens have access to the open-air run from 10 am. | | Verify whether the laying hens have access to the open air run, for at least 8 hours a day. | Suspension |
| VU2 | Open-air run | The laying hen have access to the open-air run for at least 8 hours a day. | | Verify whether the laying hens access to the open-air run from no later than 10 am. | Suspension |

| Standard | Aspect | Criterion | Interpretation | Method of measurement | Sanction |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 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 broilers. The planting/structures are placed so the broilers 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 broilers 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 | Popholes 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 popholes 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 4m ² . If a rotational system is used, at least 2.5 m ² 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 ² 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 ² of shelter in relation to total number of hectares. | RI if 12-16 m ² per ha of shelter is present or if > 50% of the shelter consists of hides. Suspension if < 12 m ² 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 popholes 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 |

| Standard | Aspect | Criterion | Interpretation | Method of measurement | Sanction |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------|
| 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.</p> <p>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"> - for poultry up to 3 kg live weight by breaking the neck. Manual stretching and twist of the neck provokes cerebral ischemia. - 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. | 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 |
| G03 | Beak trimming | Trimming/heat treatment of beaks is forbidden. | | Verify whether the beaks have been trimmed or treated. | Exclusion |
| 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 www.geborgdedierenarts.nl). 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 |
| Transport | | | | | |



| Standard | Aspect | Criterion | Interpretation | Method of measurement | Sanction |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|---|---|------------|
| 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.</p> <p>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. 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 |
| T01a | Transport containers | The laying hens are loaded into crates or containers with large openings. | | Verify this with the poultry breeder. | RI |
| T02 | Duration of transport | The transport lasts a maximum of 3 hours. | This is measured from the moment the trailer leaves the farm. | Record the address of the abattoir for an indication of the duration of transport. | Suspension |
| T03 | Catching | The laying hens are caught very carefully in dim light or green/blue light. | | Verify the report stating the number of laying hens that were dead on arrival at the abattoir (DOA) and the number of injured laying hens (feedback from the abattoir). | AR |
| Supplementary | | | | | |
| ELBLA00 | Number of broiler 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. | |