

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

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
28-03-24	A04 Pest control	<p>Criteria A04 states that pest control and prevention on the farm is performed in compliance with European standard CEN-EN 16636.</p> <p>Legislation regarding KBA certification has been amended since 01-01-2023. Does this mean that criteria A04 will also be amended?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals complies with amended legislation. This means that KBA certification is no longer sufficient. Practically all chemical control products may only be used by trained pest controllers who work for certified pest control companies. This implies that only companies certified for CEPA or IPM Rodent Control (see Keurmerk Plaagdier Management Bedrijven - Register (in Dutch) (kpmb.nl)) may apply chemical control products.</p>
21-06-24	H06c Soiling of daylight permeable surface	<p>Criterion H06 states that the barn should have a daylight permeable area that covers at least 10% of the surface area accessible to the animals. Criterion H06c states that this daylight permeable surface must not be soiled. In the case of a barn with a daylight permeable surface area of more than 10%; must the entire daylight permeable surface be clean or only the required 10%?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that only the percentage of daylight permeable surface required to comply with the BLL criteria, as defined in criterion H06, needs to be clean. In other words, the daylight permeable area that covers at least 10% of the surface area accessible to the animals should be clean.</p>
20-01-23 and 09-10-23	H24 Dimensions of cubicles (BLL 2 and 3 stars)	<p>Criterion H24 states that dairy cows must be able to assume different positions when lying. Minimum conditions apply for cubicles. Due to an internal error when establishing the BLL 2 and 3 star criteria for dairy cattle, the total minimum length was amended from 240 cm to 260 cm. It could be assumed that this amendment does not mean a tightening of the criterion. However, it does in relation to the previous version. Due to this change some farms can no longer comply with this criterion. Can the total minimum length be reversed to 240 cm?</p> <p>In case of a correction of the total minimum length of the cubicles it is not possible to achieve at least 80 cm of unobstructed space between the cubicles and the wall for the cow to lunge its head. Can the minimum unobstructed space between the cubicles and the wall for the cow to lunge its head be modified to at least 60 cm?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to amend the total minimum length to 240 cm. Besides, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to amend the unobstructed space between the cubicles and the wall for the cow to lunge its head to at least 60 cm. The unobstructed space between the opposite cubicles for the cow to lunge its head of at least 80 cm remains unchanged. Both amendments are interim steps towards enlarging the cubicles in the future.</p>

12-12-22	H29a Passageway cubicles (smaller breeds)	<p>Various criteria for Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars state dimensions for smaller breeds, as modified dimensions permit animals with a smaller stature as defined in H20 to comply with BLL criteria.</p> <p>However, specifications of dimensions for smaller breeds were missing in criterion H29a. Can modified dimensions be drawn up for smaller breeds?</p>	<p>Based on amendments concerning the dimensions in other criteria, the modified dimensions relating to smaller breeds in H29a are as follows:</p> <p>1 star</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width of passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall 2.1m</li> <li>• Width after new construction or renovation 2.5m</li> <li>• Width if there is an open space after every 20 cubicles 2m</li> </ul> <p>2 stars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width of passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall 2.1m</li> <li>• Width after new construction or renovation 3m</li> <li>• Width if there is an open space after every 20 cubicles 2m</li> </ul> <p>3 stars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width of passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall 2.1m</li> <li>• Width after new construction or renovation 3m</li> <li>• Width if there is an open space after every 20 cubicles 2m</li> </ul>
16-03-23	H29a Passageway cubicles	<p>Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars states requirements for the minimum width of the passageway between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall. The width is at least 2.5 m for lactating cows to allow the cows to pass each other easily without any conflict. If there is an open space of at least 2 m between every 20 cubicles, a passageway of 2.2 m wide is sufficient.</p> <p>Can this be deviated from if there is a passageway/open space that enables access to the milking robot or the pasture?</p>	<p>There is considered to be a passageway with a width of at least 2.5 m (or 2.2 m if there is an open space of at least 2 m between every 20 cubicles) if this passageway is between cubicles or between cubicles and the wall. If this passageway is used as a passageway/open space to access a specific destination such as for example the milking robot or the pasture (for grazing) where the cows can only move in one direction, this criterion does not apply.</p>
16-03-23	HK04 Duration of stay dairy farm	<p>Criterion HK04 states that for 1 star the calf remains on the farm of its birth for at least the first 28 days and for 2 and 3 stars that the calf must remain on the farm of its birth for at least the first three months, or is sent, after at least 28 days on the farm of its birth, to a rearing farm within a 50 km radius. The criterion came into effect on 01-01-2023. However, in practice, this criterion is not yet workable. Must this criterion be complied with at the moment?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that criterion HK04 does not need to be complied with at the moment. This criterion will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined.</p>
31-03-23	HK05a Width calf hutches HK05b Length calf hutches HK05c Height calf hutches	<p>Various criteria for Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars state dimensions for smaller breeds, as modified dimensions permit animals with a smaller stature as defined in H20 to comply with BLL criteria.</p> <p>However, specifications of dimensions for smaller breeds were missing in criteria HK05a, HK05b and HK05c. Can modified dimensions be drawn up for smaller breeds?</p>	<p>Based on amendments concerning the dimensions in other criteria, the modified dimensions relating to smaller breeds in HK05a, HK05b and HK05c for 1, 2 and 3 stars are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Width is at least 80 cm (HK05a)</li> <li>• Length is at least 115 cm (HK05b)</li> <li>• Height is at least 110 cm (HK05c)</li> </ul>

20-01-23	HK15 and HK15a Dimensions cubicles young stock (smaller breeds)	<p>Various criteria for Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars state dimensions for smaller breeds, as modified dimensions permit animals with a smaller stature as defined in H20 to comply with BLL criteria.</p> <p>However, specifications of dimensions for smaller breeds were missing in criteria HK15 and HK15a. Can modified dimensions be drawn up for smaller breeds?</p>	<p>Based on amendments concerning the dimensions in other criteria, the modified dimensions relating to smaller breeds in HK15 and HK15a for 1, 2 and 3 stars are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age of 4 to 12 months (HK15):                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Width is at least 70 cm</li> <li>- Length is at least 155 cm</li> <li>- Height of the neck bar is at least 75 cm</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Age of 12 to 18 months (HK15a):                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Width is at least 75 cm</li> <li>- Length is at least 175 cm</li> <li>- Height of the neck bar is at least 85 cm</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16-02-23	Gd01 Animal-related measurements Gd02 Incidence of animal diseases Gz11 Prevalence of mastitis Gz11a Mastitis treatments Gz19 Average age at culling Gz21 Mortality	<p>The BLL criteria Dairy cattle include criteria that concern animal-related measurements (Gd01, Gd02, Gz11, Gz11a, Gz19 and Gz21). The criteria came into effect on 01-01-2023, but the 'Protocol for performing animal-related measurements among dairy cattle' has not yet been published. Must these criteria be complied with at the moment?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that criteria Gd01, Gd02, Gz11, Gz11a, Gz19 and Gz21 do not need to be complied with at the moment. These criteria will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined, at the moment that the animal-related measurements have been developed/the protocol is available and has been established by means of a supplementary decision.</p>

<p>26-08-24</p>	<p>NA02</p> <p>NA01, NA04, NA05, NA06, NA07, NA08, NA09, NA10, NA11, NA12 en NA13</p> <p>Farm nature management plan</p> <p>Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars</p> <p>(part 1)</p>	<p>Criterion NA02 (1, 2 and 3 stars) entails that a farm nature management plan is present and what this plan must minimally contain. In addition, criteria NA01, NA04, NA05, NA06, NA07, NA08, NA09, NA10, NA11, NA12, and NA13 also include requirements that are incorporated into the farm nature management plan. Monitoring the implementation of these criteria proves difficult in practice. Can monitoring and assurance of these criteria be carried out in a more practical manner?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to facilitate the implementation, monitoring, and assurance of these criteria by consolidating them under criterion NA02, in order to allow execution, control, and assurance by the certified ecological advisor and Certification Bodies to be carried out more pragmatically:</p> <p>The farm nature management plan is present, including a baseline measurement survey and advice from an ecological adviser approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds (VBN) to fulfil the tasks related to nature conservation natural area to be created. The farm nature management plan contains at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a map of the farm and the corresponding parcels;</li> <li>• where and how the criterion of herb-rich grassland is satisfied, indicated on the map of the farm;</li> <li>• the location of landscape elements specific to the region are registered and indicated on maps and vertical elements in the landscape (woodland, trees, buildings etc.) have been indicated;</li> <li>• there is a distance of at least 300 m from the herb-rich grassland and reed beds, woodland, trees, buildings, highways or paths/hiking trails;</li> <li>• a statement of whether the farm participates in the Agricultural Nature and Landscape Management (ANLb) scheme;</li> <li>• an indication of which plots are grazed; - where and how the criterion of rewetting is satisfied, indicated on the map of the farm;</li> <li>• a conclusion with stipulating which components the farm still should achieve, referred to as 'action points', and the status of their implementation.</li> </ul> <p>Supplemented with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General - determination of location in low-lying or high-lying Netherlands; based on the physical geographical regions (see map in tab 2) the farm has determined which type of soil the farm is located on. A distinction is made between 1. Location in low-lying</li> </ul>
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	(part 2)		<p>Netherlands (fenland, river area, sea clay and reclaimed land) or 2. Location in high-lying Netherlands (peatlands, sandy soils, coastal zone, hilly land) (NA01);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tillage of herb-rich grassland; displaying plots of herb-rich grassland not to be ploughed, harrowed or reseeded (NA04);</li><li>• Rewetting of herb-rich grassland - low-lying Netherlands; Rewetting of herb-rich grassland must take place on farms in low-lying NL between at least 15 February and 15 June (NA05);</li><li>• Regional landscape elements: a part of the farmland area consists of regional landscape elements: - farms in low-lying NL: 2% of the surface area of the farmland - farms in high-lying NL: 3% of the surface area of the farmland (NA06);</li><li>• Maintaining trenches and ditches: the number of trenches and ditches is kept to a minimum (NA07);</li><li>• Maintaining open landscape character – Low-lying the Netherlands; No new trees, woodlands and reeds are planted outside the farmyard on farms that are located in low-lying NL (NA08);</li><li>• Planting native species farmyard; there are at least 100 linear or square metres of native species planted in the farmyard (NA09);</li><li>• Barn swallow; at least one of the farm buildings is accessible to barn swallows and suitable for nesting (NA10);</li><li>• House sparrow or starling: there are nesting places for house sparrows (under the roof tiles of the farmhouse) or starlings (under the roof tiles of the farmhouse and barn) (NA11);</li><li>• Nest boxes - High-lying the Netherlands; There is at least one nest box for little owls, church owls or kestrel (NA12);</li><li>• Nest management: a nest management plan is demonstrably observed on the farm (NA13).</li></ul> <p>The method of implementation is further elaborated in the action plan, which is available to ecological advisors, chain directors, and certification bodies.</p> <p>The method of measurement and sanction of criterion NA02 remain unchanged.</p>
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26-08-24	NA02a Farm nature management plan  Dairy cattle 1, 2 and 3 stars	Criterion NA02a refers to the evaluation of the farm nature management plan. What are the consequences of not meeting the action points in the farm nature plan?	<p>As a possible outcome of the evaluation by the ecological advisor, the option to sanction the dairy farmer should also be added if no action is taken on the points of advice.</p> <p>As a result, criterion NA02a will be formulated as follows:  <i>Interpretation: The dairy farmer is advised once every 3 years by an ecological advisor on updating the farm nature management plan. The ecological advisor verifies that at least the criteria for nature and landscape are met and that attention and action points from the previous farm nature management plan have been followed up and records any non-conformities per criterion.</i></p> <p><i>If the evaluation shows that the dairy farmer has not implemented action points where they are feasible, or if two consecutive farm nature plans show that no action has been taken, then this criterion is also not met.</i></p>
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<p>13-2-2025</p>	<p>MM02 Land-based 1 star and 2 stars</p>	<p>The farmer is land-based if the manure placement space of the farm is at least 80% of phosphate production. The manure placement space is only valid if the land is owned or leased. This land must be used for dairy farming. If there is more manure placement space on the farm, the farmer is obliged to place the remaining phosphate production (&gt;80%) on the farm's (own) land too. Possibly exchanging manure (for example from other species of animal) is permitted. Due to the current phase-out of derogation in European manure legislation combined with other manure placement restrictions, the 80% land-based criterion for phosphate cannot be met by a significant portion of the BLL 1 star and 2 stars dairy farmers in 2025.</p> <p>The question is to adjust the land-based percentage for phosphate in 2025 to a percentage that is realistic given the phase-out of derogation.</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals intends to accommodate BLL 1 and 2 stars dairy farmers by temporarily (2025) reducing the land-based criterion for phosphate. For BLL 1 star dairy farmers it will be reduced to 65%. For BLL 2 stars dairy farmers it will be reduced to 76%.</p> <p>As a result, criterion MM02 will be formulated as follows:          For 1 star:  <i>Criterion: The dairy farmer is at least 65% land-based.</i>  <i>Interpretation: The farmer is land-based if the manure placement space of the farm is at least 65% of phosphate production. The manure placement space is only valid if the land is owned or leased. This land must be used for dairy farming. If there is more manure placement space on the farm, the farmer is obliged to place the remaining phosphate production (&gt;65%) on the farm's (own) land too. Possibly exchanging manure (for example from other species of animal) is permitted. The manure placement space is calculated as follows: (fixed phosphate usage standard) / Farm Specific Excretion Dairy (BEX) including correction factor) *100%. This figure must be at least 65% or higher.</i></p> <p>For 2 stars:  <i>Criterion: The dairy farmer is at least 76% land-based.</i>  <i>Interpretation: The farmer is land-based if the manure placement space of the farm is at least 65% of phosphate production. The manure placement space is only valid if the land is owned or leased. This land must be used for dairy farming. If there is more manure placement space on the farm, the farmer is obliged to place the remaining phosphate production (&gt;76%) on the farm's (own) land too. Possibly exchanging manure (for example from other species of animal) is permitted. The manure placement space is calculated as follows: (fixed phosphate usage standard) / Farm Specific Excretion Dairy (BEX) including correction factor) *100%. This figure must be at least 76% or higher.</i></p> <p>For 2026 and beyond, considering the many expected (political) developments in the dairy sector, it will be necessary to recalibrate what an appropriate percentage is for the land-based criterion of phosphate.</p> <p>This supplementary decision is valid until 31-12-2025</p>
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<p>13-02-25</p>	<p>MM03a Manure disposal  1 star</p>	<p>MM03a entails that manure is not disposed of to a manure processor. Manure disposal is only permitted if it concerns farmer-farmer transport or disposal to private individuals. In the case of farmer-farmer transport, manure is transported by the participant directly to the recipient farmer with land (arable farmer/livestock farmer). This does not involve the intervention of a manure intermediary/trader.</p> <p>Due to the current phase-out of derogation in European manure legislation combined with other manure placement restrictions, the dairy farmer cannot place the same amount of manure on his own land or dispose of it through farmer-to-farmer transport or transfer to private individuals.</p> <p>The question is to allow manure transfer to a manure processor in 2025, provided that co-digestion is not used.</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals intends to accommodate BLL 1 star dairy farmers by allowing manure disposal in 2025 through farmer-farmer transport or disposal to private individuals, and additionally to a manure processor in 2025, provided that co-digestion is not used.</p> <p>As a result, criterion MM03a will be formulated as follows:  <i>Criterion: Manure may be disposed of to a manure processor.</i>  <i>Interpretation: Manure disposal is permitted if it concerns farmer-farmer transport or disposal to private individuals. In the case of farmer-farmer transport, manure is transported by the participant directly to the recipient farmer with land (arable farmer/livestock farmer) within the Netherlands. Additionally, it is also permitted for manure to be disposed of to a manure processor in 2025, provided that co-digestion is not used. Manure may be disposed of to a mono-digester. In 2025 it is also permitted to dispose manure with intervention of a manure intermediary or trader, given the current state of the manure market.</i>  <i>The farmer must be able to demonstrate where the manure has been disposed to.</i></p> <p>For 2026 and beyond, considering the many expected (political) developments in the dairy sector, it will be necessary to recalibrate what an appropriate method of manure disposal is for the coming years.</p> <p>This supplementary decision is valid until 31-12-2025.</p>
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<p>13-02-25</p>	<p>EK01 Electricity consumption and electricity generation</p> <p>1 star and 2 stars</p>	<p>As of 01-01-2025 (1 and 2 stars), the amount of electricity purchased from the grid (excluding milk processing and private use) is max. 25 kWh (or 90 MJ) per 1000 kg milk. By 01-01-2030, the farm must generate all its own electricity (excluding dairy processing and private use) and must no longer buy electricity from the grid.</p> <p>It is indicated that not all livestock farmers are capable of generating sufficient electricity on their own. Is purchasing green electricity from local power producers through participation in a collective permitted? These power producers could be, for example, local businesses with solar panels which, through collective participation, supply green electricity (excess capacity) to the livestock farmer. This is typically facilitated by energy cooperatives or wind cooperatives.</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that if a farmer is not able to generate sufficient electricity, it is also permitted to receive surplus green electricity through a collective to meet criterion EK01. Electricity purchased outside the collective is considered purchased electricity.</p> <p>The farmer must demonstrate that they are a member/participant of the collective. A monthly invoice must be provided to demonstrate how much kWh of surplus green electricity the farmer has received from the collective.</p> <p>As a result, criterion EK01 will be formulated as follows:  <i>Criterion: As of 01-01-2025, the amount of electricity purchased from the grid (excluding milk processing and private use) is max. 25 kWh (or 90 MJ) per 1000 kg milk. As of 101-01-2030, the farm must generate all its own electricity (excluding dairy processing and private use) and must no longer buy electricity from the grid.</i></p> <p><i>Interpretation: Electricity purchased = electricity consumption minus electricity generated on the farm and/or minus electricity received through a collective for green electricity. Placing additional electricity meters can be used to demonstrate the percentage of energy consumption accounted for by the farm.</i></p> <p><i>For a list of energy saving measures, see the RVO website, via Kenniscentrum Infamil. If more electricity is consumed, an action plan must be drawn up by an energy consultant within one year. This plan describes how the farm intends to comply with the standard within three years by implementing energy saving measures and/or generating energy on the farm. The action plan includes concrete measures that will be implemented, including calculated energy savings, any investment costs and a time scale.</i></p> <p><i>The farmer may consult an external energy consultant of their own choice</i></p>
<p>16-03-23</p>	<p>T02 Supply of cattle</p>	<p>Criterion T02 states that all cattle supplied to the dairy farm originate from farms that are certified as Better Life label Dairy cattle of at least 1 star. The criterion came into effect on 01-01-2023. However, in practice, this criterion is not yet workable. Must this criterion be complied with at the moment?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that criterion T02 does not need to be complied with at the moment. This criterion will come into force after a transitional period that is still to be determined, at the moment that the criterion is achievable.</p>



27-02-24	T05 Electric cattle prods	<p>The 'Electric cattle prods' criterion states that no electric cattle prods are used on the dairy farm and during the transport of cattle.</p> <p>Imposing sanctions on farmers for using an electric cattle prod during transport is illogical. Once the animals have left the farm, they are no longer the farmer's responsibility. How can we deal with this aspect?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals emphasises that the use of electric cattle prods is not permitted under the conditions of the Better Life label. However, the 'during transport' section is worded in a way that may cause confusion. It will therefore be removed from the criteria at the next revision.</p> <p>In the context of the Better Life label, no electric cattle prods must be used while the animals are housed at the BLL certified farm and during unloading at the BLL certified abattoir for which the relevant BLL participant is responsible.</p> <p>This aspect will be inspected (unannounced) by the CB.</p>
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