

## Self-evaluation participant chain manager

This self-evaluation checklist is intended for chain manager considering participation in the Better Life label. The checklist aims to provide a quick assessment of the feasibility of participating in the Better Life label for your business. As a participant, it is your responsibility to comply with the complete list of Better Life criteria for your company type. In order to proceed with the application for participation in the Better Life label, please complete this self-evaluation checklist and confirm that you have read it. Additionally, ensure that all required information is filled out in the Better Life portal.

Upon approval from the Better Life Certification Body, the Certification Body of your choice will be notified. The Certification Body will conduct an Entry Check and, upon successful completion, will issue a certificate valid for a specific duration. Once you have obtained the Better Life certificate from your chosen Certification Body, you are allowed to receive, process, and distribute Better Life raw materials. Within four months following the approval and the entry check, the Certification Body will conduct an unannounced check of the new secondary participant. The Certification Body must have unrestricted access to your business at all times. Any business location that is considered a product owner of Better Life products, must be registered for participation in the Better Life label.

Disclaimer: Please be aware that this is an abridged version of the complete list of criteria. It is essential to meet all criteria relevant to your business type. You can find them on our website at [betterlife.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk](http://betterlife.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk). Your quality manual/work instructions should demonstrate that your business operates in accordance with the Better Life criteria.

Code	Criteria	Interpretation	Reference to quality manual
S1.2.3	The chain manager registers all participating livestock farms with the Better Life Label Foundation.	The Better Life Label Foundation registers these new farms with the Certification Body so an initial inspection can be planned.	
S1.4.1	The participant has a contract with the Better Life Label Foundation for the use of the collective "Better Life" logo and is approved for the relevant activities and the Better Life scope(s).	There is a contract and a letter of approval from the BLLF at the participant's premises. The participant has planned the entry audit within the set period of approval. The re-assessment audit falls within the set period of the certification regulations.	
S1.4.8	The chain manager concludes an agreement with the participating livestock farms that clearly states that the livestock farm concerned is affiliated to the chain for which the chain manager is responsible and	The agreement contains at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name and address data and signature of both parties;</li><li>• Date of issue and validity period (if applicable);</li><li>• The chain manager must provide the participating livestock farm with all information required for its participation, as published on the Better Life website;</li></ul>	

	<p>as such must comply with the applicable Better Life label criteria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the opinion of the chain manager, the participating livestock farm must comply with the most important Better Life label criteria;</li> <li>• The participating livestock farm must provide the chain manager and the Certification Body (CB) and/or the Better Life Foundation with all the necessary information for the purposes of monitoring and assessment.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>S1.4.10</b></p>	<p>The chain manager will demonstrably provide the participating livestock farms with all the current information they need to participate in the Better Life label scheme.</p>	<p>This is at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The latest version of the regulations, the certification regulations and the specific Better Life criteria;</li> <li>• An explanation of the certification process;</li> <li>• An explanation of the responsibilities of participating livestock farms;</li> <li>• The procedure for farm visits by the chain manager;</li> <li>• Frequency of audits and inspections by the CB;</li> <li>• Sanctions imposed by the CB in the event of shortcomings;</li> <li>• An explanation of the responsibilities of the chain manager and the certification body;</li> <li>• Additional, up-to-date information from the Better Life newsletter.</li> </ul> <p>The current versions of these documents can be found on the Better Life website.</p> <p>For example: the chain manager describes how all the up-to-date information necessary for participation in the Better Life Label is demonstrably provided to the participating livestock farms in the quality manual.</p> <p>The participating livestock farms are actively informed by the chain manager of any amendments to the Better Life criteria within 1 month.</p>	

<p><b>S3.1.1</b></p>	<p>The chain manager develops, maintains and works in accordance with a quality manual that contains procedures and work instructions that describe the responsibilities relating to Better Life chain management.</p>	<p>The quality manual must state the procedures for the Better Life chain management.</p> <p>The procedures state at least the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Method of approving new livestock farms for participation, including a farm visit;</li> <li>2. Method of registering/ deregistering livestock farms with the Better Life Label Foundation;</li> <li>3. Method of ensuring that knowledge of the Better Life criteria applicable to livestock farms participating in the chain in question is kept up to date;</li> <li>4. Method of performing initial and annual farm visits to assess continued compliance of the participating livestock farms with the most important – and most recent version of the – Better Life criteria, including any exemptions and additional conditions;</li> <li>5. Method of reporting farm visits by the chain manager;</li> <li>6. Method of informing participating livestock farms on issues such as amendments to the criteria;</li> <li>7. Method of communicating with the Certification Body (CB).</li> </ol> <p>A description of at least the following is provided:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What needs to happen;</li> <li>b. How and how often this is done;</li> <li>c. Who is ultimately responsible;</li> <li>d. Who performs this.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>S5.5.1</b></p>	<p>The chain manager monitors that only animals/ eggs/ milk with a specific Better Life scope (species of animal and number of stars) are supplied by the participating livestock farms certified for the Better Life scope concerned (species of animal and number of stars).</p>	<p>Better Life certification can be verified by consulting the Better Life register on the Better Life website:  <a href="https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/en/register-eng/register-livestock-farms/">https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/en/register-eng/register-livestock-farms/</a></p> <p>If the livestock farm that supplies the products has not yet been issued with a Better Life certificate for the scope concerned (species of animal</p>	

		<p>and number of stars), the animals/ eggs/ milk from this farm cannot be supplied stating that Better Life scope (species of animal and number of stars).</p> <p>The chain manager records this at the livestock farm in a way that demonstrates that animals/ eggs/ milk are supplied as a BLL product (e.g. using delivery notes).</p>	
<b>S10.5.1</b>	<p>The chain manager develops, manages and documents a procedure for visiting the participating livestock farms in their chain and performs visits in compliance with this procedure.</p>	<p>Farm visits and the recording of attention points identified by the chain manager in relation to participation in the Better Life label scheme must be performed in compliance with the procedure developed by the chain manager.</p> <p>The procedure describes at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The method of (initial and annual) farm visits and how attention points for participation are recorded (for example, are there any exemptions?);</li> <li>• The inspection frequency;</li> <li>• Any follow-up steps in the event of any attention points concerning participation in the Better Life label;</li> <li>• Registration of farm visits and which components are registered.</li> </ul>	
<b>S10.5.6</b>	<p>The most important attention points that apply for participation or continued participation in the Better Life label scheme for the relevant scope (species of animal and number of stars) are demonstrably addressed during the (initial or annual) visit or physical contact moment by/on behalf of the chain manager.</p>	<p>The chain manager demonstrably addresses common shortcomings, supplementary decisions and new criteria. A report is made of each visit or physical contact moment.</p>	