

Introduction

The Better Life Label Certification Regulations, version 8.0, came into effect on 1 November 2025. This means that, for any shortcomings identified during an Inspection, the Certification Body (CB) must apply the new BLL Sanctions Framework.

Interpretation table – BLL Sanctions Framework for primary criteria

The basis and structure of the Sanctions Framework have been revised in the new BLL Certification Regulations version 8.0. The revisions to the Sanctions Framework were developed in consultation with various experts and market stakeholders. The terminology used in the BLL Sanctions Framework have been aligned with the terminology commonly used in international standards.

At present, however, the sanction designations described in the primary criteria have not yet been updated. It will take some time before the primary criteria are revised and the sanction designations are brought into line with the BLL Sanctions Framework.

The criteria are therefore not yet aligned with the BLL Sanctions framework within the BLL Certification Regulations version 8.0. This document explains how, based on the BLL Certification Regulations version 8.0, the sanctions for the primary criteria must be applied.

The new BLL Sanctions Framework: What's new?

1. Sanctions with the weighting “conditional” — i.e., a conditional suspension or a conditional exclusion — are not part of the new BLL Sanctions Framework and can therefore no longer be imposed on a Participant.
2. The sanction “warning” has been replaced by the sanction “Opportunity for Improvement” (OFI).
The OFI contains three elements:
 - Warning
 - Action Plan (AP)
 - Recommendation
 The “Basic sanction” section of the BLL Sanctions Framework describes how the CB may apply these elements.
3. The two most significant changes are:
 - Merging the sanctions Administrative Recovery (AR) and Recovery Inspection (RI) into a single sanction: “Minor”. The CB determines the recovery method, which may be administrative or by means of an inspection/audit.
If the shortcoming is not resolved on time, the sanction is escalated from “Minor” to “Major” in line with the BLL Sanctions Framework.
In the event of a recurs at a subsequent inspection (“recidivism”), the sanction escalates according to the Framework steps: on the first recurrence it remains a Minor; on the second recurrence of the same shortcoming it becomes a Major and the Certificate is suspended.
 - The recovery inspection may be carried out as a Remote inspection, in accordance with the conditions for Remote inspections established by the BLLF.

4. An additional requirement has been added to the sanction “Major”. After recovery has been demonstrated and accepted by the CB, the Participant will, for verification, also receive an extra unannounced inspection (or audit). If a Major is not lifted within the set deadline (i.e., the shortcoming cannot be closed), or if it concerns a repeat shortcoming, the sanction is escalated to “Critical”. The Participant is then excluded from participation for one year.
5. The sanction “Exclusion” is designated in the BLL Sanctions Framework as “Critical”.

Interpretation table “old” into “new”

The table below shows which sanction should be applied when a shortcoming is identified during an Inspection. BLLF considers it important that the principles of the (new) BLL Sanctions Framework, as set out in the new Certification Regulations, are applied.

Status	Old sanction name	New sanction name
1	Warning	OFI
2	Administrative recovery (AR)	Minor
3	Recovery Inspection (RI)	Minor
4	Suspension	Major
5	Exclusion	Critical

The escalation of sanctions takes place according to the method described in the BLL Sanctions Framework of the BLL Certification Regulations version 8.0.

Note: the sanction names in the primary criteria remain unchanged for now. They will be updated to the new terminology at a later stage.