



## Definitions

### Better Life Label

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## 1 Scope

These definitions apply to BLL documents and BLLF documents.

## 2 Definitions

<b>Supervisory Body</b>	The person who performs an inspection behalf of the BLL.
<b>Audit</b>	An inspection or examination during which an auditor benchmarks the management system of a Secondary Participant against the BLL criteria , including supplementary decisions, and whereby the compliance of a Participant with the BLL criteria for the company type (for example, abattoir, processor or retail) and Better Life scope is verified.
<b>Auditor</b>	A qualified and trained person who works for (is employed by) a CB, who performs the Audit at a Secondary Participant or a Chain Manager.
<b>Company type</b>	Categorisation of Secondary Participants as described in Appendix 2 of the BLLF Accreditation Requirements for Certification Bodies.
<b>Decision Maker</b>	The person who takes the decision regarding certification (decision). Refer to the BLLF Accreditation Requirements for Certification Bodies for a full description of the Decision Maker's tasks.
<b>Better Life label (BLL)</b>	<p>The quality label used by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals to promote and encourage ensuring a better life for livestock kept for production purposes.</p> <p>The Better Life label consists of the logo of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, the text "<i>Beter Leven</i>" and one, two, or three stars.</p>
<b>Better Life scope</b>	Description of the species of animal/product and the number of stars.
<b>Competent authority</b>	The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) or any other public body with statutory duties.
<b>BLL certification scheme</b>	The set of requirements and criteria established by the Board of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals against which the quality assurance system, product or process is benchmarked.

<b>Certification Body (CB)</b>	A legal entity that complies with the BLLF Accreditation Requirements for Certification Bodies and has an agreement with the BLLF.
<b>Certificate</b>	Written evidence that the Participant concerned complies with the applicable Better Life criteria. The certificate is issued by a Certification Body.
<b>Certificate Decision</b>	Decision of the Decision Maker whether to issue a certificate to a Participant. A Participant that complies with the BLL criteria is issued with a certificate. A Participant that does not comply with the BLL criteria is not issued with a certificate.
<b>Certification Service</b>	Independent service provision by the CB to a Participant in the context of the BLL.
<b>Certification Agreement</b>	The agreement between a Participant and the CB that establishes the mutual rights and obligations of the CB and the Participant.
<b>Inspection</b>	An inspection or examination during which an inspector benchmarks the operational management of a Primary Participant for compliance with the Regulations of the Better Life label certification mark, the BLL criteria , including supplementary decisions, and during which the extent to which a Participant complies with the requirements for the species of animal (pig farming, poultry farming, chain manager etc.) and Better Life scope (number of stars) is verified.
<b>Inspector</b>	A qualified and trained person who works for ( is employed by) a CB, who performs the inspection at a Primary Participant.
<b>Participant</b>	A natural person and/or legal entity with a participation agreement with the BLLF and possibly a Certificate issued by an approved CB.
<b>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals (SPA)</b>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p> <p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals is the owner (scheme holder) of the Better Life label and establishes the criteria relating to animal welfare which must be complied with by Participants.</p>
<b>First Issue Date Certificate</b>	<p>Date of the (first) issue of a Certificate following a Certification Decision after an Entry Inspection or Entry Audit.</p> <p>This initial certification date serves as a reference date for the validity period of all subsequent Certificates issued to the Participant.</p>

## **Approval**

After a positive administrative assessment of an application submitted by an aspirant Participant, the Better Life Label Foundation (BLLF) concludes a participation agreement with the aspirant Participant.

## **Re-certification audit**

A periodic inspection or examination during which an auditor benchmarks the management system of a certified Secondary Participant or Chain Manager against the BLL criteria, including supplementary decisions, and whereby the continued compliance of a Participant with the BLL criteria for the company type (for example, abattoir, processor or retail) and Better Life scope is verified.

## **Re-certification inspection**

A periodic inspection or examination during which an inspector benchmarks the operational management of a Primary Participant against the BLL criteria, and whereby the continued compliance of a Participant with the BLL criteria for the species of animal and Better Life scope is verified.

## **Entry inspection**

A component of the certification inspection during which through inspection or examination an inspector benchmarks the operational management of a Primary Participant against the BLL criteria, and whereby the compliance of a Participant with the BLL criteria for the species of animal and Better Life scope is verified.

After this inspection, a certificate may be awarded to the Primary Participant following a Certification Decision.

## **Entry audit**

A component of the certification audit during which through inspection or examination an auditor benchmarks the operational management of a Secondary Participant or Chain Manager against the BLL criteria, and whereby the compliance of a Participant with the BLL criteria for the species of animal and Better Life scope is verified.

After this audit, a certificate may be awarded to the Secondary Participant or Chain Manager following a Certification Decision.

## **Integrity programme**

The integrity programme of the Better Life Label Foundation that aims to safeguard the integrity of the BLLF. The programme is described in the BLLF Accreditation Requirements for Certification Bodies.

## **Chain Manager**

A legal entity that registers the livestock farms (Primary Participants) with the BLLF.

The chain manager can, for example, be the abattoir, processor, egg packing centre or an intermediary organisation (broker, intermediary).

Chain managers are a separate group of Participants in addition to the Primary and Secondary participants.

## **Multi-site Organization**

A Secondary Participant whose organisation consists of a head office and a network of sub-sites/branches. All activities of a multi-site organisation are planned and managed by the head office.

## **Primary participant**

A participating livestock farm. A livestock farm is a location where livestock (poultry, cattle, pigs, calves, rabbits, etc.) are bred and/or kept for the purpose of meat, milk or egg production.

## **Repeat**

A Shortcoming that is observed at the same Participant within a year of a Shortcoming for the same or a similar criterion being observed.

## **Remote Audit**

A remote Audit whereby an auditor performs an Audit without being physically present at the site of the Participant being audited. Online tools are used to obtain and share evidence, taking into account the requirements and regulations that apply to the Audit.

## **Remote Inspection**

A remote Inspection whereby an Inspector performs an Inspection without being physically present at the site of the Participant being inspected. Online tools are used to obtain and share evidence, taking into account the requirements and regulations that apply to the Inspection.

## **Reviewer**

The person who assesses the report (Review). This person is part of the CB that has a Certification Agreement with the Participant. Refer to the BLLF Accreditation Requirements for Certification Bodies for a full description of the Reviewer's tasks.

## **Sanction**

A penalty imposed as a consequence of a Shortcoming.

## **Secondary Participant**

A participating company, that is not a livestock farm, such as a chain manager, abattoir, egg packing centre, processor, logistic service providers 2b and 2c, Retail, Retail with a processing counter, food service and butchers.

A Secondary Participant can also act as Chain Manager for a group of Primary Participants. In this case, the Participant concerned has a participation agreement as a Chain Manager and a participation agreement as a Secondary Participant.

**Better Life Label Foundation (BLLF)**

The Better Life Label Foundation (BLLF) is the private certification organisation responsible for correctly assuring the Better Life label (BLL) and for communication with the CBs and the Participants. The BLLF processes and assesses the applications submitted by Participants and grants approval. The BLLF also monitors the approved CBs.

**Shortcoming(s)**

A finding of the inspector or auditor during an Inspection or Audit which establishes non-compliance with one or more Better Life label criteria. The finding is classified as a Shortcoming. The severity of the Shortcoming is established based on the BLL criteria.

**Processor**

Sites that process Better Life products. Processing also includes labelling and packing the product, with the exception of re-portioning, whereby at least one original packaging remains intact around the product.

**3 Final provision**

1. This BLL definitions document is published on <https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl>.
2. The original Dutch text prevails above translations of these definitions.
3. The BLLF has the right to make interim amendments to the definitions.
4. CBs that have an agreement with the BLLF will be consulted by the BLLF regarding any proposed amendments to the definitions. CBs will be given the opportunity to express their views on the proposed amendments to the BLLF. Where possible, the BLLF will take the input of the CBs into account.
5. The BLLF will inform the Participants and the CBs about the amendments and the date on which they come into force. Participants will be informed of amendments via Better Life website and the BLL newsletter. CBs will be informed of amendments by e-mail and phone, in addition to the newsletter, or through regular consultation with the BLLF.
6. This document is cited as: BLL Definitions.

**4 Effective Date**

This document was last adopted by the Board on 1 December 2022 and was published on 1 March 2023.

This document enters into force on 1 September 2023. It has been published and is publicly accessible on the Better Life label website.