

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
No rights can be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.					
Definition of "date of new construction/renovation": the date on which the application for an environmental permit is submitted to the municipality. This must be demonstrated in writing on the basis of a confirmation of receipt from the municipality.					
Definition of "renovation": a structural modification of an existing building, an extension or an interior change (e.g. placement of platforms, cages and/or animal category change, etc.). Criteria for new construction and renovation may be limited to the renewed or refurbished area of the farm. E.g. If a grate floor is replaced, a platform is installed or a cage layout is changed, then the daylight criteria need not be realised during the work, for example.					
Exclusion criteria					
UIT01	Other activities	No other activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy are carried out on the farm.	Activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy include but are not limited to: - Keeping fur animals for production purposes; - keeping laying hens in enriched cages (permitted in the Netherlands until 01-01-2021) and colony systems (successor of the enriched cage and the only permitted form of "battery hen farming" in the Netherlands as of 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 geese or duck liver - The breeding of endangered species, such as eel; - Keeping beef cattle with a double muscled factor, having a high incidence of Cesarean sections, for instance Belgian Blues and Verbeterd Roodbonts. This does not include cattle produced by beef on dairy crosses of double-muscled breeds x dairy breeds whereby the bull has been selected for calving ease; - Other activities that are (or may be) contrary to the policy of the Animal Protection Society.	Check whether the farm carries out any other activities that are inconsistent with the Animal Protection Society's policy.	Exclusion
UIT03	Genetically modified animals	There are no genetically modified animals on the farm.	A genetically modified animal is adapted with gene technology. Genetic or gene technology is a form of biotechnology by which the DNA of an organism is directly adapted by extra genes to introduce the desired characteristics in an animal. The classic methods by which the DNA of an organism is indirectly adapted, such as the crossing, selecting and breeding of certain breeds is permitted.	Check whether there are any genetically modified animals on the farm.	Exclusion

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UIT05	Standard for mega-enclosures	The pigs are not held in a mega-enclosure. The definition of a mega-enclosure is one location, unique farm number (UBN or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE.	<p>To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the number of pigs on the basis of the Better Life operating capacity (see A06) must be multiplied by the following numbers of NGE per animal category:</p> <p>1 mating, gestating or farrowing sow, 50 kg or more (on site, with weaned piglets) = 0.2606 NGE 1 mating, gestating or farrowing sow, 50 kg or more (on site, without weaned piglets) = 0.2370 NGE 1 rearing sow or boar of 20-50 kg or 1 rearing sow of 50 kg or more, not covered = 0.0577 NGE 1 piglet up to 20 kg (without sows on site) = 0.0330 NGE 1 piglet up to 20 kg (with sows on site) = 0.0000 NGE 1 porker from 20 kg = 0.0437 NGE 1 boar, 50 kg or more, ready to be covered = 0.2606 NGE 1 boar, 50 kg or more, not yet ready to be covered = 0.0577 NGE</p> <p>For example, the following locations are classed within the Better Life Trademark as mega-enclosures and are excluded from participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Porker farms with more than: 7551 porkers ($7552 \times 0.0437 = 330.02$ NGE) - Breeding farm with more than: 1266 sows and their weaned piglets ($1267 \times 0.2606 = 330.18$ NGE) - Farms with more than: 600 sows and 3973 porkers ($601 \times 0.2606 + 3973 \times 0.0437 = 330.24$ NGE) - Weaned piglet farms with more than: 10,000 piglets ($10,001 \times 0.0330 = 330.03$ NGE) <p>If based on the operating capacity a farm is found to exceed the maximum farm size, the farmer may demonstrate, using a daily overview of the number of animals present (e.g., the daily animal count) and the average number of animals present over the past year, that the maximum farm size is never exceeded. For this purpose, a management system must be used. The management system must be capable of processing and displaying daily animal counts and of showing the average number of animals present. The number of animals present must be kept up to date (the livestock farmer may be up to one week behind in recording the current number of animals in the management system) and must be accessible for at least one year in the past. Keeping animal numbers in an Excel spreadsheet or similar is insufficient.</p> <p>The concept of "mega-enclosure" should not be confused with the concept of "mega-farm". Where a mega-enclosure concerns a single location, a mega-farm refers to a livestock farm with animal enclosures in multiple locations. The farm as a whole has a very large number of animals, but at the various locations, the number of animals is similar to regular farms.</p> <p>If existing participants (BLL participants registered before 01/01/2022) exceed the megahousing standard as a result of the new NGE animal categories, these participants will not be sanctioned. These participants may adhere to the number of BLL animal places present on 31/12/2021. In case of renovation or new construction, the number of BLL animal places is reduced to 330 NGE or less. For existing BLL participants registered before 01/01/2012 it is allowed to maintain the number of animals they held as of 01/01/2012 and in case of new construction and/or renovation the number of animals must not further increase.</p>	<p>Make sure that the farm does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size. Register the number of NGE that is present on the farm based on the number of BLk animal spaces as laid down in criteria A00 and beyond.</p> <p>If the farm exceeds the maximum farm size based on the number of BLL animal spaces but actually keeps fewer animals, verify and record whether the farm does not exceed the maximum farm size based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The average number of animals present over the past year. - At least ten samples taken on days when pigs are delivered or placed and on days immediately before pigs are removed. <p>This check is carried out using a management system.</p>	Exclusion
UIT06	Tiered enclosure	Only the ground floor inside buildings is used to keep animals.	<p>"Tiered enclosures", i.e. enclosures where animals are kept on several storeys/floors/tiers are excluded from participation in the Better Life Trademark.</p> <p>This criterion came into force on 01-01-2017.</p> <p>New companies with a tiered enclosure that register for the Better Life Trademark after this date are not eligible for the Better Life Trademark.</p> <p>Not applicable to existing enclosures that already participated in the Better Life Trademark before 01/01/2017. However, these enclosures may not build or add any new tiers after 01/01/2017.</p> <p>Not applicable for platforms, which are not included in the definition of tiered enclosures.</p>	<p>Make sure the farm only keeps animals on the ground floor. If a farm has a tiered enclosure, check whether the farm participated in the BLk before 01-01-2017 and/or whether any new construction/renovations took place after this date.</p> <p>Not applicable for platforms, which are not included in the definition of tiered enclosures.</p>	Exclusion

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UIT07	Supply chain manager	The livestock farm is registered with a supply chain manager that is approved by the Better Life Foundation.	A supply chain manager is a slaughterhouse, processor or intermediary, for example, which links the different parts of the supply chain, from the primary producer to the processor/seller as well as all interim links that may exist, and manages the farms affiliated to this chain.	Check whether the livestock farm is registered with a supply chain manager that is approved by the Better Life Foundation. Make a note of the supply chain manager(s).	Exclusion
UIT08	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the farm to BLK inspectors who perform inspections on behalf of the Certification Body or the Better Life Foundation .	If the inspectors are refused access to the farm and/or cooperation is not forthcoming, the farm will be excluded from participation unless it can rely on force majeure. Examples of force majeure are infectious animal disease outbreaks for which the government imposes a visitor ban or a death in the family. This is not an exhaustive list. The inspectors will determine in practice when there is question of force majeure.		Exclusion

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General					
A01a	All pigs present on the farm are Better Life	All pigs on the farm (unique farm number, UBN or EU registration number) comply with the criteria of the Better Life Trademark.	<p>If a BLL pig farm decides to stop with BLL and at some point places piglets under non-BLL conditions, under certain conditions the remaining BLL worthy piglets and/or fattening pigs may for a certain period be delivered as BLL-worthy.</p> <p>For BLL breeders the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of three months after placing the first non-BLL piglets, the BLL breeder that stops may still deliver BLL-worthy piglets to other BLL pig farms; thereafter, no more. The end date of the BLL certificate will be set to this date (date of placing the first non-BLL piglets + 3 months). - Once the farm switches to placing piglets under non-BLL conditions, the farm will only place piglets under non-BLL conditions. No piglets may be placed under BLL conditions thereafter. - The BLL and non-BLL worthy piglets are kept separated from each other. During the BLL inspection, this is checked based on the age and castration of the piglets. - The SBLk and CI are informed about the placement of piglets under non-BLL conditions. This must be done no later than 1 week after placing. - An unannounced inspection at the cost of the farmer is conducted before the end date of the BLL certificate. - This arrangement is only applicable to the farm if it is actually stopping with BLL. <p>Therefore, the farm may not reapply for BLL for at least one year. Upon reapplication, a new entry inspection must be conducted, and all animals present on the farm must be BLL-worthy again.</p> <p>For BLL fattening pig farms the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of three months after placing the first non-BLL piglets, the BLL fattening pig farm that stops may still deliver BLL-worthy fattening pigs to the abattoir; thereafter, no more. The end date of the BLL certificate will be set to this date (date of placing the first non-BLL piglets + 3 months). - This arrangement is only applicable to the farm if it is actually stopping with BLL. <p>Therefore, the farm may not reapply for BLL for at least one year. Upon reapplication, a new entry inspection must be conducted, and all animals present on the farm must be BLL-worthy again.</p> <p>For BLL closed pigs farms the following conditions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of 3 months after the first non-BLL piglets are placed, BLL-worthy piglets from the stopping BLL closed pig farm may still be delivered to other BLL pig farms; thereafter, no more. - A maximum of 6 months after the first non-BLL piglets are placed, BLL-worthy fattening pigs from the stopping BLL closed pig farm may still be delivered to the abattoir; thereafter no more. - The end date of the BLL certificate will be set to this date (date of placing the first non-BLL piglets + 6 months). - Once the farm switches to placing piglets under non-BLL conditions, the farm will only place piglets under non-BLL conditions. No piglets may be placed under BLL conditions thereafter. - The BLL and non-BLL worthy piglets and fattening pigs are kept channelled separated from each other. During the BLL inspection, this is checked based on the age and castration of the piglets. - The SBLk and CI are informed about the placement of piglets under non-BLL conditions. This must be done no later than 1 week after placing. - An unannounced inspection is carried out before the end date of the BLL certificate at the cost of the farmer. - This arrangement is only applicable to the farm if it is actually stopping with BLL. <p>Therefore, the farm may not reapply for BLL for at least one year. Upon reapplication, a new entry inspection must be conducted, and all animals present on the farm must be BLL-worthy again.</p>	<p>Verify that there are no pigs present on the farm that are not BLK worthy.</p> <p>Check whether farms that decides to stop with BLL comply with the conditions. Record the findings.</p>	Suspension

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A01	Mandatory notification	The participant is obligated to notify every change that affects or can affect his/hers participation in the Better Life trademark certificate in writing to the Certification Body and the supply chain manager.	Changes are, but not limited to: a. Temporary or permanent termination of the farm, regardless of the reason; b. Transfer of the farm to a new legal entity/owner; c. Modification of the unique farm number (UBN or EU registration number); d. Loss of a recognition or a certificate which means the farm can no longer meet the Better Life criteria; f. Etc. The supply chain manager passes on the changes to the Certification Body and the Better Life Foundation Trademark.	Make sure that changes that affect participation in the Better Life trademark from the previous year are reported to the Certification Body and the supply chain manager.	AR
A02	Knowledge & skills	The farmer can show that he and his staff have the necessary knowledge and skills regarding animal health, animal welfare, animal behaviour and various farming systems.	The staff employed at the farm must minimally have: - Master of Animal Sciences in livestock farming; - 1 year working experience in intensive pig farming; or - Works under the responsibility of someone with these qualifications. Diplomas and certificates must be present on the farm. An overview of these must be kept.	Check and write down whether the overview of the knowledge and qualifications of the farmer and the staff is present and whether it meets the conditions. Note down the last date when the overview was updated.	AR
A03	Course in human-animal interaction	The manager of each pig farming location participating in Better Life must have attended a human-animal interaction course that has been approved by the Animal Protection Society.	Preconditions for the course in human-animal interaction (e.g. Varkenssignalen): 1. Provided by an experienced expert on swine welfare and health; 2. 3. At least 3 hours of the training consists of practical examples (in the enclosure and/or using video and photo material) during which the course participant will learn to translate signals in animal behaviour or appearance into concrete positive or negative causes of this behaviour or appearance; 3. Attention is given to the effects of the behaviour of the pig farmer on the animals in his care; 4. Attention is given to the positive consequences of a good human-animal interaction on financial and production results. See the website of the Better Life Trademark for a list of approved courses in human-animal interaction.	Check whether the manager or supervisor has obtained a certificate of participation within a year of certification for BLK that has been approved by the Animal Protection Society. Note down the name of the course followed and the date.	First year of certification: Warning Following years: AR
A04.2	IKB certificate	The pig farm is IKB certified. This IKB system has been recognised as equivalent by GlobalGap IFA Pigs.	It may also suffice to: 1. Have a certificate from a system deemed equivalent by the Animal Protection Society (see Better Life website for a list of systems deemed to be equivalent by the Animal Protection Society); or 2. An IKB control report (without issuing of an IKB certificate) not older than 1 year, carried out by a certified Certification Institution that demonstrates that the farm meets the IKB standards, with the exception of specific criteria of which the Animal Protection Society has deemed that these IKB criteria do not need to be met.	Make sure the company has a valid IKB or free-range certificate. Here, the IKB system must be recognised as equivalent by GlobalGap IFA Pigs, where the registry of the IKB/free range system is leading. Make note of the UBN of the declining slaughterhouses. Note per customer whether this is happening in the context of BLK.	Suspension
A05	I&R regulations	The pig farmer reports the delivery and removal of pigs from his farm, in accordance with the "Regeling identificatie en registratie van dieren" (Regulations for the identification and registration of animals).	For foreign farms the delivery and removal of pigs must be reported in accordance with the Guideline 92/102/EEG: the identification and registration of animals or national legislation derived from this.	Check the administration, supply receipts and removal receipts.	AR
A06	Determine Better Life operating capacity	The farm capacity for holding Better Life pigs is calculated and confirmed by the Certification Body awarding the Better Life certificate.	If changes in capacity are made after the previous check, the operating capacity during the current check must be re-calculated and documented again.	Calculate the capacity for the holding pigs during the entry inspection and when changes to the farm layout have been implemented in the past year. The capacity for holding pigs is calculated on the basis of the Better Life criteria per category (boars, sows, weaned piglets, porkers). Record the farm's capacity by determining the number of pigs per type of pen/section and multiplying this with the number of pens/sections of this type on the farm.	Suspension
Nutrition					
AV01	Feed	Sufficient feed must be provided on the basis of the nutrition and behavioural needs (for example exploratory behaviour and saturation).		Check the condition of the animals and feed supply.	AR

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AV02.2	GMP+ certified feed	Only GMP+ certified feed from a GMP+ certified feed supplier is fed.	Feed produced on the farm complies with the conditions of the "On-farm production" GMP code. In case of feed production by neighbouring farms, the pig farmer must have ascertained that the supplier meets all the requirements of the "On-farm production" GMP code. Foreign firms may also provide feed from a supplier that is certified by a quality system for animal feed that is at least equivalent to GMP+.	Check on the basis of the feed receipts whether the feed is GMP+ certified. Note down name and location of the GMP+ animal feed supplier.	AR
AV03	Drinking water	Any pig older than 2 weeks has permanent access to fresh drinking water of sufficient quality.	In case of liquid feed this means that separate drinking nipples/troughs must be present with fresh drinking water.	Verify that there are no restrictions in the provision of drinking water. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
AV04	Water quality analysis	The quality of drinking water is analysed 4x per year with one sample taken each quarter.	The analysing laboratory must be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited.	Verify that the analyses have taken place.	AR
AV04a	Water quality analysis	The samples must be taken at the animal level (drinking nipple or feeder), not at the source level.		Verify that the samples are taken at the animal level (drinking nipple or feeder). Inquire as to how the samples have been taken.	AR
AV04b	Water quality analysis	At least one sample is taken by an independent sampler and is analysed both chemically and bacteriologically.	An independent sampler, for example the inspector of the Certification Institution, the contracted veterinarian or a specialised drinking water sampler (for instance someone who offers professional consultation to livestock farms on drinking water quality and in doing so takes regular drinking water samples). If the company uses tap water, no chemical analysis needs to take place, as the water company is required by law to regularly check the chemical parameters.	Ask who took the samples and which points have been sampled. Check on the basis of invoices and test reports.	AR
AV04c	Water quality analysis	The remaining 3 samples may be taken by the pig farmer himself and are always analysed bacteriologically.		Ask who took the samples and which points have been sampled. Check on the basis of invoices and test reports.	AR
AV04d	Water quality analysis	The analysis must show that the drinking water for the pigs is of sufficient quality by complying with the relevant national standard.	In the Netherlands the relevant, national standard consist of the quality requirements which the Animal Health Service upholds for drinking water for pigs. See http://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/diergezondheid/management/drinkwater/referentiewaarden%20vedrinkwaterkwaliteit Deviating from this norm is only allowed if this can be back tracked to an additive that is prescribed by the farm's own veterinarian (see also AV04e).	Assess test results and, if applicable, check whether restorative measures have been taken and samples have been analysed again.	AR
AV04e	Water quality analysis	The pre-treatment of water, e.g. acidification (lowering pH levels, increasing ammonium levels), is allowed only on the advice and/or under the supervision of the contracted veterinarian.	Provided the applicable national standards (in the Netherlands, these are the quality requirements imposed on drinking water for pigs by the Animal Health Service) are not exceeded when pre-treating water, this can be carried out without the intervention of a veterinarian.	Verify from the test results or inquire whether the drinking water is treated and whether this is done under the supervision of the veterinarian. For instance through reporting in visit logs or the farm health plan.	AR
Hygiene plan					
G013	Hygiene plan	The pig farm has a farm-specific hygiene plan. This may be a part of the farm health plan, which systematically demonstrates how the hygiene on the farm is safeguarded.	This plan minimally contains a description of: a. Preventing and, if necessary, combating unwanted animals (e.g. rodents, wildlife, birds, insects); b. A strict separation between the clean and dirty zones; c. Hygiene sluice; d. The origin and quality of water (drinking water and cleaning water); e. Cleaning and disinfecting pens and enclosures; f. The origin and storage of feed. The plan is regularly updated, at least once every 2 years.	Check whether a farm-specific hygiene plan is present, whether this meets the established requirements, and whether this is regularly updated.	AR

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G13a	Pest control	At the farm, prevention of and fight against unwanted pests is done in accordance with the European standard CEN-EN 16636.	<p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First preventive measures are taken to ward off unwanted animals, as much as possible (see for suggestions, for example, the report "Besluit zonder muisjes" [Rusks without sprinkles] by the Animal Protection Society); - If using a prevention and control company, this firm must demonstrate compliance with the CEN-EN 16636 norm and hold the so-called CEPA certificate or IPM Rodent Control. The companies can be found here: https://kpmb.nl/deelnemers/. - If the pig farmer himself uses rodenticides outside the enclosure, he and/or his employees must have a valid IPM-KBA licence and an IPM Rodent Control company certificate. 	<p>Verify that unwanted animals are rejected and, if necessary, contested according to the EU norm CEN-EN 16636.</p> <p>If a pest prevention and control company is used, check whether this company demonstrably meets the CEN-EN 16636 norm.</p> <p>If the pig farmer uses rodenticides outside the enclosure, check whether he and/or his employees have a valid IPM-KBA licence and an IPM Rodent Control company certificate.</p>	AR
G13b	Separation of clean and dirty zones	<p>There is a strict separation between the clean zones (the hygienic areas where the pigs are housed) and the dirty zones (the non-hygienic areas which provide access to visitors, suppliers, trucks, etc.).</p> <p>In case of overall refurbishment or new construction of the farm after 01-01-2018 (the time at which new criteria take effect), but no later than 01-01-2027.</p>	<p>The clean farm zone is the hygienic part of the farm where the pigs are found, this includes for example the sections, central corridors, work spaces and walking routes between enclosures.</p> <p>The dirty farm zone includes anything outside the clean zone, including the supply and delivery routes, the farmer's residence and outdoor areas.</p> <p>In the area between the clean and dirty farm zones a partition must be placed in the form of a fence, wall or chain, for example.</p> <p>Transport trolleys will be denied access to the clean farm zone.</p> <p>Delivery and removal points for feed or manure, for example, can be accessed from the dirty farm zone.</p>	<p>In case of complete new construction or renovation after 01-01-2018, check whether there is strict separation between the clean zone and the dirty zone.</p>	AR
G13c	Hygiene sluice	<p>Hygienic access to the farm for employees, suppliers and visitors is required via a hygiene sluice.</p> <p>In case of overall renovation or new construction of the farm after 01-01-2018 (the time at which new criteria take effect), but no later than 01-01-2025.</p>	<p>The hygienic sluice contains a shower, to be used by the farm staff before changing fully into the pig farm's company clothing.</p> <p>Farms that do not yet have a hygiene sluice may suffice with a changing room until a hygiene sluice is installed. The room contains a sink to wash hands and a space to put on the farm work clothing (an overall and boots).</p>	<p>Ensure there is a changing room. In case of new construction and/or renovation, check whether gestation crates are present.</p>	AR
Management					
AM01	Daily animals inspection	Farrowing sows, (weaned) piglets, and pigs residing in a sick pen must be inspected at least twice a day, while all other pigs are inspected at least once a day for care requirements, signs of injuries, poor health, stress, etc.		<p>Ask caregivers about their inspection activities and related findings. Rate a number of pens with pigs for indicators that signal a need for healthcare, signs of injury, ill health, stress, etc.</p>	AR, at the second observation RI
AM02a	Emergencies	In case of power failure, there is a possibility to switch to natural ventilation or to an emergency power supply.	If an emergency power supply is present, there is also a clear manual for its use and connection.	<p>Check whether there is a possibility to switch to natural ventilation or see if there is an emergency power supply with a user manual available.</p>	AR
AM02a1	Emergencies	When using mechanical ventilation there is an alarm system that reports power failures and essential equipment malfunctions, such as ventilation.		<p>Make sure that the alarm system is present and working. It is not necessary to turn this on if the farmer can provide a maintenance contract and reports that show that the system was in working order during the checks.</p>	AR
AM02a2	Emergencies	The alarm system of a mechanical ventilation system is tested monthly.	Records are kept of the monthly testing of the alarm system.	<p>Verify that the alarm system is tested monthly.</p>	RI
AM02a3	Emergency power supply	If an emergency power supply must be used during a power failure, the mechanical ventilation system is connected to the emergency power supply.		<p>Please verify that the mechanical ventilation system is connected to the emergency power supply.</p>	RI
AM02a4	Emergency power supply	<p>For mechanical ventilation with a vacuum in the enclosure, an emergency power supply is present at the farm.</p> <p>In other cases of mechanical ventilation, there is at least a contract in place to install an emergency power supply to working order within 4 hours.</p>		<p>If mechanical ventilation with a vacuum is used, check whether a emergency power supply is present on the farm. Check in all other cases whether there is a contract to install an emergency power supply to working order within 4 hours.</p>	RI

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AM02a5	Emergency power supply	An emergency power supply, if present, is tested at least once every 2 months.	Records are kept of the minimal bi-monthly testing of the emergency power supply.	Write down the dates from last year when the emergency power supply was tested. Not applicable if no emergency power supply is present.	RI
AM02b	Employees	The staff is familiar with the work method in case of emergency.		Through random selection, ask the staff what to do in case of emergencies.	AR
AM02c	Object information card	There is an object information card present.		Check whether an object information card is present.	AR
AM02c1	Object information card	The object information card is available immediately to the fire department/emergency services in case of emergencies (storage place is visible and outside the enclosure).		Verify that the object information card is readily available.	AR
AM02c2	Object information card	The object information card includes: layout of building blocks/enclosures, access doors, materials used, utilities, fire hydrants, locations with flammable materials/facilities, evacuation possibilities for animals, etc.		Verify that the contents of the object information card meet the requirements.	AR
AM03	Fire safety	For the purpose of fire safety, an inspection of the electrical installations on the farm will take place at least once every five years.	<p>No later than 01-01-2020 or 5 years after the first participation in BLk the first certification must have been carried out.</p> <p>New installations are inspected before use in accordance with NEN 1010. Every 5 years a re-certification will take place based on NEN 3140 (Scios scope 8). Other types of electrical inspection requested by the insurer (such as the Dutch Technical Agreement (NTA) 8220, Scios scope 10) are also permitted.</p> <p>For foreign farms, the certification of new installations, and the re-certification every 5 years, must take place on the basis of the national norm based on HD-IEC 60364 and NEN-EN 50110, respectively.</p> <p>The Belgian AREI electrical inspection is equivalent to the requirements in accordance with NEN 1010 (entry inspecties) and NEN 3140 (recovery inspection) and therefore also meets criterion AM03.</p>	<p>Check whether there is a certificate of the last inspection and note the date.</p> <p>If there is no certificate, check after 01-01-2020 once the farm has been participating in the BLk certification for more than 5 years.</p>	AR
AM04	Ventilation system	Mechanical ventilation systems on the farm are checked by a certified installation professional at least once every five years and maintenance is carried out if necessary.		Check whether maintenance to the ventilation system is carried out by a certified installation professional and whether a report of the last check is available. Write down the date of the last check.	AR

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AM05A.2	Docking tails	The docking of tails is prohibited.	<p>If a pig farm, in the opinion of the veterinarian and on the basis of data from the slaughterhouse, is dealing with serious outbreaks of tail-biting in all or a part of the farm, the farm may temporarily dock tails and/or introduce pigs with docked tails throughout the farm or the relevant section of the farm. Under the conditions that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Docking is carried out by a sufficiently competent and trained person within 72 hours after birth; 2. The piglets retain at least 2.5 cm of their tail. This to ensure that adult animals will have a tail length of >5cm; 3. The pig farmer and the contracted veterinarian must draw up an improvement plan in order to preserve tail length. In any case, the following risk factors must be observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The provided stimulation materials; b. The cleanliness of the pigs; c. Thermal comfort and air quality; d. Health condition; e. Competition for food and space; f. The diet. 4. After a year, pigs with full tails will be introduced again in at least 10% of the pens. 5. If it turns out that the tail-biting problems are not yet over, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted. An independent veterinary expert: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - Is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (See https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers of http://ebvs.eu/). <p>Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.</p> 6. The docking of tails will have to be ended again within 3 years. 	<p>Check whether there are 2 sections in each enclosure. Write down whether the tails are still intact. Write down the findings about whether tail biting occurs.</p> <p>If tail docking occurs, make sure that the conditions are met. Check whether tail docking has been stopped after 3 years at the latest.</p>	<p>RI</p> <p>If tail docking has not yet been ended after 3 years: Suspension</p>
AM06	Pig hygiene	The cleanliness of the pigs should be good, taking the used husbandry system into account.	If more than 50% of the pigs are soiled, then an action plan must be drawn up in consultation with the contracted veterinarian and if desirable other experts (e.g. a climate expert) to reduce the soiling within 2 years to a considerably lower level (<25%).	Evaluate the cleanliness of the pigs. If the cleanliness is insufficient (more than 50%), check whether there is an action plan to reduce the soiling within 2 years to a considerably lower level (<25%).	In the case of insufficient cleanliness and if there is no action plan in place for administrative recovery, issue a warning. If, after 2 years of the action plan, soiling is still above 50%: suspension.
Health					
AG01	Contracted veterinarian	The pig farmer has a one-to-one agreement with a certified, assured swine veterinarian (Geborgde Varkensdierenarts) who is responsible for the entire veterinary advice on the farm.	<p>The veterinarian may bring in other specialists/veterinarians to provide full cover, for example as a replacement when he/she is ill or on holiday.</p> <p>Certified swine veterinarians (Geborgde Varkensdierenartsen) can be found in the register of Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts, see www.geborgdedierenarts.nl.</p> <p>The Regeling van de Geborgde Varkensdierenarts (regulations for certified swine veterinarians) contains a sample one-to-one agreement that should be used.</p> <p>For foreign participants, there must be an agreement with a contracted swine veterinarian with knowledge of the history of the farm and expertise in the field of pig farming. When changing veterinarians, the previous veterinarian must transfer his data regarding the pig farm to the new veterinarian. This veterinarian does not need to be registered as a certified swine veterinarian.</p>	Check if there is a one-to-one agreement with a certified swine veterinarian. Register the name of the veterinarian.	AR
AG02a	Farm health plan	The pig farmer has a farm-specific health plan in which he and the farm's contracted veterinarian describes the measures that will be taken to check and improve the health of the animals.	This farm-specific health plan is updated regularly (at least annually) .	Make sure the farm health plan is in effect and regularly updated.	AR
AG02b	Farm treatment plan	The pig farmer has a farm-specific treatment plan describing the use of veterinary medicine. In this plan the farmer and contracted veterinarian describe which treatment methods are used for the most common diseases.	It describes which animal medicines/antibiotics are used as first and second choice for a certain disease/condition.	Make sure the farm treatment plan is in use based on the presence of veterinarian reports.	AR
AG03	Health registration	All cases of elevated mortality rates, disease, outbreaks and euthanasia of seriously ill and/or injured pigs are registered and discussed with the veterinarian.	If necessary, this is thoroughly researched and the research findings and actions taken are documented.	Check the presence of a health registration and register the last 3 dates of registration and the reasons.	AR, at the second observation RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AG04a	Mortality rate	The maximum allowed mortality rate on an annual basis: - for porkers <2.1%; - for weaned piglets <1.9%.	At the initial audit (first year of participation), a one-time mortality rate of 3.0% is permitted.	Calculate mortality rate as follows: Mortality rate = (number of dead animals – euthanised animals) / (number of transferred animals) * 100%	AR
AG04b	Mortality rate action plan	If the farm is above the maximum allowed mortality rate on an annual basis, an action plan must be drawn up with the contracted veterinarian.		Check, if percentage is too high, whether last year's percentage was also above the permissible rate. If this is the case, check whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR
AG04c	Mortality rate action plan year 2 and after	If a year after drawing up the action plan, the farm is still above the maximum allowed mortality rate on an annual basis, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted.	An independent veterinary expert: - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - Is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (See https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers of http://ebvs.eu/). Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. It is considered sufficient if the independent veterinary expert provides advice on how to reduce the percentage of euthanised animals. Active guidance is not required.	If percentage is too high, check whether last year's percentage was also above the permissible rate. If this is not the case, check whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR
AG05a	Discuss slaughter findings	The slaughter findings of the porkers are discussed with the contracted veterinarian at least once a year.	The slaughterhouse will provide the pig farmer with at least the following information: - Organ abnormalities (such as pneumonias, pleural inflammation, liver disorders, skin inflammations, leg or tail damage); - Rejection of (parts of) carcasses; - The average deviations/rejections (in %) per delivered group across all suppliers of the slaughterhouse involved. Together with the contracted veterinarian, the porker farmer processes this information in the farm health plan in order to improve animal health and further reduce medicine use, where necessary.	Check whether the administration contains an annual signed meeting report from the veterinarian regarding the slaughter findings.	AR
AG05b	Action plan for slaughter findings	In case of structurally exceeding the slaughterhouse average, the contracted veterinarian will draw up an action plan in which the possible underlying health problems are identified and measures are established to reduce the number of slaughter deviations to (below) the slaughterhouse average.	In addition, the slaughter findings are discussed with the contracted veterinarian at least twice a year.	Verify that, in case of structurally exceeding the slaughterhouse average, an action plan has been drawn up and whether the slaughter deviations have been included in a twice yearly visit report by the veterinarian in relation to the slaughter findings.	AR
AG06	Medication use documentation	Any use of veterinary medicine is documented.		Make sure that all drug use is registered.	RI
AG06a	Antibiotic use registration	All antibiotic use must be registered in a government-designated database.	All antibiotic use must be registered in a government-designated database accessible to the pig farmer, so that over time a trend analysis of the use of antibiotics can be performed.	Verify that antibiotic use is recorded in a private database accessible to the pig farmer.	RI
AG07	Veterinary visit	The pig farm is regularly (at least once a month) visited by the contracted veterinarian for a general tour on animal health and animal welfare, and this visit is registered.		Check whether there is a visit report from the past 3 years containing the findings signed by the veterinarian.	AR, at the second observation RI
AG08a	Antibiotics policy	There should be a written policy in the farm health plan with regard to reducing the amount of antibiotics used.		Verify that there is a clear policy for reduction of antibiotic use.	AR
AG08ab	Antibiotics policy	The policy in the farm health plan regarding the reduction of the amount of used antibiotics must be assessed and revised annually together with the contracted veterinarian.		Verify that the policy is annually reviewed and revised together with the veterinarian.	AR
AG08b	Exclusion of certain antibiotics	The use of antibiotics reserved for human healthcare (fluorquinolones or 3rd and 4th generation cefalosporines) is not permitted and these are not present on the farm. In exceptional cases, they may be prescribed for use in individual animals after a resistance test (antibiogram) has been shown that these are the only effective antibiotics.		Check the documentation kept by the veterinarian for whether these antibiotics are used. If so, check that a resistance test (antibiogram) was used to demonstrate that these antibiotics were the only active antibiotics and that these antibiotics are only prescribed to individual animals.	Suspension
AG08c	Level of antibiotic use	The antibiotics use must be under the relevant action zone determined by the Dutch Veterinary Medicines Institute (St. Diergeneesmiddelen Autoriteit - SDa) and within 2 consecutive years it must lie within the target zone set by SDa.	This criterion may be interpreted as per animal category. For each animal category (sows/suckling piglets, weaned piglets, fattening pigs), the pig farmer has two years to reach the target level set by the SDa.	Note down whether the farm's animal dosages are below the action level set by the SDa. For farms that do not fall within the SDa target level, check whether the antibiotic use will be within the SDa target level within two consecutive years.	AR, action plan

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AG08d	Guidance and assistance by swine specialist for excessive antibiotics use	If the use of antibiotics fails to meet the SDA target zone within two consecutive years, an independent swine veterinarian who is an expert in pig health care must be called on to provide secondary advice in the form of an action plan which will enable the farm to reach the SDA target level within 2 consecutive years.	<p>An independent veterinary expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - Is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (See https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers of http://ebvs.eu/). <p>Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.</p> <p>The preparation of the action plan includes an analysis of the measures that have already been taken and an analysis of the farm and the underlying causes of the increased use of antibiotics.</p> <p>The action plan should contain a set of additional measures with which the farm can still achieve the target level of the SDA within two years.</p> <p>If the use of antibiotics after 2 consecutive years of guidance by an external expert (i.e. after 4 consecutive years) is not within the SDA target level, the farm will have its Better Life certificate suspended.</p> <p>A process supervisor/expert specialised in pig farming listed on the BAS-register of the VAB, may also be contacted. In addition, Belgian participants can contact an AB coach listed on the AB Register of Belpork.</p>	<p>Verify that a company that is above the target level for more than 2 consecutive years has called in an external veterinary swine health expert and whether an action plan has been drawn up.</p> <p>Check whether the farm, within 2 consecutive years of external supervision (i.e. after 4 consecutive years), has reached the SDA target level.</p>	Suspension
AG09	Ban on medicated feed	Medicated feed may not be provided.	<p>Medicated feed is feed with antibiotics that is produced by the animal feed manufacturer. In the production of this feed, it is inevitable that a small amount of this feed (including antibiotics) remains in the production line, in storage and in transport and, therefore, is spread to other feed producers (carry-over), as a result of which small dosages of antibiotics can end up in animal feed.</p> <p>Research shows that bacteria that are frequently exposed to very low doses of antibiotics – for example caused by cross-contamination – develop antibiotic resistance.</p> <p>To prevent the development of this antibiotic resistance, medicated animal feed is prohibited within the BLK farms.</p>	Based on feed receipts and/or medicine deliveries, ensure that no medicated animal feed was supplied to the farm.	Suspension
AG10	Blood samples	Blood samples (for animal disease monitoring programmes) are collected as much as possible in the slaughterhouse and are not taken from pigs on the farm.	<p>This does not include blood samples for specific surveys that are handled through the veterinarian or for export.</p> <p>Exceptions are possible, for example, research in younger animals or sows.</p>	Check whether the administration includes the analyses from the past 3-years that show whether the sampling takes place in the slaughterhouse or on the farm.	AR
AG11A	Sick pen	A sick pen must be present or must be created for sick, weak and injured pigs that has a minimum capacity of 1% of the total number of animal spaces on the basis of sows, piglets and porkers.	In addition to sick or injured pigs, it might also be necessary to move an ailing or highly stressed pig to the sick pen if staying with other animals would lead to additional welfare problems, for example if the pig is unable to compete for food.	Check whether the capacity meets the requirements.	RI if sick pen has <1% of capacity
AG11B	Sick pen climate	The sick pen should be well ventilated, warm and dry.		Verify that the sick pen is well ventilated, warm and dry.	RI
AG11C.2	Solid floor	The sick pen must be fitted with a 60% closed/solid floor, unless the veterinarian advises against this for veterinary reasons.		Check the floor of the sick pen.	RI
AG11D	Sick pen strewn floor	The floor of the sick pen must be strewn with straw or sawdust, for example. The closed/solid floor section may consist of a rubber mat with strewn material.	Should the contracted veterinarian, for veterinary reasons, recommend against using strewn material, this advice should be followed.	Check the floor of the sick pen.	RI
AG11E	Sick pen eye contact	A pig in the sick pen should be able to make eye contact with other pigs.	Should the contracted veterinarian for veterinary reasons recommend against contact with other pigs, this advice should be followed.	Verify that the pigs in the sick pen have eye contact with the other pigs.	RI
AG11F	Cleaning sick pen	The sick pen must be constructed to be easy to clean and disinfect between each use, and to enable any dead animals to be easily removed with minimal risk of contact with other animals.		Check sick pen.	RI
AG11G	Removing excrement from sick pen	Urine and manure from the sick pen must not come into contact with other animals and must be removed in a way that minimises the risk of contact with other animals.	(e.g. situate the sick pen at the end of the enclosure so that drained manure and urine do not pass the other pens).	Check sick pen.	RI
AG12	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals	The policy regarding when and how to euthanise seriously sick or injured animals without a chance of recovery is registered in the farm health plan.		Check policy and health plan. Check whether euthanasia policy is included in the farm health plan. Interview employees and check for the presence of seriously injured or sick animals without a chance of recovery.	AR

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AG12a	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals	Seriously injured or sick animals are euthanised in a timely manner. Euthanasia is based on law and humane principles (the animal is spared any avoidable pain, tension or suffering).	During the killing of animals and related activities, it is ensured that the animals are spared from every avoidable form of pain, tension or suffering. An approved humane method of killing leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal. The veterinarian describes (in the farm health plan) how seriously injured and sick animals can be euthanised humanely on the farm as soon as possible. Euthanising with a cattle gun is permitted provided the user has the required licenses for this (storage and holding of the ammunition).	Check whether the veterinarian has described in the farm health plan how seriously injured and sick animals can be euthanised humanely as soon as possible. If a cattle gun is used/present on the farm, check for a permit.	AR
AG12b	Euthanising severely injured or sick animals in emergency situations	Arrangements have been made with the contracted veterinarian regarding emergency situations, and for him/her to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise untreatable animals.	These agreements are recorded in the farm health plan or are included in the annex to the agreement with the veterinarian.	Check if the agreement with the veterinarian contains arrangements for him/her to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously injured or sick animals (e.g. in emergency situations).	AR
AG12c	Reasons for euthanasia	Underlying causes for performing euthanasia are registered by the farm's contracted veterinarian.	For example in the visit report.	Check whether the underlying causes for performing euthanasia are registered by the veterinarian.	AR
AG12d	Action plan for structural causes of euthanasia	For structural causes of euthanasia, the pig farmer will draw up an action plan, in consultation with the contracted veterinarian, to minimise these causes and to reduce the percentage of euthanised animals.		In cases of structural underlying causes of euthanasia, check whether an action plan has been drawn up by the farmer.	AR
AG12e	Action plan for structural causes of euthanasia in year 2 and after.	If a year after drawing up the action plan, the farm has still not reduced the percentage of euthanised animals, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted.	An independent veterinary expert: - Is not connected to the practice of the farm's contracted veterinarian; - Is, or is led by, a registered Dutch/European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (See https://www.knmvd.nl/actueel/nieuws/item/10836953/Registers of http://ebvs.eu/). Eligible swine specialists are those from the Animal Health Service or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. It is considered sufficient if the independent veterinary expert provides advice on how to reduce the percentage of euthanised animals. Active guidance is not required.	On the basis of the action plan, check whether the percentage of euthanised animals has decreased compared to the previous year. If this is not the case, check whether an external expert is being consulted.	AR
Accommodation					
AH02.2	Heat stress	Heat stress should be avoided.	During hot weather conditions, this is possible by giving the animals sufficient opportunity to lie down separately, in combination with ventilation systems, water misting or by offering shade, for example.	Note the measures the farm is taking to prevent heat stress.	RI
AH03	Air quality	The ventilation system maintains the air quality at a level which prevents irritation of the eyes or noses of the pigs housed there and/or the people carrying out inspections.	If there is insufficient air quality, an improvement plan for air quality is drawn up in consultation with the contracted veterinarian and, if required, with further experts (e.g. climate expert).	Check the ventilation system or improvement plan. Check whether there is any question of eye or nose irritation when standing at human level and squatting at the level of the pigs. In case of eye or nose irritation in the pigs, check whether an improvement plan is in place.	AR, i.e. if not in order, submit improvement plan
AH04	Air volume per piglet	To maintain the climate in the enclosure properly, the size of the enclosure is minimally 1.2 m ³ per piglet. In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2026.	In order to properly control the climate in the enclosure. In existing enclosures with a smaller volume of air, the ventilation is adjusted to the minimum air flow for ventilation (moisture and ammonia filtering). In existing enclosures with a smaller volume of air, the ventilation is adjusted to ensure that there is adequate ventilation so that the air is not too moist or too dusty and that it does not contain too much ammonia, without this resulting in drafts. The volume of air per piglet can be calculated by: dividing the enclosure volume (length x height x width) by the number of piglets.	Check air volume on the basis of calculations for section types (m ² x height). Note down volume (m ³) per piglet. In existing enclosures with a smaller air content, check whether the ventilation has been adjusted to ensure that there is adequate ventilation so that the air is not too moist or too dusty and that it does not contain too much ammonia, without this resulting in drafts.	RI
AH05A.2	Light	Any animal enclosure must have a clear day and night rhythm with minimally a 8 hours of uninterrupted darkness and at least 8 hours of uninterrupted light, which is achieved through daylight in the enclosure.	The 8-hour period of artificial light cannot be applied between sunset and sunrise.	Make sure that the farm works with day and night rhythm. For instance through a time switch for the artificial lighting, natural daylight, or inquire into this matter with the pig farmer. Note the method used or the response of the pig farmer.	RI
AH05B	Light intensity	The light in the enclosure, at animal height, is at least 40 Lux.	All animals must have sufficient light. Twilight is too dark. Direct lighting is established using either TL lighting or equivalent.	With a Luxmeter, measure whether the 40 Lux value is met throughout the enclosure at the height of the animals.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AH05C.2	Daylight-permeable surface	The daylight-permeable surface in walls and roofs is at least 3% of the surface area. In case of new construction and/or renovation (of the outside walls or the roof) after 01-01-2011, but not later than 01-01-2025.	The daylight-permeable surfaces may include skylights, side windows and/or light wells. Daylight permeation through the side wall or roof: 3% of the surface area. Daylight through a light well: divide by the factor 4, or 0.75% of the surface area. From April 1 through September 30, it is permitted to apply white chalk on the daylight permeable surfaces. The layer of chalk must still allow daylight to pass through and must not be so thick that the natural day-night rhythm can no longer be perceived in the barn. From October 1 through March 31, the daylight permeable surfaces must be clean (i.e. free of any chalk).	Note the percentage of daylight-permeable surface area and whether the surfaces (light panels, windows) actually allow daylight through (e.g. whether the surfaces are clean). Verify and record whether, during the period from October 1 through March 31, there is no chalk on the daylight permeable surfaces.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
AH06	Scratching facility	A scratching facility is present in every pen (with the exception of sows in the service pen and farrowing pen).	A scratching facility may include: - A scratching pole (e.g. a wooden pole with a diameter of at least 15 cm); - A scratching brush (e.g. the brush of a broom attached to a wall or pole); - A rough, concrete pen divider; - An iron corner-piece. The materials must be located in a place that is easily accessible for all ages.	For at least 1 pen per animal category, check whether a scratching facility is present that meets the norm.	RI
AH07	Enrichment material	Enrichment material is found in every pen with pigs.	See the information leaflet on enrichment materials on the website of the Better Life Foundation Trademark: beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/ Enrichment materials are intended to enable pigs to fulfil their essential needs without this being at the expense of their health. For this purpose, the enrichment materials must be safe and have the following characteristics: a. Edible – so pigs can eat it, with some nutritional value (e.g. wood or plastic has no nutritional value and is therefore not "edible"); b. Chewable – so that pigs can bite and chew it; c. enrichment – so that pigs can investigate it; d. Manipulable – so that pigs can change its place, appearance and structure. Enrichment material must be offered in a place other than where the animals eat, rest or defecate. It is not permitted to provide enrichment material in the feeding trough unless this cannot be avoided, such as with sows confined in farrowing pens or gestations crates. In addition, the materials must be provided in such a way that they: 1. Are of lasting interest, that is to say, they encourage the exploration behaviour of pigs and are regularly replaced or supplemented; 2. Are accessible to oral manipulation; 3. Are provided in sufficient quantity; 4. Are clean and hygienic. When loose enrichment materials are used (e.g. straw, alfalfa), this enrichment material must be replenished at least daily and, in addition, there must be 1 type of permanent enrichment material offered that meets the above characteristics (for example a rope). Enrichment materials that are smeared/contaminated with manure or urine do not meet these standards.	Check in a minimum of 4 pens whether enrichment materials are present and whether they meet the standard. Check whether the enrichment materials meet the standard "Edible" for a transitional period of 1 year. For enrichment materials that must be replenished/supplemented: administrative checks on refill purchases.	RI in case of suspicion of non-structural use or it not being the right material. Not applicable for the first year after criterion taking effect, only for enrichment materials that do not meet the standard "Edible". Suspension in the absence of enrichment material.
AH07A.2	Accessibility of distraction materials	The distraction material must be accessible to 25-50% of the animals at the same time.	A floor covered with straw or comparable natural materials meets these standards.	Make sure the distraction materials are accessible to a minimum of 25% of the animals. A floor covered with straw or comparable natural materials meets these standards.	Suspension
AH08.2	Straw dispensing	As least half of the pens must be filled with straw or comparable material, in a way that the entire floor is covered.		Verify whether the pens are strewn up to 50% with straw or comparable material. Note down the material that has been strewn in the pens.	Suspension

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
AH10.2	Functional areas	Function areas (sleeping or lying areas, dunging and feeding areas) have been created in the pen where the lying and dunging areas are as far apart as possible and where dunging in the dunging area is encouraged. In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.	Pigs are naturally clean and want to preferably be as far as possible from the permanent dunging area. In order to encourage dunging in the appropriate area as much as possible, lying and dunging areas are placed as far apart as possible. Furthermore, dunging is encouraged on the dunging grate as much as possible, for example by: - Making the dunging grate wet when introducing the animals to the pen; - Placing the dunging grate in an area of light and fresh air; - Using bars for the closed pen dividers at the level of the grates; and - Placing a cross or divider on the grate behind which the pig can safely dung.	Ensure that the pen has been divided into 3 functional areas: sleeping area, dunging area and feeding area.	RI
Boars					
BE01.2	Type of pen	The boar pen has a minimum size of 8.0 m ² If the pen is also used for breeding, a surface area norm of 10.0 m ² is applicable.		Note down the surface area of the boar pen.	Exclusion
BE02.2	Outdoor access for boars	Each boar has access to an outdoor area of at least 8 m ² .	The outdoor access can be unpaved, partially paved or completely paved, and may fully consist of grate flooring and may be fully covered.	Check and write down the floor surface of the outdoor area.	Suspension
Sows					
Z02	Mortality rate of breeding animals	Mortality rate of breeding stock is registered.	The reason for the mortality rate is of importance for the health analysis.	Check that this is recorded and in what way. A printout of the management programme or other registration is sufficient. Merely documenting this on the sow chart is not sufficient.	AR
Z03	Hoof health monitoring	Using the hoof check system (klauwencheck), the condition of the legs and hooves of at least 30 sows is inspected at least once per year for excessive strain, excessive growth or infection.	See http://www.verantwoordeveehouderij.nl/show/Doe-de-Zeugenklauwen-Check.htm In case of 1 or more scores of 3 or 4 for the hoof check, improvements must be implemented and the frequency of monitoring must be raised to twice a year. Until such a time that the hoof checks no longer yield scores of 3 or 4.	Make sure that the pig farmer has registered the findings from the annual hoof check and note down the dates on which this was carried out. In case of 1 or more scores of 3 or 4 in the hoof check, check whether the frequency of monitoring has been increased from once a year to twice a year.	AR
Z03a	Hoof health monitoring	The results of the hoof check (klauwencheck) are evaluated once per year with the contracted veterinarian to prevent excessive growth, infections and pain when moving.		Ensure that the results of the hallway score and hoof check are discussed with the veterinarian. Make a note of your findings.	AR
Z04A.2	Breeding animal tails	The tail of sows and gilts is intact (docking the tails, or any part of it, is not allowed).	During the entry check sows and gilts with docked tails may be present. After the entry check, the tails of sows and gilts may no longer be docked. The new breeding sows and gilts must have an intact tail. Other pigs present (boars, piglets and finishers) must have an intact tail during and after the entry check. After the entry check, the relevant livestock farmer has until the next annual check (1 year) to dispose of the docked breeding sows and gilts as non-BLL worthy.	For one section, check 10% of the sows and gilts for whether their tail is intact. If there are fewer than 10 animals in a section, then check all the animals. Write down the number of animals in a section and the number of animals with deviating tail length. For new participant, check whether sows and gilts with docked tails have been disposed of as non-BLL worthy.	RI
Z04B	Breeding animals tail biting	At least 95% of the breeding animals must have a non-gnawed tail.		In at least 2 sections, check whether at least 95% of the animals has a non-gnawed tail.	RI
Z05	Service pen	A gilt or sow may be kept individually from: 1. One week before the calculated time of farrowing up to the time of farrowing; 2. Weaning up to 4 days after the day of natural mating or artificial insemination.	If the farm can demonstrate through a written confirmation that they are in the government established supervision programme, sows may be kept individually up to a maximum of 28 days after the day of insemination if placing the sows in the group 4 days after insemination caused problems. The supervision programme aims to responsibly ensure group integration after 4 days. At the end of this supervision programme, the farm must meet all requirements.	Check how long the sows are kept in the service pen and note down the maximum number of days. If the farm participates in the government-established supervision programme, check whether there is a written confirmation of this. At the end of this supervision programme, the farm must meet all requirements.	RI When participating in the government-established supervision programme and written proof of participation is missing: AR If a written proof of participation is not provided: RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
Z06	Service groups	When grouping animals together during weaning / breeding, extra checks must be carried out to identify aggressive animals and/or injured/stressed animals in a timely manner.	When adding animals to a group on multiple occasions, an extra check is performed the first days after the integration. Aggressive animals are accompanied and, in extreme cases, sequestered. Injured/stressed animals are documented and discussed with the veterinarian and, if necessary, transferred to the sick pen if staying with other animals would lead to additional welfare problems, for example if the pig is unable to compete for food.	Check whether present groups are stable or whether aggressive, injured or stressed animals are found in the groups.	AR
Z08.2	Floor area per sow	The surface area is at least 2.50 m ² per sow, of which at least 1.30 m ² is solid and strewn to provide a lying space.		Measure surface area per sow and note this down.	Suspension
Z08A.2	Outdoor area	The animals should have permanent access to an outdoor area of 1.0 m ² per sow.	The outdoor access can be unpaved, partially paved or completely paved, and may fully consist of grate flooring and may be fully covered. For sows with piglets or weaned piglets, an outlet is not required.	Verify whether the sows have permanent access to the outdoor area and whether this area meets requirements. Write down the surface area and whether the conditions are met.	Exclusion
Z08B.2	Outdoor area view	There is at least one side of the outdoor area with > 5 m views.	For a direct view into another pen, the following requirements apply: - at least half of one wall between pens must allow the pigs to see into another pen, or; - at least a quarter of two walls between pens must allow the pigs to look into another. In addition there must also be an open space of > 5 metres next to/in front of the outside area. When the view is provided by the wall to the open space, i.e. not directly into another pen, this remains mandatory over the entire length. Within the open space of >5 m no buildings, outdoor runs, or other obstacles may be present.	Check the view from the outdoor area.	RI
Z09.2	Group accommodation system	The sows are kept in groups of 20 or more in a strewn pen. In case of new construction or renovation after 1 January 2011, but no later than 1 January 2025.	Passageways may be created between pens to increase the group size, subject to the following conditions: - The passageway must always be open, with the exception of the situations described below; - Two pigs must be easily able to pass through the passageway at the same time; - The passageway must have as few tight bends and/or dead ends as possible; - There must be no protrusions or obstacles (such as raised edges, ridges or recesses higher/deeper than the toes) in or around the passageway; - There must be sufficient lighting and the pigs are shielded from disruptive elements that can distract or scare them (e.g. moving objects, chains in the direction of movement). The passageways may be temporarily closed by means of doors. This is only permitted in the following situations: - In the case of infectious diseases in the affected section. A declaration from the veterinary practitioner or a visit report signed by the veterinary practitioner must be shown. This may be done for as necessary to limit further spread of the disease where possible. The sows must be distributed evenly over the space to comply with the prescribed minimum surface area, width/number of eating places and number of drinking places per sow; - Up to 24 hours before the pigs are permanently delivered to the abattoir.	Write down the number of sows per group and the date of new construction and/or renovation of enclosures. If applicable, check and note whether the passageways between existing pens comply with the requirements. If applicable, check and note whether the passageways are only closed in case of infectious diseases and before delivering to the abattoir.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
Z10	Phasing out feeding pens with outlets	No more use is made of animal grouping in feeding pens with outlets. In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.	It is permitted to use former feeding pens solely as feeding and/or drinking places if without these pens the minimum area and solid floor requirements per sow is met. In this situation, there is no longer a feeding pen with outlet, but clearly separated functional areas through a feeding/drinking pen (which cannot be closed) and a separate lying area. As soon as the pens are used for providing feed at the same time, there must be at least as many feeding pens as there are sows.	In case of new construction and/or renovation, check whether feeding pens are present.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
Z11	Existing enclosure with feeding pens with outlets	If the farm still uses feeding pens with outlets, there should be at least 2 meters of free space behind the crate, so the sow can back out of the crate normally and can turn around.		Measure the free space behind 5% of the feeding pens and note this down.	Suspension
Z11a	Existing enclosure with feeding pens with outlets	If the farm still uses feeding pens with outlets, the gestation crates may be closed for a maximum of 2 hours during feeding.		Check this by comparing the time of feeding with the times the feeding pens are closed.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
Z13	Dunging area for sows	The dunging area must be equipped in such a way that this provides the sows with sufficient grip, for example consisting of profiled metal or concrete slatted floor. In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, the following applies: - specifically purchased concrete floors must have a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or FSC2000 value 0.60; - dunging areas with a solid floor must be covered with straw or similar material.		Check materials in the dunging area. Note the material in the dunging area. If applicable, check and note whether in case of new construction and/or renovation, but no later than 01-01-2025, a concrete floor upon purchase complies with a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or and FSC2000 value 0.60 (as stated on the floor's certificate) and whether a dunging area with a solid floor is covered with straw or similar material.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
Z14	Trough feeding	When dry, pregnant sows are trough fed (simultaneously), trough dividers above the trough are used to protect the animals while they feed.	This is in order to prevent pigs from eating each other's portion of feed as much as possible. A trough divider of up to 1.20 meters is allowed. The length of the trough divider is measured including the depth of the trough, regardless of whether it is a trough under which a sow can or cannot lay her head. Foot supports between 0.80 and 1.20 meters to support the trough divider are no problem, however, a solid barrier to the ground is not allowed. The maximum length of a trough divider is no longer applicable when the minimum area and solid floor per sow are met without a feed pen, as described under criterion Z10.	Check for the presence of trough dividers at the feeding trough and the length of the trough dividers. Register the total length of the trough dividers.	AR, at the second observation RI
Z15.2	Trough width	In case of trough feeding, the trough width is a minimum of 35 cm per sow.	During trough feeding, feed is provided in such a way to ensure that all sows can eat at the same time.	Measure the trough length and check through random sampling when in doubt. Not applicable for individual or ad libitum feeding.	AR, at the second observation RI
Z16.2	Number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding	For a feeding system that feeds animals individually or ad libitum, there must be at least one feeding area per 12 animals.	Not applicable at feeding stations.	Check whether 1 feeding area is available per 12 animals. Make a note of discrepancies. Not applicable at feeding stations.	RI
Z17.2	Feeding width for individual or ad libitum feeding	For individual or ad libitum feeding, the width must be 35 cm per feeding area.		Ensure that the width of the feeding area meets requirements. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
Z18.2	Number of drinking spots	There is at least 1 drinking spot per 12 sows. For sows fed with liquid feed, 1 drinking spot per 24 sows is allowed.	For feeding stations where water is added to the feed, the same standard applies as for liquid feed. The feeding station does not count as a drinking station.	Check the number of sows per drinking spot.	RI
Z19	Forage	In order to prevent hunger, the sows will receive ad libitum: - Feed with a high v-NSP level; or - Forage such as straw or hay.		Via the purchase receipts, check whether high fibre feed or forage has been purchased. Check in the enclosure whether this has been dispensed. Note the type of high fibre feed.	Suspension
Farrowing pen					
K01.2	Farrowing pens	Sows may be locked into the farrowing pen for a maximum of 5 days to prevent fatal crushing of the piglets, after which they should be able to move freely in the farrowing pen.	In connection with movement space for the sow and interaction between piglets.	In the farrowing section, check whether the farrowing pens meet the criteria. Note the number of days that the sows are locked in the farrowing pens.	Suspension
K02.2	Surface area	The surface area of the farrowing pen is at least 6.5 m2		For each farrowing pen type, measure the surface area of 1 pen.	Suspension
K02B.2	Surface area of country pens	For farrowing sows that are housed individually, outdoor in country pens, the following criteria apply: - The surface area is at least 4 m2; and - The farrowing sow has access to an outdoor piece of land of at least 150 m2.		Check the surface area of the country pens and outdoor surface area. Make a note of discrepancies.	Suspension
K03.2	Lying area for farrowing sows	The lying area of the sow in the farrowing pen is solid and soft.		Note the floor material for the lying areas for farrowing sows.	RI
K06	Farrowing stall	If the sow is locked in during farrowing, there must be a minimum of 30 cm of space behind the sow for the newborn piglets.		Measure and write down the existing farrowing area behind the sow.	Warning
K07.2	enrichment materials for sow in farrowing stall	Straw is permanently present in the farrowing pen.		On the basis of purchase receipts, check whether straw is present in the farrowing pens and whether it is continually replenished. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
K08	Piglets nest	All suckling piglets from one litter together have a single sheltered laying area/piglets nest of 0.6 m2.		Check the piglets nests for m2 of lying area. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
K08a	Floor of piglets nest	The sheltered laying area/piglets nest has a solid floor.		Check whether the floor of the piglets nest is solid. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI
K08b	Heating of piglets nest	The sheltered laying area/piglets nest must be able to be heated by: 1. A piglet lamp; and/or 2. Floor heating.	The temperature in the piglets nest will thus be adapted to the current need of the piglets.	Check the piglets nests for presence of heating. Note the type of heating.	RI
K09A.2	Fostering piglets	Routine fostering of piglets is not allowed.	In principle each sow suckles her own piglets. The fostering of piglets should therefore not become routine and is only allowed: - Within the same age group (piglets); - Up to three days after birth; - The percentage of fostered piglets within a single age group (piglets) remains under 10%.	Check pen charts to identify any irregularities regarding fostering. Make note of irregularities.	Suspension
K09B.2	Artificial suckling	Artificial suckling (e.g. by means of an artificial sow or rescue deck) is not allowed.	Artificial suckling (e.g. by means of an artificial sow or rescue deck) is not allowed. - In extreme cases; - Temporarily; - In consultation with the contracted veterinarian; - Provided that steps are taken to make the rescue deck/artificial sow redundant again.	Check with the farmer whether consultation with the veterinarian has taken place and whether measures have been taken to make the use redundant again.	RI
K10.2	Playing area for piglets	Piglets in the farrowing pens must be able to walk freely all the way round, along the sides.	This is in order to provide more room to play and to learn normal behaviour. This does not apply for a separate piglets nest that is not part of the farrowing pens.	Check whether piglets can walk around freely in the farrowing pen.	RI
K11	Solid foods	The piglets will receive solid food or porridge no later than at an age of 14 days.	This is intended so the piglets can get used to solid foods and prevent suckling shock.	Verify that piglets from 2 weeks of age and older are given feed. Check inventory and invoices.	RI
K12.2	Weaning	The piglets are weaned at an average age of at least 35 days. No individual piglet can be weaned earlier than an age of 33 days.		Check the weaning age of the piglets. Check and note the weaned and weaning age date and transfer of the sow based on at least 5 random samples (sow charts in the enclosure management system printout). Note the minimum weaning age in days.	RI
Piglets					
B01.2	Floor area per piglet	The minimum surface area per weaned piglet is 0.50 m ² on average and no individual piglet may have less than 0.45 m ² surface area.	The minimal surface area needs to be met from day 1 in the piglet pen till the day the piglets are transferred to a porker enclosure. With a group size of 40 or more animals or when using farrow-to-finish pens, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10%, thus an average of 0.45 m ² and no individual piglet has less than 0.41 m ² surface area. Passageways may be created between pens to increase the group size, subject to the following conditions: - The passageway must always be open, with the exception of the situations described below; - Two pigs must be easily able to pass through the passageway at the same time; - The passageway must have as few tight bends and/or dead ends as possible; - There must be no protrusions or obstacles (such as raised edges, ridges or recesses higher/deeper than the toes) in or around the passageway; - There must be sufficient lighting and the pigs are shielded from disruptive elements that can distract or scare them (e.g. moving objects, chains in the direction of movement). The passageways may be temporarily closed by means of doors. This is only permitted in the following situations: - For up to a maximum of the first seven days when a group of weaned piglets is placed in a pen. The piglets must be distributed evenly over the space to comply with the prescribed minimum surface area, width/number of eating places and number of drinking places per piglet; - In the case of infectious diseases in the affected section. A declaration from the veterinary practitioner or a visit report signed by the veterinary practitioner must be shown. This may be done for as long as necessary to limit further spread of the disease where possible. The piglets must be distributed evenly over the space to comply with the prescribed minimum surface area, width/number of eating places and number of drinking places per piglet; - Up to 24 hours before the piglets leave the farm.	Check area per animal on the basis of pen administration and pen dimensions. Note surface area per piglet at outset. If applicable, check and note whether the passageways between existing pens comply with the requirements. If applicable, check and note whether the passageways are only closed during piglet placement, infectious diseases and before the piglets leave the farm.	Suspension
B01a.2	Stable groups of weaned piglets	The piglets that have already gotten used to each other in the farrowing pen are placed in a pen together to reduce stress and hierarchy struggles.	Gilts and barrows may be separated before the dunging period.	Verify that the piglets are not mixed and whether the groups are stable. Make a note of discrepancies.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
B02.2	Floor type	50% of the floor is solid.	Public law allows accommodation of weaned piglets on a fully slatted floor	Make sure that 50% of the floor is solid.	Suspension
B02a.2	Strewn floor	The solid floor is strewn with straw or similar material.		Verify that the solid floor section is strewn.	Suspension
B02b	Piglet dunning area	<p>The dunging area must be designed in such a way that it provides the piglets with sufficient grip. The dunging area consists of a hard plastic slatted floor, plastic-coated slatted floor coated metal or concrete slatted floor for example.</p> <p>In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specifically purchased concrete floors must have a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or FSC2000 value 0.60; - dunging areas with a solid floor must be covered with straw or similar material. 		<p>Note down the type of material used for the dunging area.</p> <p>If applicable, check and note whether in case of new construction and/or renovation, but no later than 01-01-2025, a concrete floor upon purchase complies with a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or and FSC2000 value 0.60 (as stated on the floor's certificate) and whether a dunging area with a solid floor is covered with straw or similar material.</p>	RI
B04.2	Through width	In case of through feeding, the through width is a minimum of 20 cm per piglet.	During trough feeding, feed is provided in such a way to ensure so that all piglets can eat at the same time.	Check and write down the trough width per piglet.	RI
B04a	Number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding	For ad libitum feeding, there is a minimum of 1 feeding space per 8 piglets.		Record the number of piglets per feeding space.	RI
B04b.2	Feeding width for individual or ad libitum feeding	In case of individual or ad libitum feeding, the width is 20 cm per feeding area.		Check and write down the feeding space width per piglet.	RI
B04c	Number of drinking areas	<p>There is at least 1 drinking area per 12 piglets.</p> <p>For piglets fed with liquid feed, 1 feeding area will suffice for 24 piglets.</p>		Check the number of sows per drinking space.	RI
B05.2	Tail docking	The tails of the animals are intact. The docking of tails is prohibited.	In case of problems with tail biting, tails may be docked for a maximum of 1 year. See AM05a norm for conditions.	<p>Check 10% of the piglets in 1 section for the presence of tails.</p> <p>If docked tails are found, check whether a certificate and action plan is present.</p> <p>Check whether tail docking has been stopped after one year.</p>	In the absence certificate and/or action plan: AR If tail docking continues for more than a year: suspension.
B06.2	Ban on the castration of piglet boars	Castration of piglet boars is only permitted under anaesthesia and with pain relief afterwards.	Castration of piglet boars is only permitted under anaesthesia and with pain relief afterwards. The criteria of the IKB module for anaesthetised castration and the pain relief measures must be apparent from the medicine administration.	Check on a sample basis (minimum of two sections with farrowing pens) whether castration has taken place. If so, check whether the IKB module for anaesthetised castration has been adhered to. Also check that the medication administration shows that pain relief has been provided.	Suspension
B07	Ban on clipping of teeth	Clipping of teeth in newborn piglets is not permitted.		Check through random sampling of a number of piglets per pen in different sections (at least two farrowing pens per section) whether the canine teeth are intact. If they have been shortened, ensure that they have been filed and not clipped.	AR
B08	Teeth filing	The routine filing of teeth in newborn piglets is not permitted.	<p>Teeth in newborn piglets are only permitted to be filed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the contracted veterinarian has given permission for this; 2. The veterinary need has been described and documented in a certificate from the contracted veterinarian. 	<p>Check through random sampling of a number of piglets per pen in different farrowing sections (at least two farrowing pens per section) whether the canine teeth are intact. If they have been shortened check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether a recommendation was issued by the contracted veterinarian; - Whether this is revised each quarter. 	AR
B08A	Plan of action for ending teeth filing	If teeth need to be filed due to problems, an action plan must be established to solve the problems within a year (at the next check) after which the tooth filing will stop. This plan is created in consultation with the feed advisor and, if necessary, the contracted veterinarian.	<p>If the sow is injured due to sharp teeth, the cause of this must be addressed. For example, by improving the nutrition of the sow in consultation with the feed advisor to ensure she gives sufficient, good milk.</p> <p>Not applicable if teeth are not clipped.</p>	If there are piglets with teeth that have been shortened, check whether an action plan is in place to terminate teeth filing.	AR

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
Porkers					
V01A	Stable groups	Porkers are kept in stable groups.	After transfer to the porker pens, groups of porkers are no longer mixed with unknown/new animals.	Check stability of porker groups to determine whether groups are mixed with unknown pigs after transfer.	Suspension
V01B	Stable groups	<p>Porkers are kept in groups of at least 20.</p> <p>In case of new construction or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025.</p>	<p>This way it is easier for the pig to distinguish spaces for lying down, activities, eating and dunging.</p> <p>Smaller groups of porkers are also permitted, provided there is a larger floor surface area per porker. See criterion V02.2 for the surface area per porker.</p> <p>Passageways may be created between pens to increase the group size, subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The passageway must always be open, with the exception of the situations described below; - Two pigs must be easily able to pass through the passageway at the same time; - The passageway must have as few tight bends and/or dead ends as possible; - There must be no protrusions or obstacles (such as raised edges, ridges or recesses higher/deeper than the toes) in or around the passageway; - There must be sufficient lighting and the pigs are shielded from disruptive elements that can distract or scare them (e.g. moving objects, chains in the direction of movement). <p>The passageways may be temporarily closed by means of doors. This is only permitted in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the case of infectious diseases in the affected section. A declaration from the veterinary practitioner or a visit report signed by the veterinary practitioner must be shown. This may be done for as necessary to limit further spread of the disease where possible. The pigs must be distributed evenly over the space to comply with the prescribed minimum surface area, width/number of eating places and number of drinking places per porker; - Up to 24 hours before the pigs are permanently delivered to the abattoir. 	<p>Not applicable for existing construction. For new construction and/or renovation, check the number of porkers for 10% of the porker groups.</p> <p>If applicable, check and note whether the passageways between existing pens comply with the requirements.</p> <p>If applicable, check and note whether the passageways are only closed in case of infectious diseases and before delivering to the abattoir.</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.</p>
V02.2	Surface area per porker	<p>The minimum available surface area per porker is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups up to and including 10: an average of 1.5 m² per finisher and no single finisher with an area smaller than 1.45 m². - Groups of 11 up to and including 19: an average of 1.3 m² per finisher and no single finisher with an area smaller than 1.25 m². - Groups of 20 or more: an average of 1.2 m² per finisher and no single finisher with an area smaller than 1.15 m². <p>The minimum available outdoor area per porker is 0.70 m². No pig has less than 0.65 m² outdoor area available.</p>	<p>The minimum surface area applies from outset to slaughter.</p> <p>With a group size of 40 or more animals the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10%.</p>	<p>Check area per animal on the basis of pen administration and pen dimensions. Measure the surface area for each pen type. Note available surface area and deviations.</p>	Exclusion
V03A.2	Solid floor	At least 50% of the floor is solid flooring.	<p>A continuous floor section on which at least one pig can lie fully outstretched, counts as solid floor.</p> <p>A floor or a part thereof which is equipped with liquid manure-permeable openings, is considered solid if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The total liquid manure-permeable openings do not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor; The width of liquid manure-permeable slits is a maximum of 10 mm and the diameter of round liquid manure-permeable openings is a maximum of 20 mm. <p>For example the "German wellbeing grate" and waffle grates do not meet the criterion of a closed floor.</p>	<p>Verify that 50% of the surface area is solid. Make a note of discrepancies.</p>	RI
V03B.2	Strewn floor	The floor is strewn with straw or similar material.		Make sure that the floor is strewn. Note the strewn material.	RI
V03C.2	Outdoor area	The animals should have permanent access to an outdoor area of 0.70 m ² per porker.	<p>The outdoor access can be unpaved, partially paved or completely paved, and may fully consist of grate flooring and may be covered up to 75%.</p> <p>For sows with piglets or weaned piglets, an outlet is not required.</p>	Verify whether the porkers have permanent access to the outdoor area and whether this area meets requirements. Write down the surface area and whether the conditions are met.	Exclusion

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
V03D.2	Outdoor area view	There is at least one side of the outdoor area with > 5 m views.	For a direct view into another pen, the following requirements apply: - at least half of one wall between pens must allow the pigs to see into another pen, or; - at least a quarter of two walls between pens must allow the pigs to look into another. In addition there must also be an open space of > 5 metres next to/in front of the outside area. When the view is provided by the wall to the open space, i.e. not directly into another pen, this remains mandatory over the entire length. Within the open space of >5 m no buildings, outdoor runs, or other obstacles may be present.	Check the view from the outdoor area.	RI
V04	Dunning area for porkers	The dunging area must be designed in such a way that it provides the porkers with sufficient grip. The dunging area consists of coated metal or concrete slatted floor, for example. In case of new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, the following applies: - specifically purchased concrete floors must have a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or FSC2000 value 0.60; - dunging areas with a solid floor must be covered with straw or similar material.		Check dunging area. Note down the material in the dunging area. If applicable, check and note whether in case of new construction and/or renovation, but no later than 01-01-2025, a concrete floor upon purchase complies with a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or and FSC2000 value 0.60 (as stated on the floor's certificate) and whether a dunging area with a solid floor is covered with straw or similar material.	AR Not applicable in case of existing enclosure. Enclosures that are newly built or have been renovated after 01-01-2011 that do not meet this criterion are excluded.
V05.2	Through width	In case of trough feeding, the through width is a minimum of 35 cm per porker.	During trough feeding, feed is provided in such a way to ensure so that all porkers can eat at the same time.	Verify that 35 cm of feeding space is available per animal.	RI
V05a	Number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding	For ad libitum feeding, there is a minimum of 1 feeding space per 12 porkers. For new construction and/or renovation after 01-01-2011, but no later than 01-01-2025, there must be at least 1 feeding area per 8 porkers.	Not applicable at feeding stations.	Check the number of feeding areas for individual or ad libitum feeding. In case of new construction and/or renovation, check whether the number of feeding areas suffice. Not applicable at feeding stations.	RI
V05b.2	Feeding width for individual or ad libitum feeding	In case of individual or ad libitum feeding, the width is 30.0 cm per feeding area.		Check and write down feeding space width per feeding area.	RI
V05c.2	Number of drinking areas	There is at least 1 drinking area per 10 pigs. For fattening pigs fed with liquid feed, 1 feeding nipple will suffice for 20 porkers.		Check the number of porkers per drinking space.	RI
Transport					
T00A.2	Transported pigs	The pigs brought to the pig farm come from farms that have been certified for Better Life Trademark pigs 2 stars.	With the exception of supplied gilts/boars. These animals may be supplied from non-BLK-certified farms, for instance from abroad.	Check BLK pig certificate 2 star from suppliers. Note down the UBNs of the suppliers. Not applicable for breeding gilts/boars.	Exclusion
T00B	Decreasing slaughterhouses	The pigs are delivered to slaughterhouses that have been approved/certified for the related Better Life scope (BLK pigs and the related number of stars).	If the buyer is not certified/approved for the relevant Better Life scope, the animals must be marked down to a non-Better Life Trademark or to a Better Life scope for which the buyer is certified/approved.	Check administration. Note down the name and location of the purchasing slaughterhouses. Note per buyer whether they have been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLK pigs and number of stars). If not, check that the animals are devalued to non-BLK or a lower scope for which the buyer has been approved/certified.	RI
T02	Electric goads	On the pig farm no electric goads may be used.	There are no electric goads on the farm.	Check that there are no electric goads on the farm and note down the alternatives that are used.	RI

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
T03	Loading ramp, door, lift or loading floor	Loading ramp, door, lift or loading floor must be equipped with: - Clamps against slipping; - Side walls and bars to prevent pigs falling off; - Loading door/ramp with a maximum angle of 20% / 11°. No later than 01-01-2020, cattle transport vehicles must be equipped with a loading lift or adjustable loading floor.		Make sure that the slope of the loading lifts and doors meet requirements.	RI
T04	Empty stomach	The slaughter pigs are delivered with an empty stomach.	Empty stomach means that the last feed supply takes place before 16:00 hours on the day before the day of the delivery to the slaughter house.	Check with the farmer whether the last feeding took place before 16:00 hrs on the day before delivery.	AR
T05	Transport duration for piglets	The transport duration of piglets may not be longer than 6 hours.	Transport duration is clear from transport documentation in the administration. This documentation must be kept for at least one year. The transport duration starts with the loading of the first animal and ends at the unloading of the last animal.	Through the Routenet website, calculate the distance required for a transport truck to travel between the birth farm and the receiving farm and then make an estimate of the related transport duration. Check the transport documentation. Make note of the UBN(s) of origin and destination farms.	Exclusion
T05A	Means of transporting weaned piglets more than 50 km	Transport of weaned piglets over a distance greater than 50 km is only done in closed, climate-controlled trucks, in order to improve the health of delivered piglets. Mandatory from 01-01-2020.	Transport method (closed, climate-controlled truck), is clear from the transport documentation. This documentation must be kept for at least one year.	For transport distances of more than 50 km, check that an enclosed, climate-controlled truck is used on the basis of the transport documentation. Write down the address of the origin/destination farm. Not applicable for transport distances shorter than 50 km.	RI From 01-01-2020
T06.2	Transport duration for slaughter pigs	The transport duration of slaughter pigs may not be longer than 8 hours.	Transport duration is clear from transport documentation in the administration. This documentation must be kept for at least one year. The transport duration starts with the loading of the first animal and ends at the unloading of the last animal.	Use the Routenet website to calculate the distance for the transport truck between the pig location and slaughterhouse. Check the transport documentation. Write down the name and address of the slaughterhouse.	Exclusion
Recommendations for platforms for piglets and porkers					
PL01	Platforms for piglets and porkers	For weaned piglets and porkers, platforms can be used to meet the minimum surface area per weaned piglet/porker. Platforms in farrowing pens are not permitted. These platforms should, in time, meet the recommendations below. In the current version 2.1, these criteria are recommendations and there is no penalty if these are not met. It is expected that in the next version (3.0) of the criteria, a penalty will be added. New platforms, installed after the final implementation of the next version (3.0, including penalties), must meet the following criteria. Not applicable for platforms that have been installed before the establishment of the next version of the criteria (3.0, including penalties).	The ramp should not be counted as available surface area for the animals. The space under the ramp (if the slope of the ramp to the ground floor is 20° or greater) may be counted as available surface area.	Write down whether platforms are used.	
PL02	Platform load weight RECOMMENDATION	Platform construction must meet the following requirements: - For piglets: minimally able to hold 130 kg/m ² - For porkers: minimally able to hold 200 kg/m ²	Maximum deflection is 1/250th with a maximum of 12 mm.	Check and register the weight load of the platform based on specifications of the structure.	
PL03	Minimum distance from ground floor to bottom of platform RECOMMENDATION	The distance from the ground floor to the bottom of the platform is at least: - 0.9 m for a platform width of 0.9-1.5 m - 1.2 m for a platform width of > 1.5 m		Check and register the width and corresponding height of the platform.	
PL04	Surface area of the platform RECOMMENDATION	The platform covers up to 40% of the surface area on the ground floor.		Check and register the percent of the floor area that is covered by the platform.	
PL05	Distance between platform and ceiling RECOMMENDATION	The distance between the platform and the ceiling is at least 0.9 m everywhere and at least 1.5 m at the highest point of the ceiling.		Check and register the distance between the platform and ceiling. Measure from the lowest and the highest point of the ceiling.	
PL06	Platform slope RECOMMENDATION	The platform should have a maximum slope of 5% across the width and 10% across the length.		Check and register the slope of the platform across the width and length.	

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
PL07	Platform width RECOMMENDATION	Platform width must meet the following requirements: - For piglets: at least 0.9 m and up to 1.56 m - For porkers: at least 1.1 m and up to 1.9 m	These dimensions include any (ventilation/manure) slits.	Check and register the width of the platform.	
PL08	Platform length RECOMMENDATION	Platform length must meet the following requirements: - For piglets: at least 1.5 m - For fattening pigs: at least 2.5 m		Check and register the length of the platform.	
PL09	Platform floor type RECOMMENDATION	The platform has a solid floor.	The platform floor is solid, with the following exceptions: a. At both ends of the platform, a grate is permitted across the entire width of the platform: - For piglets: up to 0.6 cm - For porkers: up to 1.0 cm b. For the floor part near the ramp, a grate is permitted across the entire width of the platform: - For piglets: up to 0.6 cm - For porkers: up to 1.0 cm c. On the wall side of the platform, a grate is permitted across the entire length: - For piglets: up to 0.2 m and 0.3 m if there is no ventilation-manure slit installed - For porkers: up to 0.3 m and 0.4 m if there is no ventilation-manure slit installed d. Along the wall side a ventilation-manure slit is permitted: - For piglets: minimum of 5 cm and up to 6 cm - For porkers: minimum of 8 cm and up to 8 cm e. The ramp may be either solid or with slits: - For piglets: slits of 10-12 mm - For porkers: slits of 10-18 mm	Make sure that the floor is solid, accounting for the exceptions.	
PL10	Material for closed floor platform RECOMMENDATION	The platform must provide the piglets or porkers with sufficient grip, for example coated metal, rough plastic, rough composite or concrete.		Make sure that the floor is rough/coarse enough, register the type of material.	
PL11	Platform railing RECOMMENDATION	The platform has a railing with bars that meets the following requirements: - For piglets: minimum height of 0.5 m - For porkers: minimum height of 0.6 m	Preferably at least 2 horizontal bars are used with the bottom bar at a height of 0.2 m for piglets and 0.2-0.3 for porkers. And the upper bar at 0.5 m (measured from the top of the bar) for piglets and 0.7 m for porkers. Vertical bars are also permitted.	Check and register the presence and height of railing and check horizontal or vertical bars.	
PL12	Ramp/stairs width RECOMMENDATION	The ramp/stairs with which the piglets/pigs can reach the platform (including any possible hinge points) must meet the following criteria: - For piglets: minimum width of 0.60 m - For porkers: minimum width of 0.75 m		Check and register the width of the ramp/stairs.	
PL13	Ramp/stairs slope RECOMMENDATION	The slope of the ramp/stairs is a maximum of 30° compared to the ground floor.		Check the incline of the walking ramp/stairs compared to the ground floor.	
PL14	Horizontal approach for parallel ramp/stairs RECOMMENDATION	If the ramp/stairs has been placed parallel (not angled) against the platform, a horizontal approach must be placed against the platform.	The following dimensions apply: - For piglets: minimum width of 0.70 m x 0.70 m - For porkers: minimum 0.75 m x 0.75 m; and with a railing in accordance with the requirements indicated in PL11 platform railing.	In case of a parallel ramp/stairs, check and write down the presence and dimensions of the horizontal incline and height of the railing.	
PL15	Cross slats RECOMMENDATION	Cross slats must be fastened on the ramp.	For piglets: a distance between the bars of 5 to 10 cm. The cross slats have: - A height between 2 and 4 cm; - A width between 1 and 5 cm.	Check and register the presence, distance, height and width of the cross slats.	
PL16	Ramp/stairs railing RECOMMENDATION	A railing must be on placed one side of the ramp/stairs with a height of at least 50 cm.		Check and register the presence and height of a railing on at least one side of the ramp/stairs.	
PL17	Ramp/stairs steps RECOMMENDATION	The bottom and top of the ramp may have a on-step/off-step that meets the following criteria: - For piglets: up to 10 cm - For porkers: up to 15 cm		Check and register the presence and distance of an on-step and off-step.	
Supplementary					
VA0104 A00	Number of animals	During the annual check, the number of BLk animal spaces and the number of animals present are logged for each animal category.	To this end, during the entry inspection, and in case of new construction and renovation, the different types of pens/sections of the farm will be measured by the BLk inspector. Based on this surface by type of pen/section, the BLk inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm. On the basis of the required surface area per animal category, as defined in the BLk criteria, the inspector then determines the number of BLk animal areas per animal category for the farm.	Write down the number of BLk animal spaces and the number of animals present. Based on measurements of the different pens/sections and the BLk surface area criteria per animal category.	
A00A	Number of BLL mating, gestating or farrowing sow areas	The number of BLL mating, gestating or farrowing sow areas is:		Note down the number of BLL mating, gestating or farrowing sow areas.	

Standard	Welfare aspect	Standard	Interpretation	Measurement method	Sanction
A00A1	Present number mating, gestating or farrowing sows	The number of mating, gestating or farrowing sows present is:		Note down the number of mating, gestating or farrowing sows present.	
A00B	Number of BLL boar areas	The number of BLL boar areas is:		Note down the number of BLL boar areas.	
A00B1	Present number of boars	The number of boars present is:		Make a note of the number of boars present.	
A00C	Number of BLL porker areas	The number of BLL porker areas is:		Note down the number of BLL porker areas.	
A00C1	Present number of porkers	The number of porkers present is:		Note down the number of porkers present.	
A00D	Number of areas for BLL rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and BLL rearing sows of 50 kg or more	The number of areas for BLL rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and BLL rearing sows of 50 kg or more is:		Make a note of the number of areas for BLL rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and BLL rearing sows of 50 kg or more	
A00D1	Present number of rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and rearing sows of 50 kg or more	The number of rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and rearing sows of 50 kg or more present is:		Make a note of the number of rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and rearing sows of 50 kg or more present.	
V00E	Number of areas for BLL piglet up to 20 kg	The number of spaces for BLL (weaned) piglets up to 20 kg is:		Note down the number of areas for BLL (weaned) piglets up to 20 kg.	
A00E1	Present number of piglets up to 20 kg	The number of (weaned) piglets up to 20 kg is:		Note down the number of (weaned) piglets up to 20 kg.	