

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

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
13-03-17	B06 Castration of boar piglets	Why is the castration of 1-star piglets prohibited, but not 2 and 3 stars?	<p>Considerable research has been carried out in the Netherlands into ceasing castration. Based on that research, the castration of 1-star piglets is prohibited under the Better Life label and has been for several years</p> <p>Research has also been carried out into ceasing castration of 2 and 3-star piglets on pig farms under the Better Life label. The natural conditions under which 2 and 3-star animals are held seem more likely to lead to problematic behaviour in boars and a higher incidence of boar taint. It is, therefore, harder to cease castration in these cases.</p> <p>If 2 and 3-star pigs are castrated, this must be done under anaesthetic and with pain control afterwards per the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals guidelines.</p>
4-06-14	Floor feeding	Is floor feeding permitted within BLL?	<p>Floor feeding is not currently included in the BLL criteria.</p> <p>For floor feeding in groups of six to twelve animals, the space is too limited. For floor feeding in a small group, there is a risk of the pen becoming dirty and that the animals will have to eat their feed off the dirt.</p> <p>Under the Better Life label, working in larger groups is encouraged. For newly-built and rebuilt sheds, sows or fattening pigs must be kept in groups of 20 or more. Larger group sizes allow more room for exercise while allocating the same amount of area per animal. In addition, it is easier for the pigs to distinguish between functional areas (lying, exploring, feeding, defecating) in the larger space.</p> <p>Another point in relation to floor feeding is mutual feeding competition and whether all the pigs get enough feed with this method, which can be resolved by providing more ration.</p>
30-04-14	Animal protein/fats/blood plasma in pig feed	Are animal protein/fats and blood protein permitted in feed for pigs under the Better Life label?	<p>We have set limited criteria on animal feed under BLL.</p> <p>Under the Better Life label, we base feed quality primarily on the GMP+ certificate. There are currently no additional criteria or banned products under the BLL 1-star pig scheme with regard to animal protein/fats/blood plasma in pig feed. As such, they are permitted.</p> <p>However, it is possible that the chain itself imposes additional criteria over and above the Better Life criteria. To ensure that animal protein/fats/blood plasma may be used in a particular chain, you may consult the chain manager (usually the abattoir).</p>