

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
15-10-19	UIT01 Other activities	Keeping double-muscled beef cattle with a high incidence of caesarean sections is not permitted on BLL farms. Does this also apply to veal calves, i.e. dairy cows crossed with a double-muscled bull?	This criterion does not apply to cross-bred veal calves from dairy farms (dairy cows crossed with a double-muscled bull). Dairy farmers can opt to inseminate a cow with semen from a double-muscled bull if they do not wish to keep the calf. However, dairy farmers always opt for a (double-muscled) bull with good calving ease so that a caesarean section is rarely, if ever, needed. As such, there is not a high incidence of caesarean sections among cross-bred veal calves that originate from dairy farming. Therefore, cross-bred veal calves are permitted on Better Life label farms.
28-01-22	UIT03 Standard for mega-enclosures	Criterion UIT03 states that livestock must not be kept in a mega-enclosure. According to the criterion, a mega-enclosure means one UBN (or EU registration number) with 330 NGE (Dutch size units) or more. However, based on the interpretation of criterion UIT03 it appears that exactly 330 NGE is permitted and this is not considered a mega-enclosure. When is one UBN (or EU registration number) considered as a mega-enclosure?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to amend criterion UIT03. A mega-enclosure means one UBN (or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE. For example, the following locations are classified as mega-enclosure in the context of the Better Life label, and excluded from participation: • rabbit farms with more than: 4,459 does and 35,675 weaned meat rabbits ($4,460 \times 0.042 + 35,675 \times 0.004 = 330.02$ NGE) The criterion will be adjusted in the next revision.
13-12-19	A03 Supply chain quality system	The farm must have an IKB rabbit certificate. Are other certificates acceptable? A GGE certificate is also mentioned.	Certificates that are equivalent to IKB rabbit also satisfy the Better Life label. The regulator for IKB rabbit – Stichting Belangenbehartiging Konijnenhouderij (StiBeKo) – rather than the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals should be consulted as to the equivalence of other certificates to IKB rabbit. If StiBeKo declares other certificates to be equivalent to IKB rabbit, it means they are approved for the Better Life label as well. The GGE rabbit certificate appears to be out of date and will be removed from the criteria.
28-03-24	A05 Pest control	Criterion A05 states that pest control and prevention on the farm is performed in compliance with European standard CEN-EN 16636. Legislation regarding KBA certification has been amended since 01-01-2023. Does this mean that criterion A05 will also be amended?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals complies with amended legislation. This means that KBA certification is no longer sufficient. Practically all chemical control products may only be used by trained pest controllers who work for certified pest control companies. This implies that only companies certified for CEPA or IPM Rodent Control (see Keurmerk Plaagdier Management Bedrijven - Register (in Dutch) (kpmb.nl)) may apply chemical control products.
6-11-19	V02 Water supply	In some cases, there are insufficient drinking nipples for the number of meat rabbits. In group pens in particular, one nipple is provided per doe as standard. After weaning, meat rabbits remain in the group pen, which works out at an average of one drinking nipple every nine meat rabbits. This does not satisfy the criterion of 0.15 drinking nipples per rabbit.	For better consistency with practice, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to lower the number of drinking nipples for groups of meat rabbits to an average of one for every nine rabbits.

6-11-19	V03 Feed supply	The method of measurement states that there should be ad lib access to feed concentrate. This is not consistent with the interpretation column.	That is correct because rabbits can overeat and an ad lib provision of feed concentrate is not recommended. The method of measurement must be amended accordingly and 'ad lib' will be removed.
6-11-19	V03 Feed supply	Not all rabbit farmers have automatic dispensers for feed concentrate. Is necessary to provide feed concentrate automatically?	Automatic provision is not necessary if the rabbit farmer can demonstrate through sales receipts and the physical presence of feed concentrate in pens, for example, that he or she provides sufficient feed concentrate.
27-05-21	M01 Emergency supply	The BLL Rabbit criteria state that if mechanical ventilation is used, a working alarm system and an emergency power generator must be present for ventilation. Can a distinction be made, as in the BLL Pig criteria, between mechanical ventilation with negative pressure and other forms of mechanical ventilation (without negative pressure)? Is an emergency power supply other than an emergency power generator also permitted?	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that an alternative form of (emergency) power supply, instead of an emergency power generator, may also be present at a farm. This (emergency) power supply must be an alternative power supply to the regular network power supply. Electricity may be generated using renewable energy or combined heat and power.</p> <p>It has also been decided that within the BLL Rabbit criteria, with regard to the emergency supply, a distinction may be drawn between mechanical ventilation with negative pressure and other forms of mechanical ventilation (without negative pressure). In the case of mechanical ventilation with negative pressure in the house, an emergency power supply must be present at the farm, and the emergency power supply must be tested every 2 months in accordance with criterion M01a. For other forms of mechanical ventilation, there must at least be a contract in place on the basis of which an emergency power supply is installed within 4 hours.</p> <p>If an emergency power supply must be used in the event of a power failure, the mechanical ventilation system is fitted with a connection/coupling for the emergency power supply.</p>

6-11-19, 28-02-23, 24-12-24 and 16-12-25	M06 BLL and non-BLL	<p>For the first two years of participation, non-BLL animals may be kept on the farm provided there is a strict separation between BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits. In view of the limited, seasonal demand for Better Life label 1-star rabbits, it is not currently possible for rabbit farms to produce under the Better Life label all year round.</p> <p>Is it possible to extend the term for criterion M06 once more by one year?</p>	<p>Supplementary decision 06-11-19: The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to extend the two-year term referred to in criterion M06 by a further two years. For the first four years of participation, non-BLL animals may be kept on the BLL-certified rabbit farm provided there is a strict separation between BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits. This is calculated from the date the BLL criteria for 1-star rabbits entered into effect (01-01-2019).</p> <p>Addition 28-02-23: The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to extend the two-year term referred to in criterion M06, which was already extended by supplementary decision to M06 published on 6-11-19, with another two years. This is calculated from the date the BLL criteria for 1-star rabbits entered into effect (01-01-2019). Till 01-01-2025 non-BLL animals may be kept on the BLL-certified rabbit farm provided there is a strict separation between BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits.</p> <p>Addition 24-12-24: The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to extend the term for criterion M06 by one more year. Until 01-01-2026, non-BLL animals may be kept on the BLL-certified rabbit farm provided there is a strict separation between BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits.</p> <p>Addition 16-12-25: The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to extend the term for criterion M06 for the last time by one year. Until 01-01-2027, non-BLL animals may be kept on the BLL-certified rabbit farm provided there is a strict separation between BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits. After 01-01-2027, non-BLL animals will no longer be permitted on BLL farms and the rabbits must comply with the criteria of the Better Life Label at all times.</p> <p>The interpretation of criterion M06 will therefore be formulated as follow: <i>Till 01-01-2027 non-BLL animals are permitted on the farm provided BLL rabbits and non-BLL rabbits are kept strictly separate. BLL and non-BLL animals kept on the same farm must be distinguishable by using a different colour buck for BLL animals, for example black, spotted or with black ear tips The pen cards indicate how the animals (BLL/non-BLL) are kept. The number of BLL animals delivered to slaughter corresponds to the capacity of the BLL housing. N/A with 100% BLL animals.</i> <i>After 01-01-2027, non-BLL animals will no longer be permitted on BLL farms.</i></p>
6-12-19	M07 Fire safety	Is an agricultural electrical inspection that is accepted by the insurer also considered acceptable for the Better Life label?	<p>Any new installation must be tested in accordance with NEN 1010 before operation. A reinspection must be carried out every five years in accordance with NEN 3140 (Scios scope 8). However, other types of electrical inspection requested by the insurer (such as the Netherlands Technical Agreement, NTA, 8220, Scios scope 10) are also permitted.</p>
6-11-19	H05 Gnawing blocks	The interpretation refers to both 0.20 and 0.13 gnawing blocks per rabbit – which is correct?	The correct number is four blocks per 30 rabbits, which is equivalent to 0.13 gnawing blocks per meat rabbit.

6-11-19	H05 Gnawing blocks	What requirements does a gnawing block need to satisfy? Can a wooden sheltering wall also be counted as gnawing blocks?	<p>Gnawing blocks must satisfy the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum dimensions: 10 cm wide x 2 cm high x 1 cm deep - Fixed to the wall (not the roof) of the pen or cage - At a height that enables does and meat rabbits to use it for sitting down – the wood must be at a height of 20–25 cm from the floor for does and 10–20 cm from the floor for meat rabbits - The wood must be soft, must not splinter and must not contain bark. Examples of suitable wood varieties are willow, horse chestnut, tilia cordata and Norway spruce. <p>If a sheltering wall/partition satisfies the aforementioned criteria, it may be counted as a gnawing block.</p>
6-11-19	GH01b Non-pregnant and aggressive does	Can non-pregnant does be housed individually, even if this accounts for over 5% of the total number of does?	<p>Non-pregnant does can always be housed individually (without young) because there is a risk of false pregnancy and aggression as a result.</p> <p>Non-pregnant does that are housed individually do not need to be counted in the maximum of 5% individually-housed aggressive does under criterion GH01B.</p> <p>Non-pregnant does are housed under the same conditions as does kept individually (criterion I01 - I07).</p>
3-09-20	VK05 Escape options	The interpretation states that a minimum of 0.4 tunnel and 0.4 wall is available per meat rabbit. However, this does not correspond to a minimum of 2 tunnels and a minimum of 2 walls per 40 meat rabbits.	The correct number should be 0.05 tunnel and 0.05 wall per meat rabbit.