

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
8-05-26	Criteria: UIT09.1, UIT09.2, UIT09.3, UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, G14 and NB01	Can the sanction (exclusion/critical) for these criteria be reduced?	<p>The exclusion/critical sanction is intended for very serious shortcomings, for example where animal abuse or fraud is involved. In practice, it has become clear that there are also criteria with this sanction for which exclusion/critical is not always an appropriate measure. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to lower the sanction for these criteria. This applies to criteria UIT09.1, UIT09.2, UIT09.3, UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, G14 and NB01.</p> <p>The new sanction for criteria UIT09.1, UIT09.2, UIT09.3, UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, G14 and NB01 will be: suspension/major.</p>
13-05-26	UIT09.2 All beef cattle present are BLL-eligible	<p>As of 1 June 2026, reception beef farms must be BLL certified. In response to this tightening of the requirements, a livestock farm may wish to discontinue BLL production. In that case, from 1 June 2026 onwards, the farm will have both BLL and non-BLL animals on site.</p> <p>Would it be possible to apply a working procedure for this situation similar to the one applied to new participants (beef farmers) in the Better Life label during their first year of participation, namely, in this case, a gradual phasing-out?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to allow a comparable procedure for phasing out, whereby the farm must demonstrate which animals were supplied before 1 June 2026 and which animals were supplied after 1 June 2026. This can be done using I&R and cattle passport data. In addition, the chain manager must provide a list of the companies involved, via info@slbk.nl, that will make use of this supplementary decision, and deregister the farm as soon as there are no longer any BLL animals present on the farm. The maximum period for this scheme is 15 months, namely: 1 June 2026 – 30 September 2027.</p> <p>This means that this supplementary decision will expire as of 1 October 2027.</p> <p>In accordance with criterion UIT09.2, dairy-type cattle, double-muscléd cattle including crossbreeds, and veal calves, among others, that do not comply with the Better Life cattle criteria may not be present on the farm (UBN).</p>
17-08-18	HB03 Housing bulls	Why is it that Better Life bulls are allowed to be housed indoors permanently from the age of one year?	<p>Bulls reach puberty at around six months of age, which means that they can become a danger to their environment. Fattening bulls should therefore only have access to grazing pasture for the first year of their lives. If a bull calf has access to pasture grazing from birth, it can be permanently housed indoors in groups as soon as the required number of days of pasture grazing has been reached, until it is heavy enough to go to slaughter. Sheds must be spacious and have a soft sleeping area, fresh air and daylight.</p>

10-11-14	H06A Solid floor covered with straw	Why should there be a soft sleeping area with a solid floor covered with straw? Why is a sleeping area with a slatted floor not permitted?	<p>For indoor housing, beef cattle are best kept in a straw pen. With sufficient space for each animal, a thick layer of straw and daily replenishment with fresh straw offers the best comfort and necessary grip when standing up, lying down and walking.</p> <p>On slatted floors, beef cattle usually have less space per animal to encourage them to work their own manure and urine through the slats. Grip on a slatted floor is also lower. Lying down and standing up on a slatted floor are visibly more difficult. Since the floor is often soiled with faeces, the animals are usually less clean, which is in contrast with their self-cleaning behaviour. There is also the risk of a tail becoming caught, which could lead to infection (without prompt intervention into the spinal cord).</p>
13-05-26	O01 – O07 Temporary reception beef farm (reception site)	As of 1 June 2026, reception beef farms must be BLL certified. In response to this tightening of the requirements, a livestock farm may wish to discontinue BLL production. In that case, from 1 June 2026 onwards, the farm will have both BLL and non-BLL animals on site. The animals supplied after 1 June will originate from non-certified reception beef farms. Can the related criteria be deemed not applicable for the period during which a farm is phasing out under the supplementary decision to UIT09.2?	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that, in line with the supplementary decision for UIT09.2, animals supplied from 1 June 2026 onwards do not have to comply with criteria O01 – O07. Apart from these criteria, the farm must comply with all other BLL 2-star criteria.</p> <p>This supplementary decision applies, like the supplementary decision to UIT09.2, from 1 June 2026 to 30 September 2027 and will therefore expire as of 1 October 2027. This supplementary decision only applies to farms that wish to phase out.</p>
23-04-18	T01 Travel time for young cattle	How should the AR sanction for this criterion be interpreted if the travel time is exceeded?	<p>If the travel time/distance is exceeded, these cattle are no longer BLL-eligible. The shortcoming can be remedied administratively by providing evidence that the non-BLL-eligible cattle were also transferred as non-BLL.</p> <p>If the cattle cannot (all) be transferred within the period prescribed for AR (six weeks), the sanction will change to RI.</p> <p>If the cattle cannot then (all) be transferred in the subsequent prescribed period (6 weeks), the sanction will change to a suspension.</p> <p>The livestock farm will then have a further three months to demonstrate the remedy before they are excluded.</p> <p>In theory, the livestock farm has six months to remove the cattle as non-BLL. If this requirement is not met, the livestock farm will be excluded.</p>
27-02-24	T05 Electric cattle prods	<p>The 'Electric cattle prods' criterion states that no electric cattle prods are used on the farm and during the moving/transport of cattle.</p> <p>Imposing sanctions on farmers for using an electric cattle prod during transport is illogical. Once the animals have left the farm, they are no longer the farmer's responsibility. How can we deal with this aspect?</p>	<p>The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals emphasises that the use of electric cattle prods is not permitted under the conditions of the Better Life label. However, the 'during transport' section is worded in a way that may cause confusion. It will therefore be removed from the criteria at the next revision.</p> <p>In the context of the Better Life label, no electric cattle prods must be used while the animals are housed at the BLL certified farm, while the animals are kept at the BLL certified reception site and during unloading at the BLL certified abattoir for which the relevant BLL participant is responsible.</p> <p>This aspect will be inspected (unannounced) by the CB.</p>