

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
No rights may be derived from these criteria. Subject to inaccuracies and amendments.					
Exclusion criteria					
UIT01	Other activities	No other activities are performed at the company (UBN) that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	<p>Activities that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeping fur animals for production purposes; - Keeping laying hens in enriched cages (permitted in the Netherlands until 01-01-2021) and colony housing (successor to the enriched cage and the only permitted form of 'battery cage' in the Netherlands from 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 goose or duck liver; - Keeping endangered species, such as eel, - Keeping double-muscled breeds of beef cattle, with a high incidence of caesarean sections, such as Belgian Blues and Dutch Improved Red Pied. 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 (may) conflict with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. 	Verify and record whether the farm (UBN) performs any other activities that do not conform with the policy of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.	Critical
UIT03	Genetically modified animals	There are no genetically modified animals on the farm (UBN).	<p>A genetically modified animal has been adapted using gene technology.</p> <p>Genetic or gene technology is a form of biotechnology by which the DNA of an organism is directly adapted by introducing additional genes with the desired traits into an animal.</p> <p>Conventional methods by which the DNA of an organism is indirectly adapted, such as crossing, selecting and breeding of certain breeds are permitted.</p>	Verify and record whether there are any genetically modified animals on the farm (UBN).	Critical

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UIT05	Standard for mega-housing	The pigs are not kept in a mega-barn. A mega-house is considered to be one UBN (or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE (Dutch livestock units).	<p>To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the number of pigs based on the Better Life operating capacity must be multiplied by the following numbers of NGE per animal category:</p> <p>1 dry, gestating or farrowing sow, 50 kg or more (on site with weaned piglets) = 0.2606 NGE 1 dry, gestating or farrowing sow, 50 kg or more (on site without weaned piglets) = 0.2370 NGE 1 rearing sow or boar, 20-50 kg or 1 rearing sow or boar of 50 kg or more, not covered/ready for breeding = 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 finisher from 20 kg = 0.0437 NGE</p> <p>For example, the following locations are designated as mega-houses within the Better Life label and are excluded from participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - finisher farm with more than: 7551 finishers (7552 x 0.0437 = 330.02 NGE) - multiplication farm with more than: 1266 sows and weaned piglets (1267 x 0.2606 = 330.18 NGE) - farm with more than: 600 sows and 3973 finishers (601 x 0.2606 + 3973 x 0.0437 = 330.24 NGE) - wean-to-finish farms with more than: 10,000 weaning piglets (10,001 x 0.0330 = 330.03 NGE) <p>If, based on the farm capacity, it appears that a farm exceeds the maximum farm size, the farmer may, based on an overview of the number of animals present per day (e.g. the animal count) and the average number of animals present over the past year, demonstrate that the maximum farm size is not exceeded at any time. A management system must be used for this purpose. The management system must offer the possibility to process and display animal numbers per day and to display the average of animals present. The number of animals present must be kept up to date (the farmer may be a maximum of 1 week behind in updating the number of animals present in the management system) and must be transparent up to at least one year in the past. Keeping animal numbers in an Excel file or similar is insufficient.</p> <p>The term 'mega-house' should not be confused with the concept of an industrial-scale 'factory farm'. A mega-house concerns a single location, a factory farm refers to a livestock farm with animal houses in multiple locations. The farm as a whole has a very high number of animals. However, the number of animals kept at the various locations is comparable to the numbers kept on regular farms.</p> <p>Not applicable to existing barns that were Better Life label participants before 02-05-2026. These barns may maintain the number of animals that were kept on 02-05-2026. With new construction or renovation, the number of animals kept must be decreased to 330 NGE or less.</p>	<p>Verify and record whether the farm does not exceed the limit for the maximum working size. Record the number of NGE on the farm based on the number of BLL animal places.</p> <p>If the farm exceeds the maximum farm size based on the number of BLL animal places, but in reality 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 in the past year. • At least 10 random samples of days on which pigs are supplied or set up and days before the pigs are removed. This verification is performed using a management system. 	Major
UIT06	Storeys	Only the ground floor of the farm (UBN) is used to keep animals.	<p>A farm (UBN) with a house in which animals are kept on multiple floors/storeys/tiers that applies to register for the Better Life label after 01-09-2016 is not eligible for the Better Life label.</p> <p>This criterion does not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A farm (UBN) with a house in which animals are kept on multiple floors/storeys/tiers that was already a participant in the Better Life label scheme before 01-09-2016. With new construction or renovation, farms are not permitted to build or add a house with more than one floor/storey/tier. - Raised living areas/platforms. Platforms are not included in the definition of houses with multiple storeys. 	<p>Verify and record whether the farm (UBN) only keeps animals on one storey, namely the ground floor. If there is a house on the farm (UBN) in which animals are kept on multiple storeys, verify whether the farm (UBN) participated in the Better Life label scheme before 01-09-2016 and whether, in case of new construction or renovation, no houses with more than one storey were built or added after this date.</p>	Critical
UIT07	Chain Manager	The livestock farm is registered with a chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label Foundation.	<p>A chain manager is, for example, a feed producer, abattoir, processor or intermediary that links various components of the supply chain, from the primary producer to the processor/seller as well as all existing interim links, and manages the farms affiliated to this supply chain.</p>	<p>Verify whether the livestock farm is registered with at least one chain manager that is approved by the Better Life label Foundation. Record the name of the chain manager(s).</p>	Major

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UIT08	Cooperation	The participant is obliged to provide full cooperation and grant access to the farm to BLL inspectors who perform inspections on behalf of the Certification Body or the Better Life label Foundation.	If the inspectors are denied access to the farm or no cooperation is given, the farm will be excluded from participation, unless it can invoke force majeure. Examples of force majeure are outbreaks of an infectious animal disease for which the government has imposed a ban on visitors to the farm, or a death in the family. This is not an exhaustive list. In practice, the inspectors will determine whether a situation of force majeure applies.	If the inspectors are denied access to the farm or no cooperation is given, record why access is denied/no cooperation is given and whether or not this concerns force majeure.	Critical
UIT09	All pigs present on the farm are Better Life	All pigs on the farm (UBN) comply with the criteria for Better Life label pigs 1 star.	<p>If a pig farm decides to stop with the BLL scheme and at any time sets up piglets under non-BLL conditions, under certain conditions the BLL-eligible piglets and/or finishers still present may be delivered/removed as BLL-eligible for a certain period of time.</p> <p>The following conditions apply to BLL breeding farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of 3 months after setting up the first non-BLL piglets, BLL-eligible piglets from the breeding farm stopping with the BLL scheme may still be delivered to other BLL pig farms. However, this is no longer permitted after 3 months. The end date of the BLL certificate is this date (date of setting up first non-BLL piglets + 3 months). - As soon as the farm changes to setting up piglets under non-BLL conditions, the farm must only set up piglets under non-BLL conditions. No more piglets may subsequently be set up under BLL conditions. - BLL and non-BLL-eligible piglets are housed separately. During the BLL inspection, this is verified based on the age and castration of piglets. - The BLLF and CB are informed that piglets are set up under non-BLL conditions. This must be done no later than 1 week after the animals were set up. - An unannounced inspection is performed before the end date of the BLL certificate at the farmer's cost. - This is only applicable if the farm actually stops using the BLL scheme. The farm may therefore no longer register for BLL for at least one year. On renewed registration, a new entry inspection must be performed first and all animals present on the farm must be BLL-eligible again. <p>The following conditions apply to BLL finisher farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of 3 months after supplying the first non-BLL piglets, BLL-eligible piglets from the finisher farm stopping with the BLL scheme may still be delivered. However, this is no longer permitted after 3 months. The end date of the BLL certificate is this date (date of supplying first non-BLL piglets + 3 months). - This is only applicable if the farm actually stops using the BLL scheme. The farm may therefore no longer register for BLL for at least one year. On renewed registration, a new entry inspection must be performed first and all animals present on the farm must be BLL-eligible again. <p>The following conditions apply to BLL closed system farms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of 3 months after setting up the first non-BLL piglets, BLL-eligible piglets from the closed system farm stopping with the BLL scheme may still be delivered to other BLL pig farms. However, this is no longer permitted after 3 months. - A maximum of 6 months after setting up the first non-BLL piglets, BLL-eligible finishers from the closed system farm stopping with the BLL scheme may still be delivered to the abattoir. However, this is no longer permitted after 6 months. - The end date of the BLL certificate is this date (date of setting up first non-BLL piglets + 6 months). - As soon as the farm changes to setting up piglets under non-BLL conditions, the farm must only set up piglets under non-BLL conditions. No more piglets may subsequently be set up under BLL conditions. - BLL and non-BLL-eligible piglets and finishers are housed separately. During the BLL inspection, this is verified based on the age and castration of piglets. - The BLLF and CB are informed that piglets are set up under non-BLL conditions. This must be done no later than 1 week after the animals were set up. - An unannounced inspection is performed before the end date of the BLL certificate at the farmer's cost. - This is only applicable if the farm actually stops using the BLL scheme. The farm may therefore no longer register for BLL for at least one year. On renewed registration, a new entry inspection must be performed first and all animals present on the farm must be BLL-eligible again. 	<p>Verify and record whether there are any pigs on the farm (UBN) that do not comply with the criteria for BLL pigs 1 star.</p> <p>If applicable, record date of first supply of non-BLL piglets and/or date of delivery of last BLL finishers.</p> <p>In the case of farms that stop, verify whether the conditions are complied with. Record the findings.</p>	Major

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General					
A01	Reporting obligation	Better Life label participant is required to report without delay any amendment that affects or may affect participation in BLL or the BLL certificate in writing to the Certification Body and the chain manager.	Amendments include, but are not limited to: a. Cessation (temporary or otherwise) of the farm, regardless of the reason. b. Transfer of the farm to a new legal entity/owner c. Amendment of UBN d. Loss of an accreditation or a certificate meaning the applicable BLL criteria can no longer be complied with f. Etc.	Verify whether amendments that affect participation in the Better Life Label scheme from the previous year have been reported to the Certification Body and the chain manager. Record any amendments.	Minor
A02	Knowledge & skills	The farmer can demonstrate that the farmer and his staff have the necessary knowledge and skills regarding animal health, animal welfare, animal behaviour and various livestock farming systems.	The staff employed on the farm must have at least: - Secondary vocational education in livestock farming or - 1 year of working experience in pig farming, or - work under the responsibility of a person with these qualifications. Diplomas and certificates are present at the farm. These qualifications are registered in an overview.	Verify and record whether the overview of the knowledge and qualifications of the farmer and the staff is present and whether it complies with the conditions. Record the last date the registration was updated.	Minor
A03	Human-animal interaction workshop	All permanent staff that handle live animals at each pig farm site that participates in BLL must have followed a human-animal interaction workshop approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. A person who is new to working with pigs on a pig farm will follow a human-animal interaction workshop as soon as possible, but no later than within 1 year. Taking a refresher course is mandatory at least once every five years. This is counted from the date that a human-animal interaction workshop was followed. If this was more than 5 years ago, a refresher course must have been followed after the first year from the entry into force of the criteria, i.e. from 02-05-2027. Until 02-05-2027, this obligation only applies to the pig farmer/manager. If it is not possible to follow the workshop within a year due to a waiting list with course providers, registration to attend a workshop must take place within that year.	The main element of the workshop is awareness of the effects of one's own behaviour on pig welfare. See the Better Life label Foundation website for the assessment criteria for human-animal interaction workshops. You can also find a list of approved human-animal interaction workshops and refresher courses here. Permanent staff are employees with an employment contract.	Verify whether the pig farmer/manager has obtained proof of participation in a workshop approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals within 1 year of certification for BLL. If applicable, verify whether a refresher course has been followed within 5 years after the workshop was followed or after the first year from the entry into force of the criteria, i.e. from 02-05-2027. Verify annually from 02-05-2027 whether all permanent staff that handle live animals have obtained proof of participation in a workshop approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals within 1 year or have registered for a workshop if there is a waiting list with course providers. If applicable, verify whether a refresher course has been followed within 5 years after the workshop was followed. Record the name of the workshop and the date on which the workshop was followed. If applicable, also record the name of the refresher course.	Minor
A03a	Refresher courses	At least two half-day refresher courses on pig husbandry are organised annually, either on the farm itself or at another farm. All staff with a permanent contract that handle live animals must attend.	At least one half day per year concerns positive human-animal interaction. Other topics for refresher courses include preventing tail biting and the farm health plan. The refresher courses may, for example, be given by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner or by another relevant expert. A study meeting/study group may also be considered as a refresher course or refresher courses can be followed online. The mandatory human-animal interaction workshop stated in A03 does not count towards criterion A03a.	Verify and record whether at least two half-day courses on pig husbandry have been given annually, with at least one half-day course per year concerning positive human-animal interaction. Verify and record whether all permanent staff attended using proof of participation/registration, the date the refresher course was followed and who gave these refresher courses. Permanent staff are employees with an employment contract.	Minor

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A04.1	Chain quality system	The pig farm is IKB or Holland Varken Quality certified.	The following is also sufficient: 1. certification for a system that is recognised as an equivalent chain quality system by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals, see the BLLF website for a list, or 2. an IKB or Holland Varken Quality inspection report (without issue of an IKB or Holland Varken Quality certificate), not older than 1 year, performed by a certified Certification Body that demonstrates that the farm complies with the IKB or Holland Varken Quality standards, except for specific criteria which the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has established do not have to be complied with for the Better Life label.	Verify and record whether the farm has a valid IKB or Holland Varken Quality certificate. Record the expiry date of the IKB or Holland Varken Quality certificate. The register of the chain quality system is leading in this respect.	Major
A05	I&R regulations	The pig farmer reports the supply and delivery of pigs from their farm in compliance with the <i>Regeling identificatie en registratie van dieren</i> (Regulations for the identification and registration of animals)	Foreign farms must report the supply and delivery of pigs in compliance with Guideline 92/102/EEG: regarding the identification and registration of animals, or national legislation derived from these guidelines.	Verify and record whether supply and delivery conform with the 'Regulations for the identification and registration of animals' or Guideline 92/102/EEG using administrative records, supply and delivery notes.	Minor
Feed					
AV01a	Liquid feed RECOMMENDATION	Pigs are not fed exclusively with liquid feed. If the basis consists of liquid feed, solid feed is also provided daily.	Under natural conditions in the wild, pigs spend many hours foraging and rooting for solid feed. They then consume this over a long feeding time. Providing liquid feed significantly decreases the feeding time and involves low chewing activity. Providing only a liquid diet does not satisfy the behavioural needs of pigs. Research has also revealed that pigs become soiled more often in housing with fully liquid feeding systems.	Verify and record whether only liquid feed is provided.	Recommendation
AV02.1	GMP+ certified feed	Only GMP+ certified feed is provided supplied by a GMP+ certified feed supplier.	Feed produced on the farm complies with the conditions of the 'On-farm production' GMP code. If feed is produced on neighbouring farms, the pig farmer must have established that the supplier complies with all the requirements of the 'On-farm production' GMP code. Foreign farms may also provide feed from a supplier that is certified for an animal feed quality assurance system that is at least equivalent to GMP+.	Verify and record using the feed receipts whether the feed is GMP+. Record the name and address of the GMP+ feed supplier.	Minor
AV03	Drinking water	All pigs older than two weeks have permanent access to fresh drinking water of sufficient quality.	With liquid feed this means there must be separate drinking nipples/troughs with fresh drinking water.	Verify whether there are any restrictions in the provision of drinking water. Record the findings. Verify and record with liquid feeding whether there are separate drinking nipples/troughs with fresh drinking water.	Minor
AV04	Water quality analysis	The drinking water quality is analysed at least twice per year, one sample per quarter. The samples must be taken at animal level (nipple or drinking or liquid feed trough), not at source level. At least one sample is taken by an independent sampler and is analysed chemically and bacteriologically. The other sample may be taken by the pig farmer and is at least analysed bacteriologically.	The laboratory that performs the analysis must be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited. There is an interval of at least 4 months between the two analyses. An independent sampler is, for example, the inspector of the Certification Body, the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner or a specialised drinking water sampler (e.g. a person who professionally advises livestock farms on drinking water quality and regularly samples drinking water). If the farm uses drinking water supplied by a water company, no chemical analysis is necessary, as the water company must regularly perform statutory chemical analysis.	Verify using test reports whether the analyses have been performed and whether there is an interval of at least 4 months between both analyses. Record the dates on which the water samples were analysed. Verify and record who took the samples, which sampling points were sampled and how the samples were analysed (chemical, bacteriological).	Minor
AV04d	Water quality	The analysis must demonstrate that the drinking water for the pigs is of sufficient quality because it complies with the relevant, national standard. If analysis results differ from the standard, measures must be taken to improve the water quality and analysis must be repeated until the standard is complied with.	In the Netherlands the relevant, national standard is the quality requirements applied by Royal GD (Dutch animal health service) for drinking water for pigs. See http://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/diergezondheid/management/drinkwater/referentiewaarden%20veedrinkwaterkvaliteit for the limit values for livestock drinking water. The values in the 'good' column are considered safe for the species concerned. Deviating from the relevant, national standard is only permitted if the cause can be traced to an additive prescribed by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner (see also AV04e).	Assess test results and, if applicable, verify whether recovery measures have been taken and samples have been analysed again. Record the findings.	Minor

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AV04e	Pre-treatment of water	Pre-treatment of water, such as acidification (lowering pH levels, increasing ammonium levels), is only permitted on the advice and/or under the supervision of the contracted veterinary practitioner.	Provided the applicable national standard (in the Netherlands, this is the quality requirements applied by Royal GD (Dutch animal health service) for drinking water for pigs) are not exceeded when pre-treating water, this may be performed without the intervention of a veterinary practitioner.	Verify using the test results or ask whether the drinking water is treated and whether this is done under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner, e.g. through reports in visit logs or the farm health plan. Record the findings.	Minor
Hygiene plan					
G13	Hygiene plan	The pig farm has a farm-specific hygiene plan that systematically indicates how hygiene is safeguarded on the farm. This may be part of the farm health plan.	<p>This plan should always contain a description of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The method of prevention and, if necessary, control of undesirable animals/pests (e.g. rodents, wildlife, birds, insects); 2. A strict separation between the clean farm zone and the dirty farm zone physically (where possible) and in time intervals; 3. A hygiene sluice; 4. The origin and quality of water (drinking water and cleaning water). 5. The method of cleaning and disinfecting the pens and barns; 6. The origin and storage method of feed; 7. Cadaver collection <p>The hygiene plan must be regularly updated, at least once every two years.</p> <p>See the Better Life Label website for an example of a hygiene plan</p>	Verify and record whether there is a farm-specific hygiene plan, whether it complies with the established requirements, whether it is followed and whether it is updated at least once every two years.	Minor
G13a	Pest control	Pest control and prevention of pests on the farm is performed in accordance with the European standard CEN-EN 16636.	<p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - firstly, as many preventive measures as possible are taken to prevent the presence of pests (refer to the "Beschuit zonder muisjes" report of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals), - If a pest control and prevention company is used, that company must be demonstrably compliant with CEN-EN 16636 and certified for the CEPA certificate or IPM Knaagdierbeheersing for rodent control. A list of these companies can be found on: https://kpmb.nl/deelnemers/ or https://www.cepa-europe.org/cepa-certified/companies/6 - If the pig farmer performs pest control themselves, they or their staff must have a valid IPM Knaagdierbeheersing certificate for rodent control for the farm and a personal IPM-KBA-licence. Farmers in Belgium must have a Fytolientie proving they can safely handle pesticides in combination with a PCLT-certificate. Only a KBA-certificate is no longer sufficient. <p>If there are clear signs of pests and no control or exclusion measures are taken, the criterion cannot be complied with.</p>	<p>Verify whether pests are excluded and controlled where necessary in accordance with the European standard CEN-EN 16636. If a pest control and prevention company is used, verify whether this company is demonstrably compliant with CEN-EN 16636. If the pig farmer performs pest control themselves, verify whether they or their staff have a valid IPM - <i>Knaagdierbeheersing</i> certificate for rodent control for the farm and a personal IPM-KBA-licence. For Belgium, verify whether the farmer has a <i>Fytolientie</i> proving they can safely handle pesticides in combination with a PCLT-certificate. If there are clear signs of pests on the farm and no control measures are taken, the criterion cannot be complied with.</p> <p>Record the findings. Not applicable if the farm uses non-chemical pest control methods or if there are no pests present on the farm.</p>	Minor

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G13b	Separation between clean and dirty zone	With completely new construction there is a strict separation between the clean zone (the hygienic areas where the pigs are housed) and the dirty zone (the non-hygienic areas accessible to visitors, suppliers, vehicles etc.).	<p>The clean zone of the farm is the hygienic zone where the pigs are housed. This includes, for example, the sections, central corridors, working areas and routes between houses.</p> <p>The dirty zone of the farm is all zones outside the clean zone. This includes, for example, the entrance and exit routes, the farmhouse and area immediately adjoining the farmhouse.</p> <p>A line of separation in the form of a fence, wall or chain, for example, has been placed to separate the clean from the dirty zone.</p> <p>Transport trucks are not permitted access to the clean zone.</p> <p>Entrance and exit routes for, e.g., feed, manure and cadavers cannot be accessed from the dirty zone.</p>	Verify and record with completely new construction whether there is a strict separation between the clean zone and the dirty zone.	Minor
G13c	Hygiene sluice	Hygienic access to the farm for employees, suppliers and visitors via mandatory use of a hygiene sluice.	The hygienic sluice has a shower that is used before completely changing into the pig farm's company clothing.	Verify whether there is a hygiene sluice.	Minor

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Management					
AM01	Daily inspection of animals	Pigs housed in a sick bay and/or all pens housing farrowing sows and (weaned) piglets must be inspected at least twice a day, while all other pigs are inspected at least once for at least: body condition, tail biting and other injuries, sickness, stress, effects of any treatments, inspection of equipment in pens.		Interview the stockpersons about their inspection activities and their findings. Assess a number of pens for signs of animals requiring care, signs of injury or illness, poor body condition, stress etc. Record the findings.	Minor
AM01a	Pen hygiene	At least the following is regularly done in all pens: - manure is removed; - feeding and drinking places are cleaned; - feed trough sensors are cleaned; - enrichment materials are added/replenished/cleaned.		Verify a number of pens for hygiene for each animal category. Record the findings.	Minor
AM02a1	Alarm system	There is an alarm system that generates an alert if the mechanical ventilation fails. This also applies to other systems that are critical to the animals, if the systems do not have their own alarm system. The alarm system generates an alert in at least two different ways, for example via satellite, pager, analogue line or via mobile phone. It is important that the alarm system has its own power supply. An acoustic signal as a signal for the alarm system does not count.	Other critical systems include automatic feeding systems and drinking water systems.	Verify and record whether an alarm system is present that generates an alert if the mechanical ventilation or other critical systems fail. Verify and record whether the alarm system generates an alert in at least two ways, has its own power supply and is functioning. An acoustic signal as a signal for the alarm system does not count. It is not necessary to test the system if the farmer can provide a maintenance contract and reports that demonstrate the system was functioning during the inspections.	Minor
AM02a2	Testing the alarm system	Alarm systems as described in AM02A1 (including the mechanical ventilation system), are tested monthly according to a protocol.	Records are kept of the monthly tests of the alarm, including any irregularities detected and their follow-up. These records must be kept for at least 13 months. Examples of aspects to include in a protocol for testing the alarm (also part of the alarm plan): - Test the telephone dialler monthly by unplugging the cord; - Test the alarm units monthly by unplugging the cord; - Test the temperature alarm every cycle by setting the alarm limit to below the current temperature; - Test the ventilation alarm monthly by switching off the end group; - Following a repair, all aspects must be tested with the installer; - Test the alarm system by telephoning it after a thunderstorm and always check the settings before leaving the farm. Aspects that are part of the protocol can be found on https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/welzijnseisen-dieren/huisvesting-verzorging/regels-nood-en-alarmsysteem-stallen	Verify and record whether the alarm system is tested monthly according to a protocol and whether these records are kept for at least 13 months. Verify and record whether any irregularities or defects have been detected and whether they have been repaired.	Minor
AM02a5	Testing emergency generator	An emergency generator is tested every month, and tested by running it loaded at least once every 2 months.	Records are kept of the tests, including any irregularities detected and their follow-up. The records are kept for at least 13 months. The test every month (unloaded), verifies whether the generator activates, whether the correct voltage and frequency are reached and whether the motor runs stably. The test every two months (loaded), verifies whether the generator can deliver enough power to take over the failed system.	Verify the results of the aspects tested during the test every month and every two months. Verify whether any irregularities or defects have been detected and whether they have been repaired. Verify whether there were any months when the generator was not tested unloaded or unloaded. Record these months. This also applies if a generator is rented with a contract.	Minor

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AM02b	Emergency plan	There is an emergency plan for calamities that is kept in a visible place for the staff and the emergency services.	The plan describes the action to take in the event of an emergency. The staff are aware of the content of the emergency plan. The emergency plan must state at least the following: company details, list of telephone numbers of emergency services, a property information card and what to do in the event of fire, an accident, an infectious animal disease or a power failure. See https://beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/04/Voorbeeld-calamiteitenplan.pdf for an example of an emergency plan. A visible place may be near an exit.	Verify and record whether there is an emergency plan and that it is visibly displayed. Ask a random staff member whether they know what to do in the event of an emergency.	Minor
AM03	Inspection of electrical installations	For fire safety reasons, an inspection of electrical installations must be performed periodically.	<p>At the entry inspection, proof must be provided that an inspection of electrical installations was performed in the past five years. If this is not the case, this inspection must be performed first.</p> <p>New installations must be inspected before use in compliance with NEN 1010.</p> <p>A periodic reinspection must be performed in accordance with SCIOS scope 8 (NEN 3140). The SCIOS scope 8 inspection is only for farmers who employ staff (based on an employment contract). The inspection cycle for scope 8 is consistent with the recommendations in the inspection report.</p> <p>SCIOS scope 10 must be complied with for the inspection of electrical installations for fire safety. This inspection must be performed every three to five years, depending on the requirements of the insurer and the results of the inspection.</p> <p>The inspection report plan states at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspection body details (company); - Method of physical, visual inspection and measurements, including measuring instruments used; - Description of electrical installation, including components (lighting, wall sockets, etc.) and power-consuming devices (central heating, climate control); - Final assessment including any non-conformities and/or defects found. <p>Explanation: this inspection must be performed by a different company to the one that installed the electrical system. If remedial actions are concerned, the farmer must solve this with their own installer, so a re-inspection can be performed. Approval of the re-inspection is followed by deregistration in the SCIOS portal. More information about SCIOS inspections and a list of companies that can perform inspection can be found on: https://www.averoachmea.nl/preventie/elektrakeuring</p> <p>On foreign farms, the certification of new installations and periodic reinspection must be performed in compliance with the national standard based on HD-IEC 60364 and NEN-EN 50110, respectively.</p> <p>The Belgian AREI electrical inspection is equivalent to the requirements of NEN 1010 (entry inspection) scope 8 (NEN 3140 (recovery inspection)) and scope 10 and therefore also complies with criterion AM03.</p>	Verify and record whether an inspection has been performed (if applicable for scope 8), whether there is an inspection report (if applicable for scope 8), and when the last inspection was performed and whether there were any remedial actions.	Minor
AM03b	Fire detection technical area/hazardous area	The technical area/hazardous area (replacement term for technical area in an existing building) contains fire detection equipment. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	<p>A technical area/hazardous area is the area that contains the technical building systems(see AM03g). The hazardous area is the area that contains electrical installations which, according to AM03g, should normally be placed in an enclosed, fire-resistant area and which have a fire hazard for the pigs.</p> <p>The fire detection system complies with NEN2535 (or NEN-EN 54 outside the Netherlands), e.g. a heat detector in a hazardous area or smoke detector in a technical area and sends an alert to at least two people. The fire detectors in the technical area/hazardous area are connected to alarm and fire extinguishing installations in the technical area/hazardous area.</p> <p>This criterion applies to the entire barn building (also with renovation, extensions or new construction). Qualified companies that install fire detection according to the correct standards can be found on: https://hetccv.nl/certificaat-schema/brandmeldinstallaties/. Companies that perform inspections of fire detection systems can be found on: https://hetccv.nl/keurmerken/brandbeveiliging/inspectie-brandbeveiliging/overzicht-inspectie-instellingen/</p>	Verify and record with new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2030, whether the technical area /hazardous area is equipped with a fire detection system that sends an alert to the telephone of at least 2 people and complies with NEN2535 (or NEN-EN 54 outside the Netherlands) according to an inspection report of the inspection body.	Minor
AM03bb	Photovoltaic installation	Existing photovoltaic installations are inspected every five years in compliance with SCIOS scope 12. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	The scope 12 inspection inspects the entire photovoltaic installation system and identifies the electrical safety and fire safety of the system. Explanation: this inspection must be performed by a different company to the one that installed the photovoltaic installation. If remedial actions are concerned, the farmer must solve this with their own installer, so a re-inspection can be performed. Approval of the re-inspection is followed by deregistration in the SCIOS portal. More information about SCIOS inspections and a list of companies that can perform inspections can be found on: https://www.averoachmea.nl/preventie/elektrakeuring	Verify and record whether inspections have been performed, whether there is an inspection report, when the last inspection was performed and whether there were any remedial actions. Not applicable if no photovoltaic installation is present.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AM03c	Fire extinguisher technical area/hazardous area	The technical area/hazardous area (replacement term for technical area in an existing building) contains an automatic fire extinguisher that, in the event of smoke and/or heat, can extinguish a small fire. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	A technical area/hazardous area is the area that contains the technical building systems, see AM03g. The hazardous area is the area that contains electrical installations which, according to AM03g, should normally be placed in an enclosed, fire-resistant area and which have a fire hazard for the pigs. Examples of extinguishing systems are e.g smoke and heat extraction systems, overpressure systems, or automatic extinguishing systems in the technical area or water mist systems in the hazardous area. Qualified companies that install fire extinguishing systems according to the correct standards can be found on: https://hetccv.nl/certificaat-schema/sprinklerinstallaties-watervoerend/	Verify and record whether the technical area/hazardous area is equipped with an automatic fire extinguisher.	Minor
AM03d	Layout of block of buildings	The distance between the barn and other barns, between the barn and other farm buildings and between the barn and high-risk installations (machinery or implement storage/workshop/installations that belong in the technical area) is at least 8 metres. With new construction from 01-01-2030.	This criterion applies to the entire building of the barn (also with renovation, extensions or new construction). Outdoor runs count towards the distance of 8 metres. The distance between barns, barns and farm buildings and/or barns and high-risk installations (machinery or implement storage/workshop/installations that belong in the technical area) may be less if WBDBO calculations (Resistance to fire penetration and fire spread) in compliance with NEN 6068 demonstrate that this does not pose a risk of fire spread.	Physical verification by measuring the visibly narrowest distance between the buildings. If there are several buildings, measure the narrowest passage. If substantiated with WBDBO calculations, verify and record whether there is a report in which the correct risk of fire spread has been determined based on the greatest risk of fire spread, in compliance with NEN 6068.	Minor
AM03e	Electric motors	There are no electric motors in the barns. If electric motors must be present in the barns, they are approved in compliance with SCIOS scope 10.		Verify and record whether there are electric motors in barns. If electric motors must be present in animal barns, verify and record whether they are approved in compliance with SCIOS scope 10 and whether there is an inspection report.	Minor
AM03g	Location of technical installations and equipment	Technical installations/equipment that do not specifically belong in the barn are located in a separate area (technical area) with a fire resistance of at least 60 minutes. This is mandatory for new construction and renovation.	Technical installations/equipment that belong in a technical area: Distribution board, central heating system, heat pump, inverter solar panels, boiler rooms, air treatment systems and climate control computer. This criterion does not apply to: - Equipment that does belong in the barn. This is equipment with a specific function in the barn, such as a feeding station for sows barnd in groups. This criterion applies to the entire building of the barn and if there is a technical area (with renovation and new construction).	Verify and record whether technical installations are located in a separate fire-resistant area with a fire resistance of at least 60 minutes. This can be done using the construction drawings and the two crosses marked on the fire-resistant area.	Minor
AM03h	Hand-held fire extinguishers	There are approved hand-held fire extinguishers that are suitable for fire classes A and B. There is a manual with instructions for operation and use. There is at least one fire extinguisher per 1000 m ² of barn surface area with a capacity of at least 9 kg, or at least one fire extinguisher with a capacity of at least 6 kg per 600 m ² of barn surface area.		Verify and record whether there is a sufficient number of approved hand-held fire extinguishers, the date of inspection and the suitability for classes A and B.	Minor
AM03j	Water supply for extinguishing fires RECOMMENDATION	Sufficient water for extinguishing fires is available at the farm.	Sufficient extinguishing water is 360 m ³ . This means that extinguishing is possible for 4 hours at 90 m ³ per hour. On farms with no water available for extinguishing fires (or insufficient water), additional water sources (spring/well/pond/bioswale) must be installed in consultation with the municipality/fire services/safety region.	Verify and record whether the municipality/fire services/safety region has investigated the availability of water (sufficient water) for extinguishing fires or whether an additional source (drilled well/pond/bioswale) is being built if necessary and whether there is a signed report.	Recommendation

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AM04	Ventilation system	Mechanical ventilation systems on the farms are inspected by an installer at least once every five years and maintenance is performed when necessary.		Verify and record whether maintenance of the ventilation takes place by an installer and whether there is a report of the last inspection. Record the date of the last inspection.	Minor
AM05.1	Preventing tail biting	The Pig Welfare Check is completed annually together with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner to identify the risks of tail biting. To address structural causes of tail biting, the pig farmer, in consultation with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner, establishes an action plan aimed at minimising the causes and reducing tail biting.	The Welfare Check can be downloaded from beterleven.dierenbescherming.nl/zakelijk/deelnemen/bedrijfstypen/veehouderijen/varkens/ and from www.vitalevarkenshouderij.nl .	Verify and record whether the farmer takes measures to actively prevent tail biting by completing the annual welfare check together with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner. If applicable, verify whether there is an action plan.	Minor
AM05.2	Tail docking	Tails must not be routinely docked. As of 01-01-2030, any form of tail docking will no longer be permitted. The current interpretation will then lapse.	If tails are docked: 1. Has the veterinary necessity been described and recorded by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and is this reviewed at least quarterly; 2. Is tail docking performed by a sufficiently competent and trained person within 72 hours of birth; 3. Docking should be performed so that piglets retain a tail of at least 2.5 cm to ensure a tail length of >5 cm in adult animals; 4. With future breeding sows, docking should be performed to ensure they have a tail length of at least 5 cm. This allows a tail length of >10 cm in adult sows.	Verify the tails. If docked, verify and record whether the conditions have been complied with. In at least 2 sections, check whether the tail length is sufficient. Verify whether there is an improvement plan that complies with the criteria. Record the findings.	Minor
AM05.2a	Gradual and responsible transition to undocked tails	From 01-01-2030, docking will no longer be permitted. By 01-07-2026 at the latest, there must be an action plan describing at least which of the three undocked tail transition pathways has been chosen to achieve this goal.	Based on one of the three undocked tail transition pathways, the pig farmer chooses to: - keep an increasing number of litters with undocked tails (pathway 1): 2026: at least 2 litters 2027: at least 4 litters 2028: at least 6 litters 2029: at least 12 litters - gradually leave longer tails (pathway 2): 2026: tail length of 3 cm 2027: leave tail length up to one third 2028: leave tail length up to half 2029: leave tail length up to two-thirds - keep an increasing number of gilts with undocked tails (pathway 3): 2026: at least 2 litters F1 gilts + boars tail at 2.5 cm 2027: at least 4 litters F1 gilts + boars tail at 2.5 cm 2028: at least 4 litters of F1 gilts + boars tail at 2.5 cm + 1 litter of purebred animals 2029: repetition and scaling up of F1 gilts and purebred animals For the pathways to keeping undocked pigs, see www.vitalevarkenshouderij.nl/ambities/ambitie-robuuste-en-gezonde-varkens-in-een-diervriendelijke-houderij/krulstaarten/ This criterion applies to all types of pig farms, including farms that only keep finishers.	Verify whether there is an action plan for undocked tails. Verify and record the numbers of litter/groups with undocked or longer tails, based on the action plan. Based on the action plan, there may be differences in the number of litters/ tail lengths stated in the interpretation.	Minor
AM06	Pig hygiene	The pigs must be clean, taking into account the farming system used.	If more than 50% of the pigs are soiled, an action plan must be drawn up in consultation with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and, if wished, other experts (e.g. a climate expert) to significantly reduce soiling (<25%) within 2 years.	Assess and record the cleanliness of the pigs. If cleanliness is insufficient (more than 50%), verify whether there is an action plan and whether soiling has been significantly reduced (<25%) within 2 years.	Major



Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AM07	Genetics RECOMMENDATION	A type of sow is used that is able to raise her piglets independently and produce more robust piglets.	This takes into account aspects such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the sow's maternal behaviour - mortality + cause of sow mortality; - the sow's gait score - number of piglets per litter; - uniformity of the litter; - mortality + reason for piglet mortality just before, during and up to 3 days after birth; - mortality + reason for piglet mortality from 3 days after birth to weaning; - number of piglets in relation to the number of teats, the principle being no more piglets than teats. 	Verify and record using the delivery notes whether the sows are the correct type.	Recommendation

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
Health					
AG01	Contracted veterinary practitioner	The pig farmer has a bilateral contract with a certified, assured swine veterinary practitioner who is responsible for the entire veterinary supervision on the farm.	<p>The veterinary practitioner may contract other specialists/veterinary practitioners to provide full cover, for example as a replacement during illness or holidays.</p> <p>Certified, assured veterinary practitioners are listed in the register of Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation (<i>Stichting Geborgde Dierenarts</i> (for quality control of the services provided by veterinarians in the Netherlands), see www.geborgdedierenarts.nl). An example of a bilateral agreement is provided in the regulations of the Guaranteed Veterinarian Foundation. This example should be used.</p> <p>For foreign participants, an agreement must be concluded with a regular veterinary practitioner, with knowledge of the history of the farm and expertise in the field of pig husbandry. If the farm changes its veterinary practitioner, the 'old' veterinary practitioner must transfer the data relating to the pig farm to the 'new' veterinary practitioner. This veterinary practitioner does not have to be registered as an assured certified swine veterinary practitioner.</p>	Verify whether there is a valid bilateral agreement with a certified, assured swine veterinary practitioner. Record the name of the veterinary practitioner.	Minor
AG02a	Farm health plan	The pig farmer has a farm-specific health plan in which they and the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner describe which measures are taken to inspect and improve animal health.	<p>This farm-specific health plan is regularly updated (at least annually).</p> <p>Information from e.g. extra diagnostic tests, epidemiological conditions in the region and feedback systems of the abattoir are used to update the farm health plan. e.g. improvement to the barns, vaccinations, use and documentation of veterinary medicines, etc.</p>	Verify and record whether there is a farm health plan, whether it has been established by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and whether it is updated at least annually.	Minor
AG02b	Farm treatment plan	The pig farmer has a farm treatment plan for the use of veterinary medicines in which they and the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner describe which treatments and methods of treatment are used for the most common diseases.	The plan describes which veterinary medicines are used in preferential order to treat a certain disease/disorder.	Verify and record whether there is a farm treatment plan at the farm and whether it has been established by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	Minor
AG03	Health registration	All cases of increased mortality, disease, outbreaks of disease and euthanasia of seriously ill and/or injured pigs are registered and discussed with the veterinary practitioner.	If necessary, a thorough investigation will be conducted, the results of the investigation and actions and measures taken are discussed with the veterinary practitioner and recorded.	Verify and record whether there is a health record at the farm and whether visit logbooks indicate that causes and actions have been discussed. Record the 3 last dates of registration and the reasons. N/A if there is no increased mortality, disease, outbreaks of disease and euthanasia of seriously ill and/or injured pigs.	Minor
AG04a	Mortality rate	The maximum permitted annual mortality rate is: - for finishers <2.1% and - for weaned piglets <1.9%.	<p>Euthanised animals do not have to be included in the mortality rate.</p> <p>At the initial audit (first year of participation), a one-time mortality rate of 3.0% is permitted.</p>	Verify and record the annual average mortality rate. Calculate the mortality rate as follows: Mortality rate= (number of dead animals – euthanised animals)/ (number of animals set up)* 100%	Minor
AG04b	Mortality rate action plan	If the farm exceeds the permitted mortality rate percentage for a year, an action plan must be established in cooperation with the contracted veterinary practitioner.		Verify, if the percentage is too high, whether this was also the case a year ago. If this is the case, verify whether an action plan has been established with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner. Record the findings.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AG04c	Action plan for mortality in year 2 and onwards	If the farm is still above the permitted percentage one year after the action plan was established, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted or a process facilitator must be contracted.	<p>An independent veterinary expert: - has no relationship with the practice of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner is, or is supervised by, a registered European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (see http://www.ebvs.eu/).</p> <p>Swine specialists from e.g. Royal GD (Dutch animal health service) or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine are eligible.</p> <p>Advice provided by the independent veterinary expert on how to reduce the percentage of euthanised animals is considered sufficient. Active supervision is not necessary.</p> <p>The process facilitator must be listed on the register of the VAB (professional association for agricultural business consultants), with the specialism pig farming. The register can be found on https://www.vabnet.nl/leden-en-adviseurs/ledenlijst.html.</p>	Verify, if the percentage is too high, whether last year's percentage also exceeded the permitted percentage. If this is case, verify whether an independent veterinary expert was consulted or whether a process facilitator was contracted. Record the findings.	Minor
AG05a	Discuss slaughter findings	The slaughter findings of the finishers are discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner at least once a year. Findings of the discussion are recorded in a report of the meeting signed/established by the veterinary practitioner.	<p>The abattoir must provide the pig farmer with at least the following information: - organ abnormalities (including pneumonia, pleurisy, liver disorders, skin inflammation, leg or tail damage) - rejection of (parts of) carcasses; - the average deviations/rejections (in %) per delivered group across all suppliers of the abattoir concerned. - tail scores (if available at the abattoir)</p> <p>Together with the contracted veterinary practitioner, the pig farmer incorporates this information in the farm health plan in order to improve animal health and further reduce medication use, where necessary.</p>	Verify and record whether the administrative records contain a report of the meeting signed/established by the veterinary practitioner at least once a year regarding the slaughter findings.	Minor
AG05b	Action plan slaughter findings	When the findings structurally exceed the average at the abattoir, an action plan must be established with the contracted veterinary practitioner. This plan must identify the possible underlying health problems and describe measures to reduce the number of slaughter defects to (below) the average at the abattoir.	In addition, the slaughter findings are discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner at least twice a year.	Verify whether, if the average at the abattoir is structurally exceeded, an action plan has been established and whether the slaughter abnormalities have been included in a visit report signed/established by the veterinary practitioner twice a year with regard to the slaughter findings and whether the measures lead to a reduction. Record the findings.	Minor
AG05c	Action plan for slaughter findings in year 2 and onwards	If the farm is still above the permitted average at the abattoir one year after the action plan was established, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted or a process facilitator must be contracted.	<p>An independent veterinary expert: - has no relationship with the practice of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner is, or is supervised by, a registered European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (see http://www.ebvs.eu/).</p> <p>Advice provided by the veterinary expert on how to reduce exceeding the average at the abattoir is considered sufficient. Active supervision is not necessary.</p> <p>The process facilitator must be listed on the register of the VAB (professional association for agricultural business consultants), with the specialism pig farming. The register can be found on https://www.vabnet.nl/leden-en-adviseurs/ledenlijst.html.</p>	If the average at the abattoir has been exceeded, verify whether this was also the case the year before. If this is the case, verify whether an independent veterinary expert was consulted or whether a process facilitator was contracted. Record the findings.	Minor
AG06	Documentation of medication use	All use of veterinary medicines is documented.		Verify and record whether all medication use is recorded.	Minor
AG06a	Registration of antibiotic use	All antibiotic use must be registered in a database designated by the government for this purpose.	All antibiotic use must be registered in a database designated by the government accessible to the pig farmer, so the trend of antibiotic use over time can be analysed.	Verify and record whether antibiotic use is recorded in a private database accessible to the pig farmer.	Minor
AG07	Visits by veterinary practitioner	Each production unit on the farm is regularly visited by the contracted veterinary practitioner (at least once a month) for a general inspection of animal health and animal welfare. This visit is registered.		Verify and record whether there is a visit report signed/established by the veterinary practitioner containing the findings of the past year.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AG08a	Antibiotics policy	The farm health plan must contain a written policy for the reduction of antibiotic use.		Verify and record whether there is a written policy for the reduction of antibiotic use.	Minor
AG08e	Contracting a process facilitator with high antibiotic use	Pig farms that are in the red area of antibiotic use indicated by the SDa for one or more animal categories for 3 consecutive years must contract a process facilitator.	The process facilitator must be listed on the register of the VAB (professional association for agricultural business consultants), with the specialism pig farming. The register can be found on https://www.vabnet.nl/leden-en-adviseurs/ledenlijst.html . Belgian pig farmers may also contract an AB coach listed on the AB Register of Belpork.	Verify whether the farm is in the red area indicated by the SDa for 3 years. If this is the case, verify whether a process facilitator has been contracted. Record the findings.	Minor
AG09	Ban on medicated feed	Medicated feed must not be provided.	Medicated feed is feed containing antibiotics that has been produced by the feed manufacturer. During production of these feeds a small amount of this feed (including antibiotics) is unavoidably left on the production line and during storage and transport. It is transferred to other feed (carry-over), so low doses of the antibiotic can end up in feed. Research has shown that frequent exposure of bacteria to very low levels of antibiotics - caused, for example, by carry-over - develops antibiotic resistance. To prevent the development of antibiotic resistance, medicated feed is prohibited in the BLL scheme.	Verify and record based on feed delivery notes and/or medicine deliveries whether any medicated feed has been supplied to the farm.	Major
AG10	Blood samples	Blood samples (for animal disease monitoring programmes) are collected as much as possible in the abattoir and are not taken from pigs at the farm.	This does not include blood samples for specific examinations performed by the veterinary practitioner or for export. Exceptions are possible, concerning e.g. examinations of younger animals or sows.	Verify and record whether the records contain the analyses of the past year that show whether sampling takes place at the abattoir or at the farm.	Minor
AG11A	Sick bay	There is a sick bay (or a sick bay is prepared) for sick, weak and injured pigs. The sick bay has a capacity of at least 1% of the total number of animal places available based on sows, piglets and finishers.	In addition to sick or injured pigs, it might also be necessary to move a pig with insufficient weight or an extremely stressed animal to the sick bay if remaining with the other animals would cause additional welfare problems, for example if the pig is unable to compete for feed.	Verify and record whether the capacity complies with the criteria.	Minor
AG11B	Climate in the sick bay	The sick bay must be well ventilated, warm and dry.		Verify and record whether the sick bay is well ventilated, warm and dry.	Minor
AG11C.1	Solid floor in the sick bay	40% of the sick bay floor must be solid unless the veterinary practitioner advises against this for veterinary reasons.		Verify whether the floor of the sick bay complies. If applicable, record why the veterinary practitioner gave this advice. Record the findings.	Minor
AG11D	Bedding in the sick bay	The floor of the sick bay must have bedding, e.g. straw or sawdust. The solid part of the floor may have a rubber mat covered with bedding, unless the veterinary practitioner advises against this for veterinary reasons.		Verify whether the floor is covered with sufficient bedding. If there is no bedding, ask for a declaration from the veterinary practitioner. Record the findings.	Minor
AG11E	Eye contact in the sick bay	A pig in the sick bay must be able to make eye contact with other pigs.	Eye contact must be possible unless the veterinary practitioner advises against this for veterinary reasons.	Verify whether the pigs in the sick bay can have eye contact with the other pigs. Record the findings.	Minor
AG11F	Cleaning the sick bay	The sick bay must be constructed so it is easy to clean and disinfect between each use. Any dead animals can be easily removed to minimise the risk of contact with other animals.		Verify whether the sick bay is easy to clean and disinfect. Record the findings.	Minor
AG11G	Disposal of faeces from the sick bay	Urine and manure from the sick bay must be prevented from coming into contact with the other animals. Faeces must be disposed in a way that minimises the risk of contact with other animals.	For example, locate the sick bay at the end of the barn so manure and urine are not drained along other pens.	Verify the location of the sick bay. Record the findings.	Minor
AG12	Euthanising seriously ill or injured animals	The farm health plan contains a written policy for euthanising seriously ill or injured animals with no prospect of recovery.	The 'Farm decision tool for piglets in need of care' and the 'Farm decision tool for pigs in need of care for 2 months and older' established by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine can be used for this purpose. These tools can be consulted on the Better Life label website.	Verify the euthanasia policy and health plan. Verify whether the farm health plan includes the euthanasia policy. Record the findings.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AG12a	Euthanising seriously ill or injured animals	Seriously injured or sick animals are euthanised in time. Euthanasia is based on legislation and humane principles (the animal is spared any avoidable form of pain, stress or suffering). Agreements have been made with the veterinary practitioner for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously ill or injured animals in emergency situations.	When animals are killed and during the related activities, care is taken to ensure the animals are spared any avoidable form of pain, stress or suffering. An approved humane method of killing leads to immediate death without additional suffering, discomfort or stress for the animal. Euthanasia with stunning using a captive bolt pistol is permitted, provided the user has the necessary permits (storage and possession of ammunition). Euthanasia with a mechanical electric device is also permitted, whereby the device must first be placed on the head to stun.	Interview employees and verify whether there are any seriously injured or sick animals with no prospect of recovery. Verify whether the contract with the veterinary practitioner contains agreements for them to visit the farm, if necessary, to euthanise seriously injured or sick animals (e.g. in emergency situations). Verify the permit if a captive bolt pistol is used/is on the farm. Record the findings.	Minor
AG12c	Reasons for euthanasia	Underlying reasons for euthanasia performed by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner are registered by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	This is registered e.g. in the visit report.	Verify and record whether the underlying reasons for euthanasia are registered by the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner.	Minor
AG12d	Action plan for structural reasons for euthanasia	To address structural reasons for euthanasia, the pig farmer, in consultation with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner, establishes an action plan aimed at minimising the causes and reducing the percentage of euthanised animals.		Verify and record whether the farmer has established an action plan for the structural underlying reasons for euthanasia.	Minor
AG12e	Action plan for the structural underlying reasons for euthanasia in year 2 and onwards.	If the farm has still not reduced the percentage of euthanised animals one year after the action plan was established, an independent veterinary expert must be consulted or a process facilitator must be contracted.	An independent veterinary expert: - has no relationship with the practice of the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner is, or is supervised by, a registered European veterinary specialist/swine health care expert (see http://www.ebvs.eu/). Swine specialists from e.g. Royal GD (Dutch animal health service) or from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine are eligible. Advice provided by the independent veterinary expert on how to reduce the percentage of euthanised animals is considered sufficient. Active supervision is not necessary. The process facilitator must be listed on the register of the VAB (professional association for agricultural business consultants), with the specialism pig farming. The register can be found on https://www.vabnet.nl/leden-en-adviseurs/ledenlijst.html .	If the percentage of euthanised animals has not been reduced based on the action plan, verify whether this was also the case the year before. If this is the case, verify whether an independent veterinary expert was consulted or whether a process facilitator was contracted. Record the findings.	Minor
Housing					
AH01	Stimulating dunging behaviour RECOMMENDATION	At least 3 measures have been taken to encourage the pigs to manure and urinate in a fixed place.	Animals are encouraged to manure and urinate in a fixed place using, among other things: - More light above the dunging area; - A solid pen partition at the lying area and an open pen partition at the manureing area so pigs can see into the neighbouring pen; - Hanging the drinker near the manureing area; - Raising or lowering the floor of the dunging area so the pigs must fully step on and off; - The dunging area must be sufficiently large to allow pigs to stand fully on it, in all directions.	Verify whether at least 3 measures have been taken to encourage the pigs to manure and urinate in a fixed place. Record the findings.	Recommendation
AH02	Heat stress	Heat stress must be prevented. Measures must be taken from an outside temperature of 21°C at animal level, depending on the animal category.	When an animal starts to experience heat stress depends on the age and animal category (piglet, sow, finisher), the temperature and relative humidity. For more information about the temperature limits per animal category: https://edepot.wur.nl/587090 . For tips on how to prevent heat stress and documents to establish a Farm-specific heat protocol, see: https://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/Hittstress/Adviezen-varkens . For the prediction of heat stress see: https://www.gddiergezondheid.nl/Hittstress	Record the measures taken by the farm to prevent heat stress. Verify and record during the inspection whether measures have been taken to prevent heat stress at animal level from a temperature from 21°C.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AH03a	Measuring the barn climate	<p>There is a measuring system that continuously monitors the barn climate at animal level. At least the following parameters are continuously monitored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indoor temperature; - Carbon dioxide concentration; - Ammonia concentration; - Relative humidity. <p>With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2028. With the exception of pig farmers who do not comply with criterion B01.1a. These farmers must comply with this criterion from 01-07-2026.</p>	<p>The equipment complies with the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at least 4 measurements are taken per hour; - the sensors are located as close as possible to nose level of the pigs. In practice this is in the middle above the pen, away from the direct influence of incoming air and as low as possible above the pigs without them being able to reach the sensors; - maintenance is performed on the sensors at least once every 2 years and functioning is validated annually; - measurement data of at least 300 days is available per year; - sensors automatically report malfunctioning; <p>Measurement data is logged and saved for at least 2 years for analysis to obtain greater insight. The user has real-time and continuous insight into the measured values.</p>	<p>Verify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether there is a suitable barn climate measuring system in the barn - whether the measuring system is correctly located - whether the measurement data is available - whether there is a maintenance contract, logbook or other proof of maintenance and validation - the number of days of available measured values in the past year <p>Record the findings.</p>	Minor
AH03aa	Number of measuring units barn climate	<p>There is at least one barn climate measuring system with the following animal categories: finishers, farrowing sows, weaned piglets, gestating sows.</p> <p>With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2028. With the exception of pig farmers who do not comply with criterion B01.1a. These farmers must comply with this criterion from 01-07-2026.</p>	<p>There is a correctly located barn climate system in at least one section of the animal categories present. The system must comply with the criteria in AH03a.</p>	<p>Verify and record whether a barn climate system is present in at least one section of the animal categories present.</p>	Minor
AH03b	Barn climate	<p>The barn climate is satisfactory in terms of temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide and ammonia for at least 60% per 3 months.</p> <p>The objective is working towards a barn climate that is within the current target values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fluctuations in temperature of maximum 5°C per day - Carbon dioxide < 3000 ppm - Ammonia < 20 ppm - 45% < relative humidity < 80% <p>With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2028. With the exception of pig farmers who do not comply with criterion B01.1a. These farmers must comply with this criterion from 01-07-2026.</p>	<p>The measured data of the climate system indicate whether the measured parameters are within the target values. Per quarter, these results are exported from the system (or provided by the supplier) per animal category. An action plan must be established if more than 60% of the values are outside the target values. At least 1 measure from this action plan must be implemented within 3 months.</p>	<p>Verify whether there are quarterly reports and the percentage of values that is within the target values. If less than 60% of the values are within the target values, verify whether there is an action plan for improvement and whether measures have been implemented in the operational management strategy. Record the findings.</p>	Minor
AH03c	Discuss monitoring the barn climate	<p>The results of monitoring the barn climate are discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and/or a climate specialist every six months.</p> <p>If >75% of the measured parameters are within the target values in the past 4 quarterly periods, it is sufficient to discuss the monitoring results once a year.</p> <p>With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2028. With the exception of pig farmers who do not comply with criterion B01.1a. These farmers must comply with this criterion from 01-07-2026.</p>	<p>Findings of the discussions are recorded in a short interview or visit report.</p>	<p>Verify whether the indicators for the barn climate are below the set standards and, based on an interview or visit logbooks, verify whether the results have been discussed with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner and/or a climate specialist every six months or every year. Record the findings.</p>	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AH03e	Climate specialist barn climate	If < 60% of the measured parameters are within the target values in the past 4 quarterly periods, the monitoring results must be discussed with a climate specialist. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2028. With the exception of pig farmers who do not comply with criterion B01.1a. These farmers must comply with this criterion from 01-07-2026.	An external climate specialist may come from a feed company or a veterinary practice.	Verify whether farms that failed to comply with the barn climate standards after 4 quarterly periods have contracted an external climate expert. Verify whether the farm is able to comply with the barn climate standards within one consecutive year. Record the findings.	Major
AH04a	Source-targeted measures to reduce ammonia RECOMMENDATION	Ammonia emissions are reduced using source-targeted measures.	Source-targeted measures such as cooling or storage in an acid or separating and removing manure and urine are currently being developed and tested for RAV/OW accreditation. As soon as these systems are ready for use in practice, they will become a criterion in the Better Life label scheme with new construction or renovation.	Verify and record the source-targeted approach with new construction or renovation.	Recommendation
AH05A.1	Light	There must be a clear day-night rhythm in each barn with at least 8 hours of uninterrupted darkness and at least 8 hours of uninterrupted light (daylight or artificial light).	The 8-hour period of uninterrupted light cannot be applied between sunset and sunrise.	Verify whether a day-night rhythm is used on the farm. This may be, e.g., a timer on the artificial lighting or allowing daylight to enter the barn. The pig farmer can also be asked how this is organised. Record the method used or the answer given by the pig farmer.	Minor
AH05B	Light intensity	The light in the barn, at animal height, is at least 40 Lux.	All animals must have sufficient light. Crepuscular is too dark. Direct lighting is provided by LED lighting or equivalent. Artificial lighting does not need to be switched on if there is enough natural light.	Use a Lux meter to measure whether 40 Lux is achieved throughout the barn at animal height. If artificial lighting is on when entering the section, perform the measurement with artificial lighting on. If artificial light is off when entering the section, perform the measurement with the artificial lighting off. Record the findings.	Minor
AH05C.1	Daylight permeable area	The daylight permeable area in walls and roofs is at least 2% of the floor area. Daylight permeation through the side wall: 2% of the floor area. Daylight permeation through the roof: divide by factor 2, or 1% of the floor area. Daylight permeation through a light well in the roof: divide by factor 4, or 0.50% of the floor area. Materials with a transmission value lower than 0.8 must be compensated for by providing a larger daylight permeable area with new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2045.	The floor area concerns the area of the section including the feed corridor and/or work corridors. The daylight permeable surfaces may consist of skylights, side windows and/or light wells, for example. Daylight permeable surfaces may also be made of other materials such as opaque glass, glass blocks or polycarbonate roofing sheet, provided these materials permit an equal total amount of daylight to permeate as standard glass. This assumes an average transmission value of 0.8 for standard glass. A lower transmission value must be compensated for by providing a larger daylight permeable surface area. The size of the daylight permeable surface area is calculated as follows: (0.8/transmission value × percentage of daylight permeable area × floor area) Chalk may be applied to daylight permeable surfaces from 1 April to 30 September. The layer of chalk must still permit daylight transmission through the surface. It must not be thick enough to disrupt the natural day and night rhythm in the barn. The daylight permeable surfaces must be clear (free of chalk on the surfaces) from 1 October to 31 March.	Verify and record the percentage of daylight permeable area and whether the surfaces (light panels, windows) actually allow daylight to permeate (e.g. whether a day-night rhythm can be observed and the surfaces are clean). Verify and record whether no chalk is applied to the daylight permeable surfaces during the period from 1 October to 31 March.	Minor
AH06	Rubbing device	A rubbing device is permanently provided in each pen (except for sows in the service and farrowing house).	A rubbing device may be, e.g.: - a pole (e.g. a wooden pole with a diameter of at least 15 cm), - a brush (e.g. the brush of a broom fixed to a wall or pole), or - a concrete partition with a rough surface. - an angle iron The rubbing devices must be mounted in an easily accessible place (for all ages).	Verify whether there is a rubbing device that complies with the criteria in at least 1 pen per animal category. Record which rubbing device is provided.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AH07	Enrichment material	<p>There is enrichment material in each pen with pigs. The material must comply with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of plant or animal origin (organic) - Not mixed with regular feed - On the ground to permit rooting - Safe for pigs - Clean - Refreshed, replenished or replaced at least once a week <p>At least 25% of the pigs in a pen can be occupied 24 hours a day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. with loose clean materials on the floor, and/or; 2. by removing material from a dispenser, and/or; 3. by rooting in material in a tray on the floor, and/or; 4. by playing with suspended objects trailing on the floor such as jute cloth, ropes or soft wood. 	<p>Enrichment material must enable pigs to meet their essential behavioural needs without compromising their health. How it is provided greatly influences the effectiveness of enrichment material. See the Better Life Label website for the WUR brochure 'Pen enrichment and nesting material for pigs' and the corresponding pen enrichment card.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a dispenser (rack/basket/tube/platform) is used, the pigs must be able to remove the material easily and the dispenser must be placed at the right height. The snout may be lifted to a maximum of shoulder height. - If the dispenser is suspended above a slatted floor, sufficient material must remain on the floor for the pigs to root with. - If trays on the floor are used, the pigs must be able to root in the tray with their snouts. There must be enough space for the snout to move and root. - If objects such as a jute cloth, ropes, soft wood or fresh branches are used, the material must be completely or partially on the floor and must be easy for the pigs to break up. <p>Combinations of straw, dispensers, trays and objects are permitted to ensure that enrichment material is available for at least 25% of the pigs in a pen at any time.</p> <p>Enrichment material must be offered as much as possible in a place other than where the animals eat, rest or defecate. It is not permitted to provide enrichment material in the feed trough. For sows in the farrowing house or the service house each animal must have access to enrichment material, in accordance with this criterion.</p>	<p>Verify and record per animal category whether there is enrichment material available in at least 4 pens that complies with the criteria.</p> <p>Verify using the purchase orders whether the material is replenished, supplemented or replaced at least once a week.</p>	Major
AH08.1	Straw for groups >40	<p>Straw is provided in pens with at least 40 gilts or pregnant sows, weaned piglets or finishers. The straw should be permanently available.</p>	<p>In addition to straw, other enrichment materials may also be used, such as hay or alfalfa, provided that Wageningen University and Research has assessed that the material meets the enrichment needs of the animal to a comparable extent.</p> <p>If a dispenser used, such as a basket or a rack, at least two sows, three piglets or two finishers can remove straw from the dispenser container at the same time. The dispenser must be placed at the correct height, the snout may be lifted to a maximum of shoulder height. The straw must be dispensed easily. Other innovative dispensers that comply with this criteria based on loose corn or loose straw are also permitted provided it can be demonstrated they are always filled and the farm has a stock of corn/straw.</p> <p>If an automatic straw dispenser is used, a small amount of straw is dispensed onto the solid floor of the pen once or several times a day.</p>	<p>Verify in at least 4 pens whether the straw distribution method complies with the criteria. Record the method of dispensing straw. Verify, e.g., based on purchase orders whether straw or similar material is provided.</p>	Minor
AH12	Escape route	<p>In each group pen of 20 or more animals, sows, weaned piglets and finishers are able to escape from their pen mates. With new construction and/or renovation, but no later than from 01-01-2030.</p>	<p>Examples of an escape route are a partition, a platform, a bar or outdoor access. The purpose is to allow the pig to isolate itself out of sight of the other pigs. This reduces stress and can help avoid fighting and tail biting. There must be at least 1 shelter for each group of pigs. In groups of more than 40 pigs, there must be 1 shelter for every 20 pigs.</p>	<p>Verify and record whether there is an escape route. Verify and record whether there is 1 additional shelter for every 20 pigs in groups of more than 40 pigs.</p>	Minor
AH13	Live wires	<p>Live wires are not permitted in the areas of the barn that are accessible to the pigs.</p>	<p>The use of live wires, whether or not under power, is not permitted in the barn.</p>	<p>Verify and record whether there are live wires in the barn within reach of the pigs.</p>	Minor
AH14	Passages between pens	<p>Passages may be created between pens to increase the group size, under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The passageway must always be open, with the exception of the situations described in criterion AH15; - Two pigs must be able to pass through the passageway at the same time with ease; - The passageway contains as few tight bends and/or dead ends as possible; - There are no protrusions or obstacles (such as thresholds, ridges that are higher/deeper than the toes) in/around the passageway; - There is sufficient lighting and there is as little visibility as possible of disruptive elements that can distract or scare animals (e.g. moving objects, chains in the direction of movement). 	<p>The passageways between existing sections/pens must comply with the criteria in order to provide the pigs with an unobstructed entrance that encourages them to use the entire area available.</p>	<p>If applicable, verify and record whether the passageways between existing sections/pens comply with the conditions.</p>	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
AH15	Longer closure of passageways between pens	The passageways may be temporarily closed by barriers. This is only permitted in the following situations: - For up to a maximum of the first seven days when setting up piglets in the weaned piglet 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. For as long as necessary. 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 piglet/finisher/sow; - Up to a maximum of 24 hours before the delivery of piglets and the permanent removal of pigs to the abattoir.	To encourage the piglets to use the intended dunging area as a permanent dunging area. To limit further spread of the disease where possible. To prevent piglet movement between the connected pens which causes restlessness.	If applicable, verify and record whether the passageways are only closed during setting up (piglets), infectious diseases and delivery.	Minor
Teaser boars					
BE01.1	Pens for teaser boars	The boar pen has a minimum available floor area of at least 6.0 m ² per teaser boar. If the pen is also used for mating, a floor area of 10.0 m ² per teaser boar applies.	This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen.	Verify and record the floor area in the teaser boar pen.	Major
BE03	Bedding on lying place floor for teaser boars	The lying place floor must be covered with straw or similar bedding material. With new construction and renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2030.	In barns with partially slatted floors, this only concerns the solid floor.	Verify and record with new construction and renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2030, whether there is bedding on the lying place floor.	Minor
BE04	Solid floor teaser boars	At least 2/3rds of the floor is solid.	A solid floor is a floor or part of a floor, which is fitted with slurry-permeable openings. A floor is considered solid if: a. the total of slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor, and b. the width of slurry-permeable slat openings does not exceed 10 mm and the diameter of round slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 20 mm. For example, so-called 'German Welfare Slats' and square grid slats do not comply with the criteria for solid floors.	Verify and record whether a maximum of 1/3rd of the floor is slatted.	Minor
BE05	eating place width teaser boars	The feeding provides a width of at least 30 cm per teaser boar to feed.	From 01-01-2030, only the inner length between separators will be measured to assess the width to feed. This also applies to the places at the extreme ends of the troughs, the corner is not included. With round feeders, the inner length between separators is calculated by dividing the circumference by the number of eating places minus the sum of the width of all separators together.	Verify and record the width of the trough.	Minor
Gilts					
G02	Housing young gilts for breeding body weight up to 110 kg	Young gilts for breeding weighing up to 110 kg must be housed in compliance with the criteria for finishers.	The criteria for finishers concern all criteria indicated by the letter V.	Verify and record the stocking density of the gilts for breeding up to 110 kg and whether they are kept in compliance with the criteria for finishers.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
G03	Housing young gilts for breeding body weight from 110 kg	<p>From 110 kg, young gilts for breeding are housed at a stocking density of at least 1.5 m² per gilt, of which at least 40% is a solid floor. This applies no later than from 02-05-2027.</p> <p>After new construction or renovation, but no later than 01-01-2035, young gilts for breeding are housed at a stocking density of at least 1.8 m² per gilt, of which at least 50% is a solid floor.</p> <p>From when the gilts are ready for breeding, the criteria for housing for sows will apply.</p>	The criteria for sows concern all criteria indicated by the letter Z.	Verify and record the stocking density of the gilts for breeding from 110 kg.	Minor
Sows					
Z02	Mortality rate of breeding animals	The mortality rate of breeding animals is registered.	The reason for the mortality rate is important for health analysis.	Verify and record whether and how this is recorded. A printout of the management programme or other registration is sufficient. Registration on the sow chart only is not sufficient.	Minor
Z03	Monitoring hoof health	The condition of the legs and hooves of at least 30 sows is inspected at least once a year for excessive strain, excessive growth or infections, using the hoof check tool.	<p>The hoof check tool can be found on the Better Life label business website under 'Pigs'.</p> <p>If there are one or more scores of 3 or 4 in the hoof check, improvements must be made and the monitoring frequency increased to twice a year until there are no more scores of 3 or 4 in the hoof check.</p>	<p>Verify and record whether the pig farmer has registered the findings of the annual hoof check. Record the dates of the annual hoof check.</p> <p>Verify and record whether the monitoring frequency was increased from once to twice a year for one or more scores of 3 or 4 in the hoof check.</p>	Minor
Z03a	Evaluating monitoring hoof health	The results of the hoof check are evaluated once a year with the farm's contracted veterinary practitioner to prevent aspects including excessive growth, infections and pain when moving.		Verify whether the results from the hoof check are discussed with the veterinary practitioner. Record the findings.	Minor
Z04B	Tail biting breeding animals	At least 95% of the breeding animals have an intact, undamaged tail.		Verify in at least two sections whether at least 95% of the animals have an intact, undamaged tail. Record the findings.	Minor
Z05	Individual housing sows	<p>Gilts or sows may be housed individually from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> one week before the calculated time of farrowing until the time of farrowing. weaning up to and including 4 days after the day of natural mating or artificial insemination (AI). 		Verify how long the sows are housed individually and record the maximum number of days.	Minor
Z06	Service groups	When animals are grouped during weaning / mating, extra inspections must be performed to identify aggressive animals and/or injured/stressed animals promptly.	<p>When animals are added to a group at different moments, the farmer must perform an extra inspection on several occasions during the first days after the animals were grouped.</p> <p>Aggressive animals must supervised and in extreme cases separated from the group.</p> <p>Any injured/stressed animals are recorded and discussed with the veterinary practitioner and, if necessary, transferred to the sick bay if remaining with the other animals causes additional welfare problems, for example if the pig is unable to compete for feed.</p>	Verify and record whether there are stable groups, or whether there are any aggressive, injured or stressed animals in the group. Verify in an interview whether any additional inspections are performed when the animals are grouped. Record the findings.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
Z08.1	Space to move sows	<p>The sows have sufficient space to move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups of 1 up to and including 5 sows: min. 2.475 m² per sow - Groups of 6 up to and including 19 sows: min. 2.40 m² per sow - Groups of 20 up to and including 39 sows: min. 2.25 m² per sow - Groups of 40 or more sows: 2.25 m² minus 10% = min. 2.03 m² per sow <p>At least 1.3 m² of this is a solid floor to provide a lying area.</p>	<p>This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen.</p> <p>In larger groups, animals can 'borrow' space from each other. It is permitted to keep sows in smaller groups provided there is a larger floor surface area per sow. For groups of 40 or more animals, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10% per animal.</p> <p>A solid floor is a floor or part of a floor, which is fitted with slurry-permeable openings. A floor is considered solid if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the total of slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor, and the width of slurry-permeable slat openings does not exceed 10 mm and the diameter of round slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 20 mm. <p>For example, so-called 'German Welfare Slats' and square grid slats do not comply with the criteria for solid floors.</p>	Verify and record the surface area per sow.	Major
Z09.1	Enlarging space to move sows	<p>The sows have sufficient space to move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups of 1 up to and including 17: min. 2.75 m² per sow; - Groups of 18 up to and including 39: min. 2.50 m² per sow; - Groups of 40 or more sows: 2.50 m² minus 10% = min. 2.25 m² per sow. <p>At least 1.3 m² of this is a solid floor to provide a lying area.</p> <p>With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035.</p>	<p>This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen.</p> <p>In larger groups, animals can 'borrow' space from each other. It is permitted to keep sows in smaller groups provided there is a larger floor surface area per sow. For groups of 40 or more animals, the surface area per animal may be reduced by 10% per animal.</p> <p>A solid floor is a floor or part of a floor, which is fitted with slurry-permeable openings. A floor is considered solid if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the total of slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor, and the width of slurry-permeable slat openings does not exceed 10 mm and the diameter of round slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 20 mm. <p>For example, so-called 'German Welfare Slats' and square grid slats do not comply with the criteria for solid floors.</p>	Verify and record the number of sows per group and the floor surface area per sow.	Minor
Z09.1a	Lying areas group housing sows	If lying areas are created in group housing for sows, the minimum width is 2.8 m.	A sow lying down occupies approx. 55-60 cm. This width allows five sows to lie down next to each other.	Verify the width of the lying areas randomly. Record the findings.	Minor
Z10	Phasing out free access feeding stalls	Group housing in free access feeding stalls is no longer used.	Using former feeding pens exclusively as feeding and/or drinking places is permitted if the minimum floor area and solid floor requirements per sow are complied with without these pens. In this situation, there are no longer free access feeding stalls, but a feeding/drinking pen (which cannot be closed) and a separate lying area. As soon as the pens are used to provide feed at the same time, there must be at least as many feeding pens as sows.	Verify whether there are any feeding pens. Record the findings.	Minor
Z12	Bedding on lying place floor RECOMMENDATION	The floor of the lying place must be covered with straw or similar bedding material or rubber coated.	In anticipation of the results of research into a comfortable floor type in relation to lying behaviour in the framework of the humane animal husbandry covenant in the coming years, criteria concerning lying comfort will be added in the future.	Verify whether the floor is covered with bedding or rubber coated. Record the findings.	Recommendation
Z13	Dunging area for sows	<p>The surface of the dunging area must provide the sows with sufficient grip.</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 bedding. 	The dunging area consists of, e.g. profiled metal or a concrete slatted floor.	Verify and record whether the dunging area provides the sows with sufficient grip. Record the material used in the dunging area. If applicable, verify and record whether at purchase a concrete floor complies with a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or FSC2000 value 0.60 (stated on the certificate with the floor) and whether a dunging area consisting of a solid floor has been covered with straw or similar bedding.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
Z14	Trough feeding	If dry and gestating sows are trough fed at the same time, the animals are protected by trough dividers above the trough.	Dividers prevent the pigs from eating each other's feed ration as much as possible. Trough dividers of up to 1.20 metres are permitted. The length of the trough divider is measured including the depth of the trough, regardless of whether the trough allows a sow to rest her head underneath. Foot supports between 0.80 and 1.20 metres to support the trough divider are not a problem. However, solid barriers reaching to the floor are not permitted. The maximum length of a trough divider no longer applies when the minimum floor area and solid floor per sow are complied with without a feed pen, as described in criterion Z10.	Verify whether there is a trough divider and the length with trough feeding. Record the total length of the trough dividers.	Minor
Z14a	Eating places for sows restricted feeding	With restricted feeding several times a day (not <i>ad libitum</i>), all the sows can eat at the same time. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2035.	In addition to liquid feed, this also concerns sensor feeding, for example. N/A with feeding stations.	Verify and record whether there are sufficient eating places.	Minor
Z15.2	Floor feeding	With floor feeding systems, groups may not exceed 25 sows.	To prevent competition for feed, it is important that groups are formed of sows that are as similar as possible in parity and body condition difference. The larger the group, the lower the chance of uniformity.	Verify and record whether groups of sows do not exceed 25 animals.	Minor
Z16.1	Number of eating places for individual or ad libitum feeding	With individual or ad libitum feeding systems, there is at least one eating place per 12 sows.	N/A with feeding stations.	Verify and record whether there is one eating place per 12 sows. N/A with feeding stations.	Minor
Z17.1	Eating place width sows	With trough feeding, individual or ad libitum feeding, the eating place must be at least 30 cm wide. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2030, the eating place width with individual or ad libitum feeding is at least 35 cm, except for eating places in feeding stations.	With trough feeding, feed is offered in such a way that all the sows can eat at the same time. From 01-01-2030, only the inner length between separators will be measured to assess the width to feed. This also applies to the places at the extreme ends of the troughs, the corner is not included. With round feeders, the inner length between separators is calculated by dividing the circumference minus the sum of the width of all separators together by the number of eating places.	Verify and record whether the width of the eating place complies. Verify and record with new construction or renovation, but no later than from 01-01-2030, whether the width of the eating place complies.	Minor
Z18.1	Number of drinking places	There is at least 1 functioning drinking place per 12 sows.	The feeding station does not count as a drinking place.	Verify and record the number of sows per functioning drinking place.	Minor
Z18.1A	At least 2 drinking places RECOMMENDATION	In group housing, regardless of the group size, at least 2 functioning drinking places are available at the same time.	Providing 2 drinking places prevents a higher ranked pig blocking the drinking place for a lower ranked pig.	Verify and record whether there are at least 2 functioning drinking places available at the same time.	Recommendation
Z19	Forage	To counteract hunger, the sows are fed <i>ad libitum</i> with: - feed with a high v-NSP content, or - forage such as straw, grass silage or hay	Forage: feedstuff with a structure value higher than 1.10/kg DM. The structure value is assessed based on the structure value as listed in the CVB feed tables, see www.cvbiervoeding.nl for the current CVB feed tables.	Verify whether fibre-rich feed or forage has been purchased using purchase orders. Verify whether it has been provided in the barn. Record the type of fibre-rich feed and the findings.	Major

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
Farrowing pen					
K01.1	free-farrowing pen	<p>In the free-farrowing pen, the sow may be confined around farrowing for a maximum of 5 days, after which it must be able to move freely through the farrowing pen. During a transitional period of two years after the introduction of free-farrowing pens, this may be a maximum of 2 days before farrowing and a maximum of 5 days after.</p> <p>With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035*.</p> <p>*The end date of the transitional period is subject to the ability to reasonably obtain the necessary permit(s) in the general sense in 2030, i.e. without the granting of permits in the Netherlands having stagnated. Whether this is the case is assessed and determined by (the director of) the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p>	<p>Ideally, the way forward is loose farrowing systems. A sow may however be confined for a limited time to prevent piglets being crushed. To offer pig farmers more flexibility during the transition to the new system - where sows also need time to adapt - this may also be a longer period during the first two years following the introduction of free-farrowing pens (the transitional period). The start of the transitional period depends on when free-farrowing pens have been created on the farm. The start and end of the transitional period therefore differs per farm.</p> <p>More practical research is required first for group farrowing pens.</p>	<p>Verify with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035 whether the farrowing pens in the farrowing section comply. Record the number of days the sows are confined in the farrowing pen.</p>	Major
K01.1a	free-farrowing pen floor area	<p>The free-farrowing pen offers the sow access to at least 4,5 m² of the total floor area with a turning circle of at least 2 m.</p> <p>With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035*.</p> <p>A longer transitional period applies until 01-01-2050 on early-adopter farms that had free-farrowing pens before 02-05-2026.</p> <p>*The end date of the transitional period is subject to the ability to reasonably obtain the necessary permit(s) in the general sense in 2030, i.e. without the granting of permits in the Netherlands having stagnated. Whether this is the case is assessed and determined by (the director of) the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p>	<p>This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen.</p>	<p>Verify with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035 whether the pen floor area and turning circle in the farrowing section comply. Record the findings.</p>	Major

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
K02.1	Surface area	<p>The surface area of a farrowing pen is at least 3.8 m². The sow may be confined to prevent piglets being crushed.</p> <p>With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-26, but no later than from 01-01-2035 * free-farrowing pens will be used. The floor area of the pen is least 7.5 m². This includes space for the piglets and the piglet nest.</p> <p>A longer transitional period applies until 01-01-2050 on early-adopter farms that had free-farrowing pens before 02-05-2026.</p> <p>*The end date of the transitional period is subject to the ability to reasonably obtain the necessary permit(s) in the general sense in 2030, i.e. without the granting of permits in the Netherlands having stagnated. Whether this is the case is assessed and determined by (the director of) the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p>	This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen.	Measure the surface area of 1 pen of each type of farrowing pen. Record the findings.	Major
K03.1	Lying area for farrowing sows	<p>If the lying area consists entirely of a slatted floor, the lying comfort (cooling) must be increased by constructing the area from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coated metal or - metal specially cast for this purpose or - hard plastic. 		Verify and record the material used for the floor.	Minor
K05.1	Nesting material	<p>In the farrowing barn, the farrowing sow is provided with nesting material 24 hours a day, for at least 7 days before the expected farrowing date.</p> <p>The sow must be able to root in the nesting material, scrape the floor and pick up the material in her mouth. The material should be safe and clean.</p>	<p>Nesting material can consist of straw, hay, a jute cloth/sack or similar material. Jute cloth/sack must be sturdy and attached to the pen partition within reach of the sow (partly on the floor and near the sow's head). Very hard materials (e.g. wood) are not suitable as nesting material.</p> <p>See the Better Life Label website for the WUR brochure 'Pen enrichment and nesting material for pigs' and the corresponding pen enrichment card in which nesting material is also extensively discussed.</p>	Verify whether there is nesting material and which type in at least 4 farrowing pens. Also verify purchase orders of nesting material. Record the findings.	Minor
K06	Farrowing pen	If sows are confined during farrowing, there must be at least 30 cm of space behind the sow to enable farrowing.		Measure and record the space to farrow behind the sow.	Minor
K07.1	Forage material sows in farrowing pen	Sows are offered forage material in the farrowing pen no later than one day after farrowing.	Edible forage material is provided daily, but not at the same time as the feed. 20 grams of straw/alfalfa/CCM/grass silage per animal must be provided at least twice a day. If the sow already has access to permanent forage material to meet the requirements of AH07, this criterion does not apply.	Verify in the farrowing pens and, for example, based on purchase orders and interviews, that at least 20 grams of straw, alfalfa, CCM, or grass silage per animal is provided twice daily. Record the findings.	Minor
K07A.1	Enrichment material sucking piglets in the farrowing pen	Suckling piglets are offered enrichment material in the farrowing pen no later than 2 days after farrowing.	<p>For a description of the criteria enrichment material must comply with, see AH07.</p> <p>Enrichment materials the sows and piglets can play together with or eat together contributes to the social development of the piglet. A jute cloth, sack or rope can be hung so the piglets and sows can play at the same time. Only jute cloth/sack/rope accessible to the piglets count as enrichment material for the piglets.</p>	Verify whether enrichment material is provided, whether it is sufficient and whether it complies with the criteria. Record the type of enrichment material provided.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
K08	Piglet nest	<p>All suckling piglets from one litter have a safe, protected lying place (the piglet nest) of at least 0.6 m².</p> <p>With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026 but no later than from 01-01-2035* the piglet nest is at least 1.0 m² of continuous floor area.</p> <p>A longer transitional period applies until 01-01-2050 on early-adopter farms that had free-farrowing pens before 02-05-2026.</p> <p>*The end date of the transitional period is subject to the ability to reasonably obtain the necessary permit(s) in the general sense in 2030, i.e. without the granting of permits in the Netherlands having stagnated. Whether this is the case is assessed and determined by (the director of) the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals.</p>		<p>Verify whether the lying place is safe and protected and has a minimum area of 0.6 m².</p> <p>Verify with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035 whether there is a sheltered lying place with a minimum floor area of 1.0 m².</p> <p>Verify with early-adopters or with new construction and/or renovation, but no later than from 01-01-2050 whether the lying place is safe and protected and has a minimum area of 1.0 m².</p> <p>Record the findings.</p>	Minor
K08.1	Enlarging piglet nest RECOMMENDATION	All suckling piglets from one litter have a safe, protected lying place (the piglet nest) of at least 1.2 m ² continuous floor area.	With a larger piglet nest, more piglets will fit into the nest at the same time towards the end of the farrowing period.	Verify whether the lying place is safe and protected and has a minimum area of 1.2 m ² . Record the findings.	Recommendation
K08a	Floor piglet nest	The floor of the piglet nest is solid.		Verify and record whether the piglet nest has a solid floor.	Minor
K08b	Heating piglet nest	The piglet nest is heated by: 1. a piglet lamp, infrared panel and/or 2. floor heating	The temperature in the piglet nest is adapted to suit the current needs of the piglets in the nest.	Verify whether there is heating in the nest and the type of heating. Record the findings.	Minor
K08c	Bedding piglet nest	<p>The floor of the piglet nest must be covered with straw or similar natural material.</p> <p>With new construction and/or renovation of the farrowing pens, but no later than from 01-01-2035.</p>		Verify and record with new construction or renovation, but no later than from 01-01-2035, whether there is bedding on the floor of the piglet nest.	Minor
K09A.1	Fostering piglets	Routinely fostering piglets is not permitted.	<p>In principle, each sow suckles her own piglets. Fostering piglets should therefore not be routine and is only permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within the same age group (piglets) - up to and including the age of 3 days after birth - if the percentage of fostered piglets within one age group (piglets) remains below 10%. 	Verify the pen charts for irregularities concerning fostering. Record any irregularities.	Minor
K09B.1	Artificial suckling	Artificial suckling (e.g. an artificial sow or rescue deck) is not permitted.	<p>Artificial suckling (e.g. an artificial sow or rescue deck) is only permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in extreme cases, - temporarily, - in consultation with the contracted veterinary practitioner, and - provided measures are taken to remove the need for artificial suckling. 	Verify whether artificial suckling is used. If artificial suckling is used, verify and record with the farmer whether consultation with the veterinary practitioner has taken place (using e.g. a visit report) and whether measures are being taken to remove the need for artificial suckling.	Minor
K10.1	Play area for piglets	Piglets in the farrowing pen must be able to move around the pen freely and without obstruction.	<p>This gives them more space to play and acquire normal behaviour.</p> <p>This does not apply to a separate piglet nest that is not part of the farrowing pen. Adjustable floors are still permitted, as they are usually only a potential obstacle for the piglets during the first few days.</p>	Verify and record whether piglets in the farrowing pen can move around the pen freely and without obstruction.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
K11	Solid feed	Suckling piglets are given solid feed or a creep feed porridge from the age of 14 days at the latest.	This enables the piglets to get used to solid feed and prevents weaning dip.	Verify and record whether piglets are given solid feed no later than from 2 weeks of age and older. Verify based on the stock and/or invoices.	Minor
K11a	Piglets eat with sow	Piglets older than one week are also given feed at the same time as and with the sow. This enables the piglets to establish the relationship between eating feed with the sow and their own feed. With new construction and renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2035.	This means that both feeders must be close to each other, but also that the piglets can observe the sow eating. At least 5 piglets must be able to eat from the feeders at the same time. This can also be achieved using floor feeding. As a result, the sow teaches the piglets to eat solid feed from a young age which helps prevent weaning dip.	Verify whether piglets older than one week are also given feed at the same time as and with the sow. Record the findings.	Minor
K12.1	Weaning	The piglets are weaned at an average age of 28 days. Individual piglets are not weaned earlier than 25 days of age. This applies no later than from 02-05-2027.		Verify the age at weaning of the piglets. Record the weaning age and weaning date and transfer of the sow based on at least 5 random samples (sow charts in the barn and printout management system). Record the minimum weaning age in days.	Minor
K13	farrow-to-finish-pens RECOMMENDATION	farrow-to-finish-pens are used.	In farrow-to-finish-pens, the sow is removed from the pen after weaning. The piglets remain in the farrowing pen until at least 10 weeks of age. Because the piglets stay in the same pen, they do not experience the stress of moving to a new pen in combination with weaning.	Verify and record whether farrow-to-finish-pens are used.	Recommendation
Piglets					
B01.1	Floor area per piglet	The minimum available floor area per weaned piglet is an average of 0.4 m2 per farm . No individual piglet has less than 0.36 m2 of floor area. With a group size of 40 or more animals or when farrow-to-finish-pens are used, the floor area per weaned piglet may be 10% less, on average 0.36 m 2 per farm. No individual piglet has less than 0.32 m2 of floor area.	This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen. The minimum pen floor area applies from when the piglets are set up until they are transferred to a finisher house.	Verify the floor area per animal using pen administration and pen dimensions. Record the floor area per piglet at set up.	Minor
B01.1a	Air volume per piglet	To maintain a good barn climate, the air volume in the barn is at least 1.2 m3 per piglet. If this criterion cannot be complied with, criteria AH03a up to and including AH03e must be complied with from 01-07-2026.	Calculate the air volume per piglet by: dividing the volume of the section (length x height x width) by the number of piglets.	Verify the air volume based on the calculations for the section types (length x height x width). Note the volume (m ³) per piglet. If this criterion cannot be complied with from 01-07-2026, verify and record whether criteria AH03a up to and including AH03e are complied with.	Minor
B02.1	Solid floor piglets	At least 40% of the floor for weaned piglets is solid. The solid floor is continuous as much as possible.	A solid floor is a floor or part of a floor, which is fitted with slurry-permeable openings. A floor is considered solid if: a. the total of slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor, and b. the width of slurry-permeable slat openings does not exceed 10 mm and the diameter of round slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 20 mm. For example, so-called 'German Welfare Slats' and square grid slats do not comply with the criteria for solid floors.	Verify and record whether 40% of the floor is solid.	Minor
B02a.1	Thermal comfort piglets post-weaning	The solid part of the floor for weaned piglets is covered with straw or similar bedding or heated by floor heating, infrared panels or a heat lamp for at least the first five days.	Five days is the mandatory minimum. How long the piglets are supported to maintain the correct temperature in the following days can vary per group. For fire safety reasons, bedding or floor heating is preferable.	Verify and record whether the solid floor is covered with straw or similar bedding or heated for the first five days.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
B02b	Dunging area for piglets	The surface of the dunging area must provide the piglets with sufficient grip. - 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 bedding.	The dunging area consists of a hard plastic slatted floor, plastic-coated slatted floor, coated metal or concrete slatted floor for example.	Verify and record whether the dunging area provides the piglets with sufficient grip. Record the material used in the dunging area. If applicable, verify and record whether at purchase a concrete floor complies with a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or FSC2000 value 0.60 (stated on the certificate with the floor) and whether a dunging area consisting of a solid floor has been covered with straw or similar bedding.	Minor
B04a	Number of eating places for individual or ad libitum feeding	With individual or ad libitum feeding, there is at least 1 eating place per 8 piglets. With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030 there is at least 1 eating place per 5 piglets with individual or ad libitum feeding.		Verify and record the number of piglets per eating place. Verify and record with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030 the number of piglets per eating place.	Minor
B04b	Eating places for piglets restricted feeding	With restricted feeding several times a day (not <i>ad libitum</i>), all the piglets can eat at the same time. With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	In addition to liquid feed, this also concerns sensor feeding, for example.	Verify and record with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030, whether there are sufficient eating places.	Minor
B04b.1	Eating place width piglets	With trough feeding, individual or ad libitum feeding, the feeding width is at least 18 cm per eating place.	With trough feeding, feed is provided in a way that ensures all piglets can eat at the same time. From 01-01-2030, only the inner length between separators will be measured to assess the width to feed. This also applies to the places at the extreme ends of the troughs, the corner is not included. With round feeders, the inner length between separators is calculated by dividing the circumference minus the sum of the width of all separators together by the number of eating places.	Verify and record the feeding width per piglet.	Minor
B04c	Number of drinking places	There is at least 1 functioning drinking place per 12 piglets. With new construction/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030, there is at least 1 functioning drinking place per 10 piglets.		Verify and record the number of piglets per functioning drinking place. Verify and record with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030 the number of piglets per functioning drinking place.	Minor
B04c.1	At least 2 drinking places RECOMMENDATION	In group housing, regardless of the group size, at least 2 functioning drinking places are available at the same time.	Providing 2 drinking places prevents a higher ranked pig blocking the drinking place for a lower ranked pig.	Verify and record whether there are at least 2 drinking places available at the same time.	Recommendation
B06.1	Ban on the castration of piglet boars	There are no castrated piglets on the farm.	For new participants, no more piglets on the farm may be castrated after the entry inspection. Only piglets that were castrated on the farm before the BLL entry inspection may be on the farm and delivered under the Better Life label. Castration includes both surgical castration and immunocastration.	Verify on a random basis (at least two sections with farrowing pens) whether there are any castrated piglets on the farm (applies to piglets born after the entry inspection). Record the findings.	Critical
B07	Ban on teeth clipping	Teeth clipping of newborn piglets is not permitted.		Verify on a random basis in different sections (at least two farrowing pens per section) whether the canine teeth are intact. If the teeth have been shortened, verify whether the teeth have been filed and not clipped. Record the findings.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
B08	Teeth filing	The teeth of new born piglets are not routinely filed.	If teeth of newborn piglets are filed: 1. has the contracted veterinary practitioner given permission, and 2. has the veterinary necessity been described and documented in a certificate from the contracted veterinary practitioner.	Verify on a random basis in different sections (at least two farrowing pens per section) per pen whether the canine teeth are intact. If the teeth have been filed, verify whether: - advice was issued by the contracted veterinary practitioner and - whether this advice is reviewed quarterly. Record the findings	Minor
B08A	Plan of action to end teeth filing	If teeth are filed due to problems, an action plan must be established to solve the problems within a year (at the next inspection) after which time teeth filing will stop. This plan is established in consultation with the feed advisor and, if necessary, the contracted veterinary practitioner.	If the sow is injured due to sharp teeth, the cause must be addressed. For example, by improving the sow's nutrition in consultation with the feed advisor to ensure she produces sufficient, good milk. N/A if the teeth are not filed.	If there are piglets with teeth that have been shortened, verify whether this was also the case a year ago. If this is the case, verify whether an action plan has been established in consultation with the feed advisor and, if necessary the contracted veterinary practitioner. Record the findings.	Minor
B09A	Edible enrichment material twice daily	Weaned piglets are provided with edible enrichment material twice daily.	In addition to pen enrichment, edible material such as straw, lucerne or CCM must be given twice daily. The piglets must all be able to investigate this material at the same time.	Verify, for example, based on purchase orders whether edible material is provided twice daily. Record the type of enrichment material provided.	Minor
Finishers					
V01A	Stable groups	Finishers are kept in stable groups and are not mixed with unfamiliar animals after set up.	Finishers are kept in stable groups. Groups of finishers are not mixed with unfamiliar/new animals after set up.	Verify whether after set up unfamiliar pigs are mixed in groups. Record the findings.	Major
V01B	Space to move finishers	The finishers have sufficient space to move. - Groups of 1 up to and including 19: at least 1.09 m ² per finisher; - Groups of 20 up to and including 39: an average of 1 m ² and no finisher with an area of less than 0.95 m ² available; - Groups of 40 or more: 1 m ² minus 10% = an average of 0.9 m ² per finisher and no finisher with an area of less than 0.85 m ² available.	This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen. The minimum pen floor area applies from set up to slaughter. In larger groups, animals can 'borrow' space from each other. This makes it easier for the pig to distinguish between a lying, activity, feeding and dunging area. It is also permitted to keep finishers in smaller groups provided there is a larger floor surface area per finisher.	Verify and record the number of finishers per group and the floor area per finisher.	Major
V02.1a	Enlarging space to move finishers	The finishers have sufficient space to move. Groups of 1 up to and including 17: an average of 1.2 m ² and no finisher with an area of less than 1.15 m ² available; - Groups of 18 up to and including 39: an average of 1.1 m ² and no finisher with an area of less than 1.05 m ² available; - Groups of 40 or more: 1.1 m ² minus 10% = an average of 1 m ² per finisher and no finisher with an area of less than 0.95 m ² available. With new construction and renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2035.	This concerns the available pen floor area. The space under troughs is not included in the calculation of the available floor area in the pen. The minimum pen floor area applies from set-up to slaughter. In larger groups, animals can 'borrow' space from each other. This makes it easier for the pig to distinguish between a lying, activity, feeding and dunging area. It is permitted to keep finishers in smaller groups provided there is a larger floor surface area per pig.	Verify the floor area per animal using pen administration and pen dimensions. Record the findings.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
V03A.1	Solid floor finishers	At least 40% of the floor is solid. The solid floor is continuous as much as possible. After new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2045, at least 50% of the floor is solid.	A solid floor is a floor or part of a floor, which is fitted with slurry-permeable openings. a. the total of slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 5% of the total area of the solid part of the floor, and b. the width of slurry-permeable slat openings does not exceed 10 mm and the diameter of round slurry-permeable openings does not exceed 20 mm. For example, so-called 'German Welfare Slats' and square grid slats do not comply with the criteria for solid floors.	Verify whether at least 40% of the floor is solid. Record the findings. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2035, verify whether 50% of the floor area is solid.	Minor
V03b.1	Bedding on lying place finishers RECOMMENDATION	The floor of the lying place must be covered with straw or similar bedding material, or rubber coated.	In anticipation of the results of research into a comfortable floor type in relation to lying behaviour in the framework of the humane animal husbandry covenant in the coming years, criteria concerning lying comfort will be added in the future.	Verify and record whether the floor is covered with bedding or rubber coated.	Recommendation
V04	Dunging area for finishers	The surface of the dunging area must provide the finishers with sufficient grip. - 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 bedding.	The dunging area consists of, e.g. profiled metal or a concrete slatted floor.	Verify and record whether the surface of the dunging area provides the finishers with sufficient grip. Record the type of material used in the dunging area. If applicable, verify and record whether at purchase a concrete floor complies with a surface roughness of 63 Leroux or FSC2000 value 0.60 (stated on the certificate with the floor) and whether a dunging area consisting of a solid floor has been covered with straw or similar bedding.	Minor
V05.1a	Eating places for finishers restricted feeding	With restricted feeding several times a day (not <i>ad libitum</i>), all the finishers can eat at the same time. With new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	In addition to liquid feed, this also concerns sensor feeding, for example.	Verify and record with new construction and/or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030, whether there are sufficient eating places.	Minor
V05a	Number of eating places for individual or ad libitum feeding	With individual or ad libitum feeding, there is at least 1 eating place per 8 finishers.	N/A with feeding stations.	Verify the number of eating places for individual or ad libitum feeding. Verify whether the number of eating places complies. Record the findings. N/A with feeding stations.	Minor
V05b.1	Eating place width finishers	With trough feeding, individual or ad libitum feeding, the eating place must be at least 30 cm wide. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2045 the feeding width must be at least 35 cm.	With trough feeding, feed is provided in a way that ensures all finishers can eat at the same time. From 01-01-2030, only the inner length between separators will be measured to assess the width to feed. This also applies to the places at the extreme ends of the troughs, the corner is not included. With round feeders, the inner length between separators is calculated by dividing the circumference minus the sum of the width of all separators together by the number of eating places.	Verify and record the feeding width per eating place.	Minor
V05c.1	Number of drinking places	There is at least 1 functioning drinking place per 12 finishers. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030, there is at least 1 functioning drinking place per 10 finishers.		Verify and record the number of finishers per functioning drinking place. Verify and record with new construction and renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030, the number of finishers per drinking place.	Minor
V05d.1	At least 2 drinking places RECOMMENDATION	In group housing, regardless of the group size, at least 2 functioning drinking places are available at the same time.	Providing 2 drinking places prevents a higher ranked pig blocking the drinking place for a lower ranked pig.	Verify and record whether there are at least 2 functioning drinking places available at the same time.	Recommendation

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
Transport					
T00A.1	Supplied pigs	The pigs supplied to the pig farm originate from farms that are certified as Better Life label pigs 1 star.	This does not apply to supplied gilts/boars. These animals may be supplied from farms that do not have Better Life certification, for instance from abroad. If a pig farm decides to stop with the BLL scheme and at any time sets up piglets under non-BLL conditions, under certain conditions the BLL-eligible piglets and/or finishers still present may be delivered/removed as BLL-eligible for a certain period of time, see criterion UIT09.	Verify the BLL pigs 1-star certificate of the farms that supply the pigs. Record the UBNs of these farms. N/A with breeding gilts/ boars.	Major
T00B	Abattoirs receiving the pigs	The pigs are supplied to abattoirs that have been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLL pigs and the corresponding number of stars).	If the abattoir has not been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope, the animals must be downgraded to non-Better Life-eligible or to a Better Life scope for which the abattoir has been certified/approved.	Verify the administrative records. Record the name of the abattoir(s) receiving the pigs. Record per abattoir whether they have been approved/certified for the corresponding Better Life scope (BLL pigs and corresponding number of stars). If not, verify and record whether the animals are downgraded to non-Better Life-eligible or to a Better Life scope for which the abattoir has been certified/approved.	Minor
T02	Electric cattle prods	No electric cattle prods are used on the pig farm.	There are no cattle electric prods on the farm.	Verify and record whether no electric cattle prods are present on the farm and record which alternatives are used.	Minor
T03	Loading ramp, platform, lift or loading floor	The loading ramp, platform, lift or loading floor must be equipped with: - foot battens to prevent slipping; - side walls and rails to prevent pigs from falling off; The loading ramp/slope must not be steeper than 20% / 11°. Vehicles that transport livestock must be equipped with a loading lift or an adjustable loading floor.		Verify, if animals are loaded during the BLL inspection, whether the design and slope of the loading ramps and platforms comply. Record the findings.	Minor
T04	Empty stomach	The finishers are delivered with an empty stomach.	To ensure the right level of pre-transport fasting, the time of the last feed is coordinated between the livestock farmer and the abattoir.	Verify and record with the livestock farmer whether written agreements have been made with the abattoir about pre-transport fasting.	Minor
T05	Transport time weaned piglets	Weaned piglets may not be transported over distances greater than 280 km.	The maximum transport distance of 280 km corresponds to a maximum transport time of 4 hours, assuming an average speed of 70 km per hour based on the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) guidelines for livestock transport. The transport distance between the pig farm of birth and the finisher farm must be verified based on Routenet.nl with a 40T trailer selected as the vehicle.	Calculate the distance by trailer between the farm of birth and the farm receiving the pigs using the Routenet website and estimate the corresponding transport time. Verify the transport documents. Record the transport distance and the UBN(s) of the farms of origin/destination. N/A if BLL weaned piglets are transported to a non-BLL farm.	Major
T05A	Transport vehicle for weaned piglets distance greater than 50 km.	Weaned piglets are only transported over a distance greater than 50 km using closed, climate-controlled livestock transport vehicles, in order to deliver piglets in a better condition.	The transport distance between livestock farms must be verified using Routenet.nl with a 40T truck selected as the vehicle.	For transport distances greater than 50 km, verify and record whether a closed, climate-controlled livestock transport vehicle has been used based on the transport documentation. Record the transport distance and the UBN(s) of the farms of origin/destination. Record the transport distance and the UBN(s) of the farms of origin/destination. N/A for distances less than 50 km.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
T06.1	Transport time for slaughter pigs	Slaughter pigs may not be transported over distances greater than 560 km.	The maximum transport distance of 560 km corresponds to a maximum transport time of eight hours, assuming an average speed of 70 km per hour based on the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) guidelines for livestock transport. The transport distance between the livestock farm and the abattoir must be verified based on Routenet.nl with a 40T trailer selected as the vehicle.	Use the Routenet website to calculate the distance a transport vehicle travels between the farm and the abattoir. Verify the transport documents. Record the transport distance and the name of the abattoir. N/A if BLL slaughter pigs are downgraded to non-BLL.	Major
Platforms for weaned piglets and finishers					
PL01	Platform for weaned piglets and finishers	With weaned piglets and finishers, platforms can be used to comply with the minimum floor area per weaned piglet/finisher. Platforms are not permitted in the farrowing pen. Platforms are not mandatory. If platforms are used they must comply with the following criteria. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	The access ramp to the platform must not be counted as available floor area for the animals. The space under the ramp (if the slope of the ramp to the ground floor is steeper than 20°) may be counted as available floor area.	Verify and record whether and for which animal categories platforms are used.	Minor
PL02	Platform load weight	The platform construction meets the following criteria: - piglets: minimum load calculated at 130 kg/m ² - finishers: minimum load calculated at 200 kg/m ² With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	Maximum deflection is 1/250e with a maximum of 12 mm.	Verify and record the platform load weight for each animal category based on the specifications of the structure.	Minor
PL03	Minimum distance from the ground floor to the base of the platform	The distance from the ground floor to the base of the platform is at least: - 0.9 m with a platform width of 0.9-1.5 m - 1.2 m with a platform width > 1.5 m With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record the width and corresponding height of the platform.	Minor
PL04	Floor area of the platform	The platform covers a maximum of 40% of the floor area on the ground floor With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record the percentage of the floor area covered by the platform.	Minor
PL05	Distance between platform and ceiling	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. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record the distance between the platform and the ceiling. Measure from the lowest and highest point of the ceiling.	Minor
PL06	Platform slope	The platform may have a maximum slope of 5% across the width and 10% across the length. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify (e.g., using a slope meter on the digital distance meter) and record the slope of the platform over the width and length.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
PL07	Platform width	The width of the platform is: - piglets: minimum 0.9 m and maximum 1.56 m - finishers: minimum 1.1 m and maximum 1.9 m With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	These dimensions include any (ventilation/slurry) openings.	Verify and record the width of the platform per animal category.	Minor
PL08	Platform length	The length of the platform is: - piglets: minimum 1.5 m - finishers: minimum 2.5 m With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record the length of the platform per animal category.	Minor
PL09	Platform floor	The floor of the platform is solid: With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	The floor of the platform is solid, with the exception of: a. a grid over the entire width of the platform, at both ends of the platform, is permitted for: - piglets: maximum 0.6 m - finishers: maximum 1.0 m b. a grid over the entire width of the platform, at the floor area at the ramp, is permitted for: - piglets: maximum 0.6 m - finishers: maximum 1.0 m c. a grid over the entire length on the wall side of the platform is permitted for: - piglets: maximum 0.2 m and 0.3 m if there are no ventilation/ slurry openings. - finishers: maximum 0.3 m and 0.4 m if there are no ventilation/ slurry openings. d. a ventilation/slurry opening along the wall side permitted for: - piglets: minimum of 5 cm and maximum 6 cm - finishers: minimum of 8 cm and maximum of 10 cm e. the ramp may either be solid or slatted for: - piglets: openings of 10-12 mm - finishers: openings of 10-18 mm.	Verify whether the floor is solid, including the exceptions stated. Record the findings.	Minor
PL10	Platform solid floor material	The platform must be designed to provide the piglets or finishers with sufficient grip, for example, profiled metal, rough plastic, rough composite or concrete. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record whether the floor is sufficiently rough. Record the type of material.	Minor
PL11	Platform railing	The platform has a railing with bars and for: - piglets: minimum height of 0.5 m - finishers: minimum height 0.7 m With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	Preferably use horizontal railings with at least 2 bars. The lower bar height for piglets is 0.2 m and 0.2-0.3 for finishers. The upper bar height is 0.5 m for piglets and 0.7 m for finishers, measured at the top of the bar. Vertical bars are also permitted.	Verify and record per animal category whether there are railings and the height of the highest bar. Verify whether the bars are horizontal or vertical.	Minor
PL12	Ramp/steps width	The ramp/steps used by the piglets/pigs to access the platform (including any hinge points) is for: - piglets: minimum 0.60 m wide - finishers: minimum 0.75 m wide With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record the width of the ramp/steps per animal category.	Minor
PL13	Ramp/steps slope	The slope of the ramp/steps is not steeper than maximum 30° in relation to the ground floor; With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record the slope of the ramp/steps in relation to the ground floor.	Minor

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
PL14	Horizontal access with parallel ramp/steps	If the ramp/steps are placed parallel (not perpendicular) to the platform, there must be a horizontal access ramp to the platform With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	This ramp access is for: - piglets: minimum 0.70 m x 0.70 m - finishers: minimum 0.75 m x 0.75 m, and fitted with railings in compliance with the criteria stated in PL11 Platform railing.	Verify and record whether there is an angled or parallel ramp/steps per animal category. Verify and record with a parallel ramp/steps whether there is horizontal ramp, the dimensions of the ramp and the height of the railings	Minor
PL15	Cross battens	Battens are fitted on the ramp. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.	For piglets: at a distance of 5 to 10 cm (measured between the battens). The battens have: - a height of between 2 and 4 cm, and - a width of between 2 and 5 cm	Verify and record whether battens are fitted, the height, width and distance between the battens.	Minor
PL16	Ramp/steps railing	A railing with a height of at least 50 cm must be fitted on one side of the ramp/steps. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record whether a railing is fitted on at least one side of the ramp/steps.	Minor
PL17	Step on/off ramp/steps	There may be a step on and/or off at the bottom and top of the ramp for: - piglets: maximum 10 cm - finishers: maximum 15 cm. With new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than from 01-01-2030.		Verify and record whether there is a step on and/or off and the height per animal category.	Minor
Supplementary					
VA0104, A00	Number of animals	The number of BLL animal places and the number of animals present are recorded for each animal category during the annual audit inspection. If the capacity has changed since the previous inspection, the number of BLL animal places and the number of animals present during the current inspection are calculated and recorded again	To do so, during the entry inspection and with new construction and renovation, the BLL inspector measures the various types of pens/sections at the farm. The BLL inspector determines the total area per animal category on the farm based on this area per type of pen/section. The inspector then determines the total number of BLL animal places per animal category for the farm based on the required area per animal category, as defined in the BLL criteria.	Record the number of BLL animal places and the number of animals present. Based on measurements of the different pens/sections and the BLL area criteria by animal category.	
A00A	Number of BLL dry, gestating or farrowing sow places	The number of BLL dry, gestating or farrowing sow places is:		Record the number of BLL dry, gestating or farrowing sow places	
A00A1	Number of dry, gestating or farrowing sows present	The number of dry, gestating or farrowing sows present is:		Record the number of dry, gestating or farrowing sows present	
A00B	Number of BLL boar places	The number of BLL boar places is:		Record the number of BLL boar places	
A00B1	Number of boars present	The number of boars present is:		Record the number of boars present	
A00C	Number of BLL finisher places	The number of BLL finisher places is:		Record the number of BLL finisher places	
A00C1	Number of finisher present	The number of finishers present is:		Record the number of finishers present	
A00+D	Number of BLL rearing sow or boar places 20-50 kg and BLL rearing sow places 50 kg or more	The number of BLL rearing sow or boar places 20-50 kg and BLL rearing sow places 50 kg or more is:		Record the number of BLL rearing sow or boar places (20-50 kg) and BLL rearing sow places (50 kg or more) present	

Standard	Welfare aspect	Criterion	Interpretation	Method of measurement	Sanction
A00D1	Number of rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and rearing sows of 50 kg or more present	The number of rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and rearing sows of 50 kg or more present is:		Record the number of rearing sows or boars of 20-50 kg and rearing sows of 50 kg or more	
A00E	Number of BLL piglet places up to 20 kg	The number of BLL (weaned) piglet places up to 20 kg is:		Record the number of BLL (weaned) piglets places up to 20 kg	
A00E1	Number of piglets up to 20 kg present	The number of (weaned) piglets up to 20 kg present is:		Record the number of (weaned) piglets up to 20 kg present	