

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

Date	Norm no. or topic	Question	Supplementary decision or interpretation
01-07-25	UIT05 standard for mega-housing	The criterion mentions a mega-housing limit based on the maximum number of animals, but also refers to the number of Dutch Livestock Units (NGE) per broiler and per 100 broilers. However, the 300 NGE limit mentioned in the criterion results in different outcomes for determining the mega-housing limit in terms of number of animals. Which mega-housing limit should be applied?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to harmonise the standard for mega-housing for broiler farms with the standard of other animal species. This means that a mega-barn is considered to be one UBN (or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE (Dutch Livestock Units). For broilers, one animal corresponds to 0.0013 NGE. A location is considered a mega-barn within the Better Life label and is excluded from participation if it involves 253,847 broilers or more ($253,847 \times 0.0013 = 330.0011$ NGE). As a result, criterion UIT05 will be formulated as follows: <i>Criterion: The animals are not kept in a mega-barn. A mega-barn is considered to be one UBN (or EU registration number) with more than 330 NGE (Dutch Livestock Units).</i> <i>Interpretation: To determine the number of NGE on the farm, the number of animals based on the Better Life operating capacity (the number of BLL animal places) must be multiplied by the following numbers of NGE per animal category:</i> 1 broiler = 0.0013 NGE. A location is considered a mega-barn within the Better Life label and is excluded from participation if it involves 253,847 broilers or more ($253,847 \times 0.0013 = 330.0011$ NGE). <i>This does not apply to existing barns that were Better Life label participants before 01-01-2015. These houses may maintain the number of broilers that were kept on 01-01-2015. With new construction or renovation, the number of broilers kept at a farm location (UBN) is not increased further.</i> <i>According to the definition of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), one farm location is equal to one unique Farm Number, i.e 1 UBN.</i> <i>The term 'mega-barn' should not be confused with the concept of an industrial-scale 'factory farm'. A mega-barn 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.</i>

8-05-26	Criteria: UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, KBLA01, KBLA03, KBLA04, KBLA05, KBLA08, KBLO02C, KBLO03, KBLO13, KBLV01, KBLVA04A (Broiler 1 star)	Can the sanction (exclusion/critical) for these criteria be reduced?	The exclusion/critical sanction is intended for very serious shortcomings, for example where animal abuse or fraud is involved. In practice, it has become clear that there are also criteria with this sanction for which exclusion/critical is not always an appropriate measure. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to lower the sanction for these criteria. This applies to criteria UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, KBLA01, KBLA03, KBLA04, KBLA05, KBLA08, KBLO02C, KBLO03, KBLO13, KBLV01 and KBLVA04A. The new sanction for criteria UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, KBLA01, KBLA03, KBLA04, KBLA05, KBLA08, KBLO02C, KBLO03, KBLO13, KBLV01 and KBLVA04A will be: suspension/major.
8-05-26	Criteria: UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, A1, A2, A5A, A6, A9, VU4, VV1, VV2A (Broiler 2 stars)	Can the sanction (exclusion/critical) for these criteria be reduced?	The exclusion/critical sanction is intended for very serious shortcomings, for example where animal abuse or fraud is involved. In practice, it has become clear that there are also criteria with this sanction for which exclusion/critical is not always an appropriate measure. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to lower the sanction for these criteria. This applies to criteria UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, A1, A2, A5A, A6, A9, VU4, VV1 and VV2A. The new sanction for criteria UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, A1, A2, A5A, A6, A9, VU4, VV1 and VV2A will be: suspension/major.
8-05-26	Criteria: UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, A1, A2, A5, A6, A9, VU4, VV1, VV2A (Broiler 3 stars)	Can the sanction (exclusion/critical) for these criteria be reduced?	The exclusion/critical sanction is intended for very serious shortcomings, for example where animal abuse or fraud is involved. In practice, it has become clear that there are also criteria with this sanction for which exclusion/critical is not always an appropriate measure. The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to lower the sanction for these criteria. This applies to criteria UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, A1, A2, A5, A6, A9, VU4, VV1 and VV2A. The new sanction for criteria UIT05, UIT06, UIT07, A1, A2, A5, A6, A9, VU4, VV1 and VV2A will be: suspension/major.

14-08-23	UIT06 Tiered barn	Criterion UIT06 states that the animals are kept in a barn with a maximum of one storey/floor/level. Tiered barns with multiple storeys/floors/levels are excluded from participation in the Better Life label. This does not apply to existing houses that were Better Life label participants before 01/09/2016. Due to the transition to more BLL 1 star broilers, practical possibilities are being sought for broiler farms to participate in the Better Life label with one or more existing tiered barns, in addition to any regularly built barns. Are there possibilities to participate in the Better Life Label with a tiered barn?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to amend criterion UIT06 as follows: 'The animals are kept on a maximum of one storey/floor/level'. This means that only one storey/floor/level may be used for keeping animals (both BLL animals and non-BLL animals) and that the other storeys/floors/levels are not used for production (are unsuitable for keeping animals). The storey/floor/level used for keeping the animals must have the possibility to realise a covered/free run. This level is therefore located on the ground floor. The non-use for production of other storeys/floors/levels means that the feed and drinking water facilities must be absent. Also, no litter and/or manure residues may be present on the storeys/floors/levels that are not used for production.
27-11-23	KBLA01, A5A and A5 Supply chain quality system (1, 2 and 3 stars)	The farm must a valid certificate issued by a supply chain quality system approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. IKB Kip and Belplume are recognised by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. Can a Label Rouge certificate be recognised as a valid chain quality system by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to recognise a Label Rouge certificate as a valid supply chain quality system for the scopes Broilers 1, 2 and 3 stars. A valid Label Rouge certificate is therefore sufficient to comply with the criteria KBLA01, A5A and A5.

21-07-26	Chain	Request from chain managers to relax the conditions for regular rounds due to market demand, as deregistration for a longer period currently prevents participants from rejoining because they lose their exemption and are suspended.	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has concluded that, in practice, the current consequences of exceeding the maximum of three regular production cycles for broilers are too severe, as they make continued participation impossible. From a strategic perspective, however, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals considers it important that companies cannot switch between regular and Better Life production without restriction. The interpretation of criterion KBLA08 will therefore be worded as follows: <i>Registering and deregistering a livestock farmer is permitted once per calendar year (in the BLL portal) due to setting up broilers that do not comply with the criteria for Better Life Broilers 1 star (e.g. regular or another concept). This is possible under the following conditions:</i> <i>1. During this period of deregistration (inactive for Better Life label), the farmer may set up a maximum of three, successive non-Better Life rearing cycles, i.e. not three cycles spread over the calendar year, in order to continue to be eligible for the Better Life label for Broilers 1 star; if the deregistration lasts for more than three flocks, or if deregistration occurs more than once per year, participation may only be resumed as a new participant in the calendar year following the first deregistration;</i> <i>2. The broiler farm works according to the all-in, all-out principle, so at no time are there both Better Life and non-Better Life broilers on the farm;</i> <i>3. The broiler farm is deregistered from the BLLF by the chain manager before the first non-Better Life broilers are set up on the farm;</i> <i>4. To be able to participate in the Better Life label scheme again, the broiler farm must have a new entry audit performed;</i> <i>5. The broiler farm is re-registered with the BLLF by the chain manager before this inspection;</i> <i>6. As usual, the broiler farm must be certified before the Better Life broilers can be slaughtered under the Better Life label;</i> <i>7. Deregistration and re-registration do not affect any current exemptions under the transitional arrangement for the covered outdoor run. The exemption will not be paused (interrupted) and/or extended and the livestock farmer will have to complete the covered run within the set period.</i> Method of measurement: <i>Verify and record whether any broilers from other systems (scopes) are present on the farm and, during the entry inspection, whether the conditions for one or more regular production cycles have been complied with.</i>
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25-07-24	KBLA03 and A9 Breed	Can the Rustic Rowan be recognised as a slower growing broiler breed?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to recognise the Rustic Rowan as a BLL broiler breed. This means that this breed can be used on farms certified for BLL Broilers 1, 2 or 3 stars. The breed will be added during the next review of the criteria for Broilers. As a result, criterion KBLA03 and A9 will be formulated as follows: <i>Interpretation: Slower-growing broiler breeds are: Hubbard JA 957, 757, Rowan Ranger, Cobb Sasso 150, Sasso SA 451 N, Ranger Gold, Rambler Ranger, Hubbard JA257, Hubbard JACY57, Rustic Rowan or other slower-growing breeds approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals with a particular emphasis on the following traits:</i> • <i>slower-growing (average growth is max. 45 grams per day);</i> • <i>mortality + reason for mortality;</i> • <i>gait score;</i> • <i>footpad disorders;</i> • <i>welfare of parent stock.</i> <i>The approval also applies to chicks from parent stock production breeds that cannot be placed as parent stock, i.e the males = the brothers of the Ranger, Rustic or JA57 females and the females = the sisters of the Rowan, Gold, Rambler or ColorYield males.</i>
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29-09-25	KBLA03 Breed (1 star)	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has approved several breeds where attention is paid to maximum daily gain alongside other animal welfare aspects. Could the TPAXRedBro breed, which is slower-growing and also scored positively on other welfare characteristics in pen trials (in addition to potentially improved welfare of the parent stock), be temporarily approved under the 1-star Better Life label for testing under practical on-farm conditions?	The newly proposed breed has been evaluated in pen trials and shows comparable results in term of feed conversion, mortality and welfare, while exhibiting slower growth compared to the widely used JA757 breed. For this reason, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to temporarily allow the TPAXRedBro breed under the 1-star Better Life label in order to monitor its performance and welfare characteristics under practical on-farm conditions. Use of the TPAXRedBro breed is permitted until 01-10-2026. Following this period, the results will be evaluated, upon which a decision will be made as to whether the breed will be permanently approved as a slower-growing broiler breed within the Better Life label. As a result, criterion KBLA03 will be formulated as follows: <i>Interpretation: Slower-growing broiler breeds are:</i> <i>Hubbard JA 957, 757, Rowan Ranger, Cobb Sasso 150, Sasso SA 451 N, Ranger Gold, Rambler Ranger, Hubbard JA257, Hubbard JACY57, Rustic Rowan or other slower-growing breeds approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals with a particular emphasis on the following traits:</i> • <i>slower-growing (average growth is max. 45 grams per day);</i> • <i>mortality + reason for mortality;</i> • <i>gait score;</i> • <i>footpad disorders;</i> • <i>welfare of parent stock.</i> <i>Until 01-10-2026, the TPAXRedbro breed may also be used for the production of 1-star Better Life label broilers.</i> <i>The approval also applies to chicks from parent stock production breeds that cannot be placed as parent stock, i.e the males = the brothers of the Ranger, Rustic or JA57 females and the females = the sisters of the Rowan, Gold, Rambler or ColorYield males.</i>
27-11-23	A5 Supply chain quality system (3 stars)	The farm must a valid certificate issued by a supply chain quality system approved by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. IKB Kip and Belplume are recognised by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. Can a KAT certificate be recognised as a valid chain quality system by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided to recognise a KAT certificate as a valid supply chain quality system for the scope Broilers 3 stars. A valid KAT certificate is therefore sufficient to comply with criterion A5.

29-08-24	KBLVA04A and VV2A Straw/hay/lucerne bales	The criterion entails that straw/hay/lucerne bales may be offered on the ground in a net to prevent the bales from disintegrating too quickly. In a previous supplementary decision, it was also mentioned that bales wrapped in plastic are not desirable. Since this is not mentioned in the current criterion, does this mean that bales may be offered in plastic wrap?	The offering of bales in plastic wrap to prevent the bales from disintegrating too quickly is not permitted by the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals due to risks to animal welfare. As a result, criteria KBLVA04A and VV2A will be formulated as follows: <i>Interpretation: The straw/hay/lucerne bales must be placed on the floor as a complete bale (including twine) for the broilers. Providing enrichment in the form of straw/hay/lucerne in a hay rack is not permitted and does not comply with the Better Life criteria. To prevent the straw/hay/lucerne bales from disintegrating too quickly, the bales that are placed on the floor may be enclosed in a net. The bales may not be offered in plastic wrap.</i>
21-06-24	KBLV07B, VV3B Feed composition	The BLL criteria for broilers state that the feed must not contain any products of animal origin from poultry (no cannibalism). Does this apply only to protein derived from poultry or also to fat derived from poultry?	This criterion was established at the time in response to the European ban on the use of animal meal in animal feed. Animal meal is a protein raw material from a specific species. This is a different raw material to animal fat. European legislation (Regulation (EC) No 999/2001) permits the use of animal fat in poultry feed. The BLL criterion aimed to follow European legislation. This means that poultry fat is permitted in feed for BLL broilers. The term "animal products" is incorrect. It will be replaced by "protein derived from poultry" at the next revision of the criteria.

29-08-24	KBLH07 and H3A Daylight	The criteria entail that at least 20 Lux daylight is available in the entire barn, with all artificial lighting turned off. On very dark and cloudy days, some livestock farms struggle to achieve 20 Lux in the entire barn using only daylight, although this is possible on clear, cloudless days. Is it also possible to meet the 20 Lux standard with artificial lighting on?	The standard of 20 Lux without the use of artificial light leads to arbitrariness that can be very weather-dependent and beyond the control of the poultry farmer. Therefore, the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that measurements may be taken with artificial light on to determine if it meets the minimum of 20 lux of light. As a result, criteria KBLH07 and H3A will be formulated as follows: <i>Welfare aspect: Light</i> <i>Criterion: At least 20 Lux light is available in the entire barn.</i> <i>Interpretation: In addition to daylight, artificial light may be used in the barn to achieve sufficient light at animal level. However, the use of artificial light alone is not permitted. Daylight-permeable surfaces are functional and clean.</i> <i>Method of measurement: Verify whether there is sufficient light in the barn and if the daylight-permeable surfaces are functional and clean. Use the Luxmeter to measure the light intensity in at least 2 places in the barn, if the artificial light is on when entering the barn, with artificial light on. If the lights are off when entering, take the measurements with artificial light off. Record whether this is at least 20 Lux at animal height.</i>
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