

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
30-04-14	Animal protein/fats/blood plasma in pig feed	Are animal protein/fats and blood protein permitted in feed for pigs under the Better Life label?	We have set limited criteria on animal feed under BLL. Under the Better Life label, we base feed quality primarily on the GMP+ certificate. There are currently no additional criteria or banned products under the BLL 1-star pig scheme with regard to animal protein/fats/blood plasma in pig feed. As such, they are permitted. However, it is possible that the chain itself imposes additional criteria over and above the Better Life criteria. To ensure that animal protein/fats/blood plasma may be used in a particular chain, you may consult the chain manager (usually the abattoir).
13-05-26	Criterion: UIT06 (Pig 1 star)	Can the sanction (exclusion/critical) for this criterion 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 criterion UIT06. The new sanction for criterion UIT06 will be: suspension/major.
13-05-26	Criteria: UIT06, V03C.2 and Z08A.2 (Pigs 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 UIT06, V03C.2 and Z08A.2. The new sanction for criteria UIT06, V03C.2 and Z08A.2 will be: suspension/major.
13-05-26	Criteria: UIT06, B03A.3, V03C.3, Z08A.3 and Z08D.3 (Pigs 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 UIT06, B03A.3, V03C.3, Z08A.3 and Z08D.3. The new sanction for criteria UIT06, B03A.3, V03C.3, Z08A.3 and Z08D.3 will be: suspension/major.

12-06-26	AM03bb Photovoltaic installation	If there is a photovoltaic installation at the company (UFN), does the residential house count towards this, or only the company buildings? And how does this work in Belgium?	This criterion concerns the photovoltaic installations associated with the farm buildings. In Belgium, a different type of inspection applies than Scios Scope 12, namely an AREI inspection. Criterion AM03bb will therefore be formulated as follows: <i>Criterion: photovoltaic installations present on the farm (UFN) are inspected every five years according to Scios Scope 12 or by means of the AREI inspection in Belgium. For new construction or renovation after 02-05-2026, but no later than 01-01-2030.</i> <i>Interpretation: With the Scope 12 inspection, the entire photovoltaic installation is inspected, and the electrical safety and fire safety of the installation are mapped out. Explanation: these inspections must be carried out by a company other than the one that installed the photovoltaic installation. In the event of remedial actions, the livestock farmer must resolve this with their own installer so that a re-inspection can take place. After approval of the re-inspection, a notification follows in the Scios portal. For more information about Scios inspections and for a list of companies that can perform the inspections: https://www.averoachmea.nl/preventie/elektrakeuring. In Belgium, the AREI inspection must be carried out before the photovoltaic installation is put into operation. A periodic inspection must take place every 5 years.</i>
14-07-26	AH07 Enrichment material	In the new version, this criterion carries only a major sanction. Whereas previously a distinction was made between a 'minor' sanction (regarding enrichment material requiring replenishment or refreshing) and a 'major' sanction (for suspected lack of consistent use or issues with the material itself). Compared to the previous version, this criterion now includes several additional compliance requirements. In some instances, we do not consider suspension (a 'major' sanction) to be an appropriate response. For example, if just one or a few pens contain slightly too little enrichment material for 25% of the animals, or if the material needs replenishing or refreshing at the time of inspection, a suspension—coupled with a mandatory inspection at the farmer's expense—is disproportionate. What is the position of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals on this?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals is of the opinion that this type of criterion is less suitable for the immediate assignment of a 'major' non-compliance. Compared to the previous criteria, this criterion has undergone a number of additions, meaning it now comprises multiple components. Consequently, the criterion now encompasses numerous aspects that can be subject to sanctions. The original tiered sanctioning approach is well-suited to this structure and aligns with the system applied to other animal species. Naturally, any non-compliance must be rectified; providing enrichment material is highly relevant to animal welfare and is also a legal requirement. The new sanction for criterion AH07 will be: - Minor if materials are insufficient or not in order. - Major if the required materials are missing from multiple pens.

1-05-26	BE01.1, BE01.2 and BE01.3 Pens for teaser boars	The revised pig criteria came into effect on 2 May 2026. The criteria state that, in the case of surface area, this refers to the available pen floor area. Applying the available pen floor area has consequences for the number of pigs that can be kept. Can the application of the available pen floor area be postponed?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the application of the available pen floor area for teaser boars will be postponed until 01-01-2027. As of 01-01-2027, the certification bodies will apply the 'available pen floor area'. This means the following: <i>the space that is available to pigs and on which the pigs can move freely and can lie down, rest and stand up without difficulty. In doing so, they must not be hindered or obstructed by obstacles present in the space.</i> As of 01-01-2027, all pigs present must be kept on the basis of this available pen floor area. If, as of 01-01-2027, too many pigs are kept in pens based on the available pen floor area, a livestock farmer will be sanctioned for this.
1-05-26	K01.1a, K02.1, K02.2 and K02.3 Surface area farrowing house	The revised pig criteria came into effect on 2 May 2026. The criteria state that, in the case of surface area, this refers to the available pen floor area. Applying the available pen floor area has consequences for the number of pigs that can be kept. Can the application of the available pen floor area be postponed?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the application of the available pen floor area for the farrowing pen will be postponed until 01-01-2027. As of 01-01-2027, the certification bodies will apply the 'available pen floor area'. This means the following: <i>the space that is available to pigs and on which the pigs can move freely and can lie down, rest and stand up without difficulty. In doing so, they must not be hindered or obstructed by obstacles present in the space.</i> As of 01-01-2027, all pigs present must be kept on the basis of this available pen floor area. If, as of 01-01-2027, too many pigs are kept in pens based on the available pen floor area, a livestock farmer will be sanctioned for this.
14-07-26	K10.1 Play area for piglets	This criterion stipulates that piglets in the farrowing pen must be able to move around the pen freely and without obstruction. Some pig farmers wish to provide 'family feeders' in farrowing pens. These offer the advantage of allowing piglets and the sow to eat together, which aligns with the future policy of the Better Life label (BLL). However, family feeders extend all the way to the floor of the pen, thereby reducing the space available for piglets to move around freely. The question is whether the use of a family feeder complies with criterion K10.1.	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the use of a family feeder—allowing sows and piglets to eat together—also satisfies criterion K10.1. Consequently, criterion K10.1 will be formulated as follows: <i>Criterion: Piglets in the farrowing pen must be able to move around the pen freely and without obstruction.</i> <i>Interpretation: Being able to walk unimpeded all the way around gives piglets more space to play and acquire normal behaviour.</i> - This does not apply to a separate piglet nest that is not part of the farrowing pen itself. - Adjustable floors are permitted, as they are usually only a potential obstacle for the piglets during the first few days. - The use of family feeders is also permitted under this criterion. <i>Verify and record whether piglets in the farrowing pen can move around the pen freely and without obstruction, with the exceptions mentioned above.</i>

1-05-26	B01.1, B01.2 and B01.3 Floor area per piglet	The revised pig criteria came into effect on 2 May 2026. The criteria state that, in the case of surface area, this refers to the available pen floor area. Applying the available pen floor area has consequences for the number of pigs that can be kept. Can the application of the available pen floor area be postponed?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the application of the available pen floor area for weaned piglets will be postponed until 01-01-2027. As of 01-01-2027, the certification bodies will apply the 'available pen floor area'. This means the following: <i>the space that is available to pigs and on which the pigs can move freely and can lie down, rest and stand up without difficulty. In doing so, they must not be hindered or obstructed by obstacles present in the space.</i> As of 01-01-2027, all pigs present must be kept on the basis of this available pen floor area. If, as of 01-01-2027, too many pigs are kept in pens based on the available pen floor area, a livestock farmer will be sanctioned for this.
1-05-26	V01B, V01B.3, V02.1a, V02.2a and V02.3a Space to move finishers	The revised pig criteria came into effect on 2 May 2026. The criteria state that, in the case of surface area, this refers to the available pen floor area. Applying the available pen floor area has consequences for the number of pigs that can be kept. Can the application of the available pen floor area be postponed?	The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals has decided that the application of the available pen floor area for finishers will be postponed until 01-01-2027. As of 01-01-2027, the certification bodies will apply the 'available pen floor area'. This means the following: <i>the space that is available to pigs and on which the pigs can move freely and can lie down, rest and stand up without difficulty. In doing so, they must not be hindered or obstructed by obstacles present in the space.</i> As of 01-01-2027, all pigs present must be kept on the basis of this available pen floor area. If, as of 01-01-2027, too many pigs are kept in pens based on the available pen floor area, a livestock farmer will be sanctioned for this.