DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL GENETIC EVALUATION SYSTEMS

Country (or countries)	BELGIUM (Walloon Region)
Main trait group[1] **NOTE!** Only one trait group per form!	Calving Traits - Zootechnical
Breed(s)	Belgian Blue
Trait definition(s) and unit(s) of measurement[2] Attach an appendix if needed	- Gestation length (days) - Birth weight (kg) - Body conformation score (1 - 9)
Method of measuring and collecting data	By technicians or breeders
Time period for data inclusion	All available data since 1993
Age groups (e.g. parities) included	All
Other criteria (data edits) for inclusion of records	$25 <$ birth weight < 70 $264 <$ gestation length < 301 $0 <$ age at recordng < 120
Criteria for extension of records (if applicable)	N/A
Sire categories	All
Environmental effects[3], pre-adjustments	No pre-adjustments
Method (model) of genetic evaluation[3]	Multiple trait animal model
Environmental effects[3] in the genetic evaluation model	Herd (F) Parity (F) Year and Month of birth (F) Sex (F) Suckling or not
Adjustment for heterogeneous variance in evaluation model	No Adjustment
Use of genetic groups and relationships	No
Blending of foreign/Interbull information in evaluation	No blending
Genetic parameters in the evaluation	See Appendix GE
System validation	Genetic trends, correlations between consecutive evaluations
Expression of genetic evaluations If standardised (e.g. RBV), give standardisation formula in the appendix	standardized breeding values, which are multiplied by a standard error of 10 and added to a mean value of 100
Definition of genetic reference base	All cows born 7 years before the current year
Next base change	Base changes every year
Calculation of reliability	Reliabilities are calculated from PEV
Criteria for official publication of evaluations	Sires : REL ≥ 50 % ; At least 10 calves in minimum 5 herds Females : REL ≥ 15 %
Number of evaluations / publications per year	3
Use in total merit index[4]	No
Anticipated changes in the near future	/
Key reference on methodology applied	

Key organisation: name, address, phone, fax, e-mail, web site	Organisation responsible for genetic evaluations and computing centre:
	Elevéo asbl
	R&D Department - Genetic Evaluation Unit
	Rue des Champs Elysées 4
	B-5590 Ciney
	0032/83/23.06.32.
	evalgen@awegroupe.be
	WEB site for publication of sire breeding values:
	http://www.awenet.be

1) Either: Production (e.g. milk, fat, protein), Conformation, Health (e.g. mastitis resistance, milk somatic cell, resistance to diseases other than mastitis), Longevity, Calving (e.g. stillbirth, calving ease), Female fertility (e.g. non-return rate, interval between reproductive events, number of AI's, heat strength), Workability (e.g. milking speed, temperament), Beef production, Efficiency (e.g. body weight, energy balance, body conditioning score), or Other traits.

2) Indicate frequencies per category if the trait is categorical and specify transformation of data if practiced.

3) Use abbreviations for most common effects (see document with list of abbreviations at http://www-interbull.slu.se/service_documentation/General/list_of_abbreviations.rtf) and indicate random (R) or fixed (F).

4) Please give economic weights and indicate how they are expressed (preferably in genetic standard deviation units).

Parameters used in genetic evaluation

Country (or countries):   BELGIUM (Walloon Region)

Main trait group: Birth Traits

Breed (repeat as necessary):   Belgian-Blue

Trait	Definition	ITB[a]	h^{2b}	genetic variance [b]	official proof standardisation formula[c]
Gestation length			0.16	2,1	
Birth weight			0.09	5,3	
Conformation score			0.03	0,06	

[a]   Indicate, with X, traits that are submitted to Interbull for international genetic evaluations.

[b]   If repeated records are treated as separate traits, provide heritability estimates and genetic variances separately for each trait, as well as for all traits pooled, i.e. for the trait submitted to Interbull.

[c]   Expressed as follows:

StandEval=((eval-a)/b)*c+d where a=mean of the base adjustment, b=standard deviation of the base, c=standard deviation of expression (include sign if scale is reversed), and d=base of expression.