



Australian Government

AHCLSK371 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Release 11.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct the most efficient and humane mulesing procedure in circumstances where all alternative methods of breech flystrike prevention have been evaluated and mulesing is considered the most appropriate of these for the long-term welfare of the sheep.

The unit applies to individuals who plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work.

This unit applies to sheep farmers and contractors in the livestock industry who normally operate under limited supervision.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace, and animal welfare legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines, and sustainability and biosecurity practices.

In addition to legal responsibilities, all units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. However, individuals should confirm the regulatory requirements that apply in their relevant state or territory before undertaking this unit.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Livestock (LSK)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
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Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Conduct pre-mulesing evaluations	1.1 Identify and comply with relevant legislation, regulations and animal welfare practices 1.2 Identify industry standards and guidelines 1.3 Seek expert advice and discuss alternative strategies to manage flystrike susceptibility prior to undertaking mulesing procedures 1.4 Confirm workplace requirements for use of mulesing 1.5 Conduct pre-operative evaluation of sheep 1.6 Identify hazards and risks and implement safe working practices to manage risks 1.7 Select, fit, use and maintain personal protective equipment (PPE) applicable to the task
2. Prepare for mulesing operations	2.1 Identify and order supplies and equipment 2.2 Monitor weather conditions to determine optimal conditions for operation and recovery of sheep from the procedure 2.3 Select suitable time of day for operation to minimise the separation time of lambs and ewes 2.4 Engage skilled workers to perform mulesing 2.5 Select appropriate yards, paddocks and pastures for each mob and each day to allow adequate time for mothering-up of lambs after separation from the ewes 2.6 Muster, move and handle sheep using good stock handling techniques and according to workplace animal welfare practices 2.7 Allow lambs to settle and cool after yarding
3. Select, maintain and use appropriate equipment	3.1 Maintain equipment in clean, hygienic and good working order to reduce the risk of infection and cross-infection in sheep 3.2 Maintain and operate mulesing cradles in good working condition to ensure minimal risk to the operator or lamb, especially when loading and unloading 3.3 Set, grind and sharpen mulesing shears according to workplace procedures 3.4 Disinfect mulesing shears after sharpening, before use and between each animal 3.5 Prepare wash-down, soaking and disinfecting containers for use 3.6 Prepare, test and check chemical application equipment 3.7 Clean, disinfect and store equipment at the end of operation

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	according to workplace procedures
4. Conduct mulesing procedures	4.1 Conduct all procedures according to workplace health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity requirements 4.2 Maintain facility, operator hands, handling and equipment hygiene throughout the operation 4.3 Handle lambs using good stock handling techniques and use restraints such as cradles 4.4 Perform mulesing procedure according to model code of practice and industry standards 4.5 Apply pain relief to the wound immediately after the procedure according to industry standards and legislative requirements, and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) instructions 4.6 Apply insecticide dressing to the surrounding intact wool-bearing skin immediately after the procedure according to industry standards and SDS instructions 4.7 Monitor and evaluate wound symmetry, size and position, and breaks in selvage 4.8 Remove lambs from cradles so they land gently on all four feet
5. Conduct post-mulesing management procedures	5.1 Allow lambs, following release, to mother-up to ewes 5.2 Provide immediate treatment for lambs that are abandoned or unable to stand or walk 5.3 Monitor lambs for abnormal signs such as infection and septicaemia 5.4 Complete mulesing documentation and records according to workplace procedures 5.5 Identify and report unserviceable equipment and PPE according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Identify and interpret workplace documentation to identify relevant and key information for mulesing sheep
Writing	Use clear language, accurate industry terminology and logical structure to complete mulesing documentation and records
Oral communication	- Use clear language to report malfunctions, faults, wear or damage to tools and equipment - Respond to questions and clarify information

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current release	Code and title previous release	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCLSK371 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures	AHCLSK334 Plan, prepare and conduct mulesing procedures	Minor changes to application Minor changes to elements and performance criteria Foundation skills added Assessment requirements updated	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>