



Australian Government

AHCSHG203 Shear sheep to novice level

Release: 1

AHCSHG203 Shear sheep to novice level

Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to select, handle and shear sheep under supervision to novice level.

Novice level is defined as shearing a minimum of 40 adult merino sheep or 50 adult crossbred sheep per day to industry standards.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, work health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity legislation and codes, and sustainability practices.

This unit applies to individuals who work under general supervision and exercise limited autonomy with some accountability for their own work.

No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Shearing (SHG)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Set-up shearing handpiece	1.1 Identify potential and existing hazards in the workplace and report to supervisor 1.2 Check shearing equipment for correct operation 1.3 Assemble comb and cutter on handpiece 1.4 Set lead and throw for comb and cutter

Element	Performance criteria
	1.5 Set tension to enable comb and cutter to cut wool cleanly with minimum friction 1.6 Lubricate working surfaces and moving parts
2. Follow health and fitness procedures	2.1 Prepare for exercises to warm-up the body 2.2 Perform back, shoulder, leg, arm, and abdomen stretches 2.3 Recognise the necessities of hydration, nutrition and rest periods
3. Catch sheep for shearing	3.1 Select, use and maintain suitable personal protective equipment 3.2 Catch sheep and move to required location in line with organisational, work health and safety, industry and animal welfare standards 3.3 Drag sheep from the catching pen to the shearing board using safe manual handling techniques 3.4 Position sheep for shearing
4. Remove fleece	4.1 Activate handpiece and position in readiness for shearing operations 4.2 Shear section of sheep in position suitable to the individual's competence 4.3 Shear the six basic positions in sequence 4.4 Minimise injury to sheep and treat injuries where required 4.5 Release sheep safely from the board into the count-out pens 4.6 Minimise second cuts and contamination 4.7 Maintain shearing effort to achieve the required minimum rate per day to acceptable standard

Foundation Skills

Foundation Skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

This unit is equivalent to AHCSHG203A Shear sheep to novice level

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCSHG203 Shear sheep to novice level

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must be assessed on their ability to integrate and apply the performance requirements of this unit in a workplace setting. Performance must be demonstrated consistently over time and in a suitable range of contexts.

The candidate must be observed shearing a minimum of 40 adult merino sheep or 50 adult crossbred sheep per day to industry standards.

The candidate must provide evidence that they can:

- follow safe work practices
- select and use equipment and materials appropriate for shearing sheep
- load a handpiece correctly
- avoid contamination, second cuts
- shear sufficient sheep within eight hours to match novice skill level
- use appropriate suturing for cuts to sheep
- catch and release sheep safely
- provide due care and handle sheep humanely
- clean and maintain shearing equipment, site and facilities
- communicate problems, faults and workplace hazards to the owner or overseer
- tally shorn sheep count
- apply work health and safety policies in the context of own work
- apply enterprise animal welfare policies in the context of own work

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- types of shearing sheds, boards and catching pens
- shearing machinery required and their relative functions
- industry agreed shearing techniques and positions, and method of shearing
- safe handling techniques for catching, dragging, shearing and releasing sheep
- basic anatomy of male and female sheep as it relates to the safe humane removal of wool

- common sheep diseases as they relate to work health and safety and humane treatment of animals
- the impacts of sheep behaviour on moving, handling and shearing sheep
- personal protective clothing and equipment, and when and how it should be used
- Federal and/or State shearing awards and agreements associated with shearing sheep
- enterprise biosecurity policies applying to the job role
- work health and safety legislation and codes of practice applying to the job role
- animal welfare legislation and codes of practice applying to the job role

Assessment Conditions

Competency is to be assessed in the workplace or workplace and simulated environment that accurately reflects performance in a real workplace setting.

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs.

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