



Australian Government

AHCSHG204 Shear sheep to improver level

Release: 1

AHCSHG204 Shear sheep to improver 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 improver level.

Improver level is defined as shearing a minimum of 80 adult merino sheep or 100 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 broad supervision and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources.

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. Prepare for shearing	1.1 Check shearing equipment for correct operation prior to shearing session 1.2 Identify potential and existing hazards in the workplace and report to the supervisor

Element	Performance criteria
	1.3 Select, use and maintain suitable personal protective equipment 1.4 Identify, catch sheep and move to required location in line with organisational, work health and safety, industry and animal welfare standards
2. Perform shearing operations	2.1 Position sheep for shearing using identified positions 2.2 Activate handpiece and position in readiness for shearing operations 2.3 Shear sheep using identified method and positions 2.4 Use shearing methods that ensure that injuries and damage to the sheep and fleece is avoided while meeting volume expectations 2.5 Use safe and humane handling techniques at all times
3. Respond to complications	3.1 Identify contamination during shearing operations and report to wool handlers 3.2 Suture sheep cuts as required 3.3 Identify flyblown sheep and report 3.4 Identify problem sheep and report
4. Complete shearing operation	4.1 Place wool to avoid contamination and for wool handlers to collect 4.2 Set handpiece to non-operational position and store 4.3 Release sheep safely from the board into the count-out pens 4.4 Report shearing grievances and difficulties 4.5 Follow enterprise biosecurity policies where required

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 AHCSHG204A Shear sheep to improver 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 AHCSHG204 Shear sheep to improver 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 80 adult merino sheep or 100 adult crossbred sheep per day to industry standards.

The candidate must provide evidence that they can:

- identify hazards and follow safety directions
- select and use equipment and materials appropriate for shearing sheep
- avoid contamination, second cuts and damage to wool, sheep and people
- shear sufficient sheep within eight hours to match skill level as per industry award minimum rate of pay for learner shearers
- suture cuts to sheep
- catch and release sheep safely
- demonstrate safe and responsible workplace practices
- provide due care and handle sheep humanely
- clean and maintain shearing equipment, site and facilities
- communicate problems, faults and workplace hazards, and to comprehend instructions provided by the owner or overseer
- tally shorn sheep count
- apply enterprise 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 shearing techniques and positions and method of shearing
- aspects of 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
- the impacts of sheep behaviour on moving and handling sheep 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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