



**Australian Government**

# **AHCSHG214 Shear sheep to improver level**

**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 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.

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.

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

No 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

| Elements                                  | 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 Identify relevant awards, agreements and workplace policies associated with shearing sheep<br>1.2 Check shearing equipment for correct operation prior to shearing |

| Elements                                  | Performance Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                           | <p>session according to workplace standards</p> <p>1.3 Select, use correctly and maintain suitable personal protective equipment (PPE)</p> <p>1.4 Identify, catch and move sheep to required location in line with workplace work health and safety (WHS), industry and animal welfare standards</p> <p>1.5 Identify potential and existing hazards in the workplace and report to the supervisor</p> <p>1.6 Communicate with wool harvesting team members to ensure steady workflow according to workplace standards</p> |
| 2. Perform shearing operations            | <p>2.1 Catch and position sheep for shearing using identified positions</p> <p>2.2 Activate handpiece and position in readiness for shearing operations according to manufacturer specifications</p> <p>2.3 Shear sheep using identified method and positions</p> <p>2.4 Use shearing methods that ensure that injuries and damage to the sheep and fleece are avoided while meeting volume expectations</p> <p>2.5 Use safe and humane handling techniques at all times according to workplace standards</p>             |
| 3. Respond to complications               | <p>3.1 Identify contamination during shearing operations and report to wool handlers</p> <p>3.2 Suture sheep cuts as required in line with animal welfare standards</p> <p>3.3 Identify flyblown sheep, dermatitis and black wool and report to supervisor</p> <p>3.4 Identify sheep that have a health and welfare problem and report to supervisor</p>                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4. Complete shearing operation            | <p>4.1 Place wool appropriately to avoid contamination and for wool handlers to collect</p> <p>4.2 Set handpiece to non-operational position and store as per workplace requirements</p> <p>4.3 Release sheep safely from the board into the count-out pens and tally sheep shorn in line with workplace standards</p> <p>4.4 Report shearing grievances and difficulties to supervisor</p> <p>4.5 Follow workplace biosecurity and environment policies to maintain quality standards</p>                                |

## 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                                                                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Numeracy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Estimate and apply time requirements to achieve the required output</li></ul> |

## Unit Mapping Information

| Code and title current release          | Code and title previous release         | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Equivalence status |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| AHCSHG214 Shear sheep to improver level | AHCSHG204 Shear sheep to improver level | Application wording clarified<br>Changes to performance criteria for clarification<br>Foundation skills information added<br>Changes to performance evidence to specify volume and frequency<br>Knowledge evidence specificity added, and other wording clarified<br>Assessment conditions clarified | Equivalent         |

## Links

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

# Assessment Requirements for AHCSHG214 Shear sheep to improver level

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## Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- shorn and tallied a minimum of 80 adult merino sheep or 100 adult crossbred sheep per eight-hour day to industry standards
- communicated workplace issues on at least four occasions.

## Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- types of shearing sheds, boards and catching pens and how they impact upon shearing techniques
- shearing machinery required, their respective functions, possible faults and the effects of shearing tool modifications
- industry shearing techniques and positions and method of shearing, including:
  - belly
  - back leg and undermine
  - neck
  - first shoulder transition
  - long blow
  - neck, second shoulder
  - last side
- sheep breed and wool types and shearing technique differences required
- safe handling techniques for catching, moving, shearing and releasing sheep
- basic anatomy of male and female sheep as it relates to the safe, humane removal of wool
- common sheep diseases, including:
  - zoonotic

- parasitic
- other
- sheep with black wool
- types of contamination
- communication methods re: mob cut- out and/or commencing a new mob of sheep
- humane treatment of animals, including application of pain relief following suturing
- shearing issues, including:
  - the impacts of sheep behaviour on moving and handling sheep and shearing sheep
  - weather conditions
  - condition of the sheep
- workplace tallying methods for shorn sheep
- personal protective equipment (PPE), and when and how it should be used
- appropriate communication with team and supervisor to ensure steady shearing workflow
- teamwork principles, including:
  - working towards a common goal
  - communicating effectively and cooperatively
  - understanding the work responsibilities of team members
  - respecting others' needs
  - embracing diversity
- federal and/or state shearing awards and agreements associated with shearing sheep
- workplace policies associated with the improver level shearer job role in a shearing shed, including:
  - biosecurity
  - environment
  - employment and work health and safety legislation
  - animal welfare standards and codes of practice
  - shed quality standards
- manufacturer specifications relating to the use of shearing equipment and materials.

## Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - equipment and materials appropriate for shearing sheep
  - animals for shearing
- relationships:
  - supervisor

- wool harvesting team members.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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