



Australian Government

AHCSHG217 Undertake basic shearing and crutching

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 for basic wool removal as part of a shearing and crutching operation.

This unit applies to individuals who work alongside a supervisor in most situations and exercise limited autonomy within established and well-known parameters.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures and standards, health and safety regulations, animal welfare and biosecurity requirements and environmental sustainability practices.

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. Identify shearing and wool harvesting work requirements	1.1 Check federal and/or state shearing awards and agreements associated with shearing sheep with supervisor 1.2 Determine shearing and wool harvesting team roles 1.3 Communicate with wool harvesting team members or supervisor to check shearing equipment for correct operation, and report any potential or existing hazards in the workplace prior to commencing

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	work
2. Prepare for basic shearing and crutching	2.1 Assemble comb and cutter on handpiece in line with manufacturer specifications 2.2 Set lead and throw 2.3 Set tension to enable comb and cutter to cut wool cleanly with minimum friction 2.4 Lubricate working surfaces and moving parts
3. Follow health and fitness procedures	3.1 Prepare for exercises to warm up the body 3.2 Perform back, shoulder, leg, arm and abdomen stretches 3.3 Recognise the necessities of hydration, nutrition and rest periods 3.4 Select, use and maintain suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensure correct fit
4. Catch sheep for shearing	4.1 Catch and move sheep in line with work health and safety (WHS), industry and animal welfare standards 4.2 Move sheep from the catching pen to the shearing board unassisted using safe manual handling techniques 4.3 Position sheep for shearing and crutching
5. Remove wool	5.1 Activate handpiece and position in readiness for shearing and crutching operations 5.2 Shear and crutch section of sheep completely and unassisted 5.3 Release sheep safely from the board into the count-out pens 5.4 Tally crutched and shorn sheep in line with workplace procedures 5.5 Follow workplace biosecurity and environment policies

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
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Oral communication	• Use clear language and industry terminology to relay information pertaining to shearing
Numeracy	• Estimate and apply time requirements to achieve the required output

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current release	Code and title previous release	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCSHG217 Undertake basic shearing and crutching	AHCSHG210 Undertake basic shearing and crutching	Application wording clarified Changes to performance criteria for clarification Foundation skills information added Changes to performance evidence to specify volume and frequency Knowledge evidence specificity added, and other wording clarified 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 AHCSHG217 Undertake basic shearing and crutching

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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:

- crutched, shorn and tallied at least one merino sheep or crossbred sheep unassisted to industry standards
- communicated workplace issues on at least two 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
- shearing machinery required and their respective functions
- industry agreed shearing and crutching techniques, and positions and method of shearing
- features of 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
- major wool contaminants
- humane treatment of animals
- shearing issues, including:
 - the impacts of sheep behaviour on moving, handling and shearing sheep
 - the impact of weather conditions
 - the condition of sheep
- workplace tallying methods for shorn sheep
- personal protective equipment (PPE) and when and how it should be used

- federal and/or state shearing awards and agreements associated with shearing sheep
- health and safety procedures, including:
 - warm-up exercises
 - back, shoulder, leg, arm and abdomen stretches
 - good hydration, nutrition and rest periods
- work health and safety (WHS), animal welfare, environment and biosecurity standards and codes of practice that apply to the job role
- teamwork principles, including:
 - working towards a common goal
 - communicating effectively and cooperatively
 - respecting others' needs
 - embracing diversity
- manufacturer specifications regarding the use and maintenance of combs, cutters and handpieces.

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:
 - wool harvesting team members
 - supervisor.

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

Links

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