



Australian Government

AHCSHG311 Shear sheep to professional 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 to a professional level – at least 120 adult merino sheep or 140 adult crossbred sheep per day to industry standards.

This unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work, including limited responsibility for the work of others. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources.

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. Prepare for shearing operation	1.1 Identify relevant awards, agreements and workplace policies and standards associated with shearing sheep 1.2 Communicate with other wool harvesting team members to discuss requirements for a smooth operation to attain output levels and

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	maintain quality standards 1.3 Gather and check shearing equipment for functionality according to workplace standards and manufacturer specifications 1.4 Select, use and maintain personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly according to workplace standards 1.5 Identify shearing techniques and shears used for crossbred sheep and merino sheep
2. Recognise and correct faults in own shearing technique	2.1 Analyse own shearing technique using identified positions and focusing on humane handling of sheep in line with animal welfare and work health and safety (WHS) standards 2.2 Recognise and correct faults in sheep position, footwork and free hand use 2.3 Recognise and correct faults in the number of blows and their placement 2.4 Improve coordination of footwork, free hand use, sheep control and blow placement
3. Apply techniques to increase shearing speed and accuracy	3.1 Increase speed at which the handpiece is pushed forward and returned between blow placements 3.2 Improve the power, direction and manoeuvrability applied at the increased speed 3.3 Improve rhythm at the increased speed 3.4 Maintain calm and consistent temperament whilst shearing 3.5 Recognise the importance of stamina and fitness in improvement of output consistency
4. Communicate with wool harvesting team members and shear sheep to industry quality standards	4.1 Demonstrate safety procedures during shearing in relation to self, other less experienced shearers and sheep 4.2 Identify potential and existing hazards in the workplace and rectify by taking personal action or by reporting to appropriate person 4.3 Avoid excessive wool contamination and damage to the wool by shearing in the identified manner and by communicating with the team to ensure the boards are kept clean 4.4 Shear required number of sheep and tally sheep shorn using identified method and positions in a normal eight-hour working day 4.5 Use appropriate movement of feet and hands, and maintain correct

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	positioning to the downtube 4.6 Release sheep at increased speed in line with workplace procedures and WHS standards 4.7 Follow and communicate workplace biosecurity, environment and traceability policies 4.8 Communicate with wool harvesting team members to ensure steady workflow according to workplace standards

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
Oral communication	- Use clear language and industry terminology to relay information pertaining to shearing - Use cooperative communication practices when communicating with wool harvesting team members
Numeracy	- Estimate and apply time requirements to achieve the required output - Calculate sheep shorn

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current release	Code and title previous release	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCSHG311 Shear sheep to professional level	AHCSHG304 Shear sheep to professional level	Application wording clarified Element and performance criteria added and changes to performance criteria for clarification Foundation skills	Not equivalent

		information added Changes to performance evidence to specify volume and frequency Knowledge evidence specificity added, and other wording clarified Assessment conditions clarified	
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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 AHCSHG311 Shear sheep to professional 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 120 adult merino sheep or 140 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:

- workplace policies associated with the professional 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
- types of shearing sheds, boards and catching pens
- different shearing techniques and shears used for crossbred sheep and merino sheep
- shearing machinery required and their respective functions
- industry agreed shearing techniques and positions and method of shearing
- safe handling techniques for catching, moving, shearing and releasing sheep
- basic stitching of cuts caused by shearing
- the anatomy of male and female sheep as it relates to safe and humane removal of wool
- common sheep diseases as they relate to work health and safety and humane treatment of animals
- demonstration processes of basic shearing positions in sequence, including:

- belly
- back leg and undermine
- neck
- first shoulder transition
- long blow
- neck, second shoulder
- last side
- shearing issues, including:
 - the impacts of sheep behaviour on moving and handling sheep and shearing sheep
 - the impact of weather conditions
 - the condition of the sheep
- workplace tallying methods for shorn sheep
- personal protective equipment (PPE) and when and how it should be used
- methods of avoiding contamination
- federal and/or state shearing awards and agreements associated with shearing sheep
- communication methods to facilitate steady workflow in the shearing shed, including:
 - working towards a common goal
 - communicating effectively and cooperatively
 - understanding the work responsibilities of team members
 - respecting others' needs
 - embracing diversity
- features of quality standards used in the shearing shed, in the industry, including:
 - specific and measurable reequipments
 - appropriate and realistic specifications
 - timely reporting
 - documentation requirements
- traceability requirements, including:
 - standard of sheep shearing
 - reporting of sheep injury, disease or illness
 - reporting of black wool and other wool cut-outs
- 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:
 - wool harvesting team members, including other shearers.

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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