



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

AHCSHG304A Shear sheep to professional level

Release: 1

AHCSHG304A Shear sheep to professional level

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit covers the process of selecting, handling and shearing sheep to professional level of 100-120 or more sheep per day, and defines the standard required to: select, use and maintain shearing equipment; avoid contamination, second cuts and damage to wool and sheep; recognise problem and diseased sheep and apply treatments accordingly; shear sufficient sheep within eight hours to match skill level of a professional shearer; analyse and build skills from improver shearer level.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to shearing of sheep to professional level and is performed independently while working as part of a shearing team.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
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Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not Applicable

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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1. Recognise and correct faults in shearing technique	1.1. Analyse shearing technique. 1.2. Recognise and correct faults in sheep position, footwork and free hand use. 1.3. Recognise and correct faults in the number of blows and their placement. 1.4. Improve co-ordination of footwork, free hand use, sheep control and blow placement.
2. Apply techniques to increase shearing speed and accuracy	2.1. Increase speed at which the handpiece is pushed forward and returned between blow placements. 2.2. Improve the power, direction and manoeuvrability applied at the increased speed. 2.3. Improve rhythm at the increased speed. 2.4. Maintain calm temperament for 8-hour working day. 2.5. Recognise the importance of stamina and fitness in improvement of output consistency.
3. Shear required number of sheep in an eight hour day working day to quality standard of the industry for both sheep and wool	3.1. Demonstrate safety procedures during shearing in relation to people and sheep. 3.2. Avoid excessive wool contamination and damage to the wool. 3.3. Shear 120 adult merino sheep or equivalent using identified method and positions in line with industry standards in a normal eight-hour working day. 3.4. Use correct movement of feet and hands, and maintain correct positioning to the downtube. 3.5. Release sheep at increased speed in line with industry and enterprise requirements. 3.6. Comply with Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), animal welfare and industry and enterprise quality requirements.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- identify hazards and implement safe work procedures
- select use and maintain shearing equipment

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- avoid contamination, second cuts and damage to animals
- shear sufficient sheep within eight hours to match skill level of a professional shearer
- analyse and improve on improver shearer level
- shear with co-ordination and rhythm
- stitch wounds
- catch and release sheep safely
- demonstrate safe and responsible workplace practices
- provide due care and handle sheep humanely
- clean and maintain shearing equipment, and sharpen combs and cutters
- work in a team as a team member
- review quality of own work
- tally shorn sheep count
- use literacy skills to read, interpret and follow organisational policies and procedures, follow sequenced written instructions, record accurately and legible information collected and select and apply procedures for a range of tasks
- use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role as specified by the organisation, including questioning techniques, active listening, clarifying information and consulting with supervisors as required
- use interpersonal skills to work with and relate to people from a range of cultural, social and religious backgrounds and with a range of physical and mental abilities.

Required knowledge

- types of shearing sheds, boards and catching pens
- service and maintenance of handpieces
- industry agreed shearing techniques and positions and method of shearing
- grinding procedures
- safe handling techniques for catching, dragging, shearing and releasing sheep
- animal welfare requirements in relation to sheep
- sheep behaviour
- shearing clothing and equipment and when and how it should be used
- Federal Pastoral Industry Award and/or State Shearing Award of Queensland or Western Australian Shearing Contractors Award
- relevant State/Territory legislation and awards, regulations and codes of practice with regard to workplace OHS and animal welfare.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE	
The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.	
Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy holistically all of the requirements of the performance criteria and required skills and knowledge and include achievement of the following: • select, use and maintain shearing equipment • avoid contamination, second cuts and damage to wool and sheep • recognise problem and diseased sheep and apply treatments accordingly • shear sufficient sheep within eight hours to match skill level of a professional shearer • analyse and build skills from improver shearer level.
Context of and specific resources for assessment	Competency requires the application of work practices under work conditions. Selection and use of resources for some worksites may differ due to the regional or enterprise circumstances.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT	
The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole.	
Breeds of sheep may include:	all ages and genders including: • rams • ewes • wethers • lambs • hoggets • stags.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Shearing
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		

Competency field

Competency field	
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