

41134 Manage wool preparation in a wool harvesting operation

Kaupae Level	4
Whiwhinga Credit	20
Whāinga Purpose	<p>This skill standard is for people working in wool harvesting operations who are responsible for leading woolhandling teams and maintaining the quality of wool preparation.</p> <p>People awarded this standard will be able to manage and coordinate team workflows to optimise the quality, consistency, and value of wool produced, and manage wool preparation and grading processes in a wool harvesting operation.</p> <p>Achievement of this standard provides eligibility to apply for Provisional Grader Registration (Q stencil) with the New Zealand Wool Classers Association.</p>

Hua o te ako me Paearu aromatawai | Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
1. Manage the quality of team output in a wool harvesting operation.	a. Balance accuracy, speed, and tidiness to optimise team output and the quality of wool preparation.
	b. Maximise wool return by monitoring and managing wool bale content to maintain consistency with grading specifications.
	c. Coordinate work pattern with other personnel to minimise interruptions to workflow.
	d. Use industry knowledge and experience to direct and support the wool harvesting team by setting work expectations, monitoring performance, and providing feedback to maintain motivation and achieve required output

Hua o te ako Learning outcomes	Paearu aromatawai Assessment criteria
2. Manage wool preparation and grading processes in a wool harvesting operation.	a. Identify and apply knowledge of different wool characteristics to inform grading decisions.
	b. Manage wool preparation on the board and table by directing the removal of oddments and sorting of wool according to length, colour, and contamination.
	c. Direct and verify wool grading processes to ensure grades consistently meet market and/or processing requirements
	d. Monitor wool preparation and pressing, and complete bale documentation in accordance with industry requirements.
	e. Complete the wool clip specification as required.

Pārongo aromatawai me te taumata paearu | Assessment information and grade criteria

Assessment specifications:

All activities must be carried out in accordance with on–farm and workplace procedures; workplace health and safety requirements; farmer requirements; wool market and/or processing requirements; the [Clip Preparation Best Practice Guidelines](#) and [the Code of Welfare: Sheep and Beef Cattle](#).

Providers must give due consideration to embedding ngā kaupapa (principles) o Te Tiriti o Waitangi when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard. These principles are outlined in [Guidelines for Providers: Embedding Tirohanga Māori](#).

Providers must give due consideration to the needs and values of Pacific peoples and other cultural groups when designing delivery activities relevant to this standard, ensuring practices are inclusive and equitable.

Ākonga/learners should be assessed against this standard in a real-life context using naturally occurring evidence. A verifier's checklist with appropriate comments confirming competency is acceptable if accompanied by evidence that includes examples from the learner's performance.

Wool characteristic identification includes but is not limited to – sheep breed and age, length, colour and level and type of contamination.

Wool clip includes wool shorn from any given grouping of sheep.

Wool clip and bale documentation includes but is not limited to – tally book, bale book, specifications, line descriptions, bale branding.

Definitions:

Contamination characteristics refers to any matter present that is not wool fibre.

Farmer requirements refers to instructions to staff on wool preparation set by the farmer relating to customer requirements.

Grade wool refers to seeking to make one well-prepared and even main line of fleece wool by removing only that wool that differs appreciably from the main line. This definition can apply to fleece wool of any length, including second shear.

On-farm and workplace procedures refers to operational procedures including those for legislation, industry and customer requirements set out by an employer to be followed while undertaking tasks in the workplace. These can be conveyed verbally or documented and available in electronic or manual format.

Wool harvesting operation refers to the harvesting of wool across all diameters of fibre.

Wool market and/or processing requirements refers to instructions given by the buyer and/or processor.

Ngā momo whiwhinga | Grades available

Achieved

Ihirangi waitohu | Indicative content

Woolshed environment

- Risks and hazards in the woolshed.
- Effective teamwork and communication, whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga.
- Relevant animal welfare legislation and guidelines.
- Signs of injury or illness in sheep.
- Notification processes for faults, contaminants, injuries, and disease.

Woolhandling

- Wool length, colour, and contamination.
- Wool preparation- Identifying and removing oddments and faults on the board and/or on the table.
- Awareness of avoiding wool contamination.
- Full wool and second shear handling techniques.
- Setting up and throwing a fleece.
- Transferring wool appropriately and efficiently from one area to another.
- Nutrition, hydration and lifestyle choices to support physical requirements of the task.
- New Zealand Wool Classers Association (NZWCA) grading registration process and Q-stencil use being limited to mid micron hogget wool and all crossbred wool.

Woolhandling team management

- Work ethic – leading by example.
- Communicating expectations of individual responsibility for nutrition, hydration and lifestyle choices to support physical requirements of the task.
- Effective communication skills.
- Cultural awareness.
- Conflict de-escalation and resolution.
- Management of varying skill levels and personality types.
- Difficult conversations – ways to deliver feedback.

- Relationships with key stakeholders – e.g., confidence in dealing with shearing contractor, farmer and team members.
- Team building skills.

Rauemi | Resources

- [Animal Welfare Act 1999](#)
- [Code of Welfare for sheep and beef cattle 2018](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#) and subsequent amendments or replacements.
- New Zealand Wool Classers Association (NZWCA) [Clip Preparation/ Best Practice Guidelines](#).
- Resource Management Act 1991.
- [Safe Sheep Shearing Good Practice Guidelines](#)
- Site-specific health and safety plans
- Documents outlining wool market and job requirements.

Pārongo Whakaū Kounga | Quality assurance information

Ngā rōpū whakatau-paerewa Standard Setting Body	Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board
Whakaritenga Rārangi Paetae Aromatawai DASS classification	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Wool Harvesting > Wool Handling
Ko te tohutoro ki ngā Whakaritenga i te Whakamanatanga me te Whakaōritenga CMR	0052

Hātepe Process	Putanga Version	Rā whakaputa Review Date	Rā whakamutunga mō te aromatawai Last date for assessment
Rēhitatanga Registration	1	26 February 2026	N/A
Kōrero whakakapinga Replacement information	This skill standard replaced unit standard 31978.		
Rā arotake Planned review date	31 December 2030		

Please contact the Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board at info@foodandfibreisb.nz to suggest changes to the content of this skill standard.