

Title	Machine shear strong wool sheep		
Level	3	Credits	35

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: select and set up comb and equipment for shearing strong wool sheep; catch and present strong wool sheep for shearing; monitor equipment performance and adjust during the shearing of strong wool sheep; and adjust shearing technique to meet sheep variability, maintain quality output, and handle sheep humanely during shearing.
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Classification	Wool Harvesting > Shearing
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Animal Welfare Act 1999;
 - and any subsequent amendments.

- 2 Resource documents include but are not limited to:

Harvesting of textile animal fibres, chapter 4 Fibre harvesting techniques, available from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at <http://www.fao.org/3/v9384e/v9384e00.htm>

Shearing and Clip Preparation Code of Practice, available from the NZ Wool Classers Association at https://www.woolclassers.org.nz/images/resources/NZWCA_2016_Clip_preparation_document.pdf

Code of Welfare: Sheep and Beef Cattle, available from the Ministry of Primary Industries at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1450-sheep-and-beef-cattle-animal-welfare-code-of-welfare>.

- 3 Definitions

Minimum industry output requirements – 6-13 sheep to be shorn in one hour’s continuous shearing.

Minimum industry quality requirements – the minimum number of skin cuts, tassels, second cuts, and ridges.

On-farm procedures – refer to the verbal or written instructions to staff on procedures for animal care, welfare, and management.

Strong wool sheep – sheep with a mean fibre diameter of 31 microns or greater e.g. Romney, Perendale, Coopworth and associated crosses of these breeds.

Sustained output – ability to consistently shear at or above minimum industry output requirements, to the pattern, and with minimum stress to the sheep.

Variability – sheep breed, class, temperament, condition, wool density, temperature, timing, wool faults, staple length.

3 Assessment

To build a portfolio of evidence for the assessment of this unit standard, learners are required to maintain a logbook detailing the sheep shorn, stating quantity and quality, with entries signed off by an employer or contractor. The logbook must be maintained until all performance criteria as detailed in this unit standard have been met.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Select and set up comb and equipment for shearing strong wool sheep.

Performance criteria

1.1 Select comb in accordance with evaluation of sheep variability and on-farm procedures.

Range sheep variability – fibre density and length, sheep condition, temperature;
comb thickness – new, half worn, thin;
bevel – short, medium, long;
evidence of at least one of – winter comb, lifter.

1.2 Select equipment and set up based on the assessment of shearing conditions to ensure optimum yield and shearing output.

Range combs, cutters.

Outcome 2

Catch and present strong wool sheep for shearing.

Performance criteria

2.1 Catch and present sheep for shearing using knowledge of sheep behaviour.

2.2 Control and move sheep to the stand in a manner that enables consistent application of the shearing pattern.

Outcome 3

Monitor equipment performance and adjust during the shearing of strong wool sheep.

Performance criteria

3.1 Monitor equipment performance and adjust to maintain optimum yield and shearing output.

Range combs, cutters.

Outcome 4

Adjust shearing technique to meet sheep variability, maintain quality output, and handle sheep humanely during shearing.

Performance criteria

4.1 Adjust shearing technique to meet individual sheep variability.

Range requirements may include but are not limited to – pre-lamb belly, cotts, wool pull.

4.2 Adjust the number of blows to meet individual sheep requirements and maximise shearing output.

4.3 Adjust footwork and body positioning to achieve shearing rhythm consistent with the shearing pattern.

4.4 Maintain shearing output and quality in accordance with a sustained output and minimum industry quality requirements.

4.5 Monitor and adjust equipment to maintain performance, optimise yield and shearing output.

4.6 Handle sheep during shearing in accordance with the *Animal Welfare Act 1999*.

Planned review date	31 December 2024
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	26 July 2003	31 December 2023
Review	2	21 August 2009	31 December 2023
Review	3	12 December 2019	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0052
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact the Primary Industry Training Organisation standards@primaryito.ac.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.