

## SUBMISSION REVIEW OF THE AWEX CODE OF PRACTICE

### Introduction

WoolProducers Australia (WPA) is the peak national body for the wool growing industry in Australia. We are the national voice on behalf of producers, advocating their interests to the Commonwealth and industry stakeholders in Australia and abroad.

WPA develops and advocates policy and represents the industry on issues as diverse as trade, animal health and welfare, research and development, marketing, accountability of grower funds, taxation and compulsory levies, climate change and industrial relations.

WoolProducers appreciates the opportunity to comment on the review of the Code of Practice and thanks Australian Wool Exchange for considering our recommendation.

WoolProducers Australia are happy to further discuss the issues raised in this submission. Please contact Teresa Hogan, [thogan@woolproducers.com.au](mailto:thogan@woolproducers.com.au) if you would like further detail.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this feedback.

### 4.2 Key Points

#### Shearing Order

It is the responsibility of the woolgrower to assist the woolclasser, wool handling and shearing team in achieving the standard set out in the Code of Practice (4.0). Shearing order is important in the minimisation of contamination risk from pigmented or medullated fibres (4.2). In addition to this it is the responsibility of the woolgrower to keep the woolclasser informed of the shearing order. The Code of Practise does not specifically indicate this.

WPA recommends the addition of a table template to be filled out by the woolgrower and given to the woolclasser before shearing commences to eliminate confusion and/or error in the shearing order.

Proposed Addition to 4.2 Key Points:

In order to assist the woolclasser with understanding the shearing order and planning cut out times please fill in the shearing order table found in section 21, Appendices and give to your woolclasser before the commencement of shearing.

Sample Addition to Section 21 Appendices:

Example Shearing Order Table

Shearing Order	Mob Identification	Age	Breed	Characteristics	Mob Size
1	<i>Back Gully</i>	<i>2yo</i>	<i>Merino</i>	<i>Topline/15-16.3 micron/74s-80s</i>	<i>450</i>
2	<i>Big Creek Ewes</i>	<i>4/5yo</i>	<i>Merino</i>	<i>15-17micron/some</i>	<i>300</i>

				<i>tender likely</i>	
3	<i>Big Creek Lambs</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	<i>Merino</i>	<i>Lambs</i>	220
4	<i>Western Creek</i>	<i>4yo</i>	<i>Poll Dorset</i>	<i>Medium Crossbreed</i>	60

## **5.6: The Work Environment Drugs and Alcohol**

Given the new and developing position of industry on drugs and alcohol in the workplace, WoolProducers recommends that the poster developed during the Shearing Industry Drug and Alcohol Summit in May be distributed with the classers stencil package.

WoolProducers recommends an update to key point 5, on page 8 which states that *All shed staff have a duty of care to ensure that they operate in a safe and responsible manner in the work place.*

WoolProducers Australia recommends that the wording around staff duty of care should reflect the wording of the finalised 'Shearing Industry Drug and Alcohol Policy'. It is anticipated that this policy will be finalised by mid-August, 2017.

AWEX, as part of the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group can provide the wording at that time, or please contact WPA for finalised wording.

## **11.7 Additional Notes to Classing Merino**

### **Alignment with Wool Book**

Proposed Addition 11.7 Additional Notes to Classing Merino

Oddment Lines: Examine all oddment lines, referring to the Code of Practice regularly. Align branded bales with the woolclasser's wool book at the end of each run, in order to avoid duplication.

### **11.7 Prematurely shorn wool Unskirted Fleece Wool**

Under current code of practice standards woolclassers are instructed in point 3, page 6 that *If the fleece has not been skirted and it contains skirting material a stencil must not be applied as it does not meet the COP standard. The only exceptions are fleece lines that contain black wool, heavy dermo or hard cotts/matts.*

WoolProducers seek the establishment of an additional test certificate prefix in relation to wool preparation. This alternative certificate is to be applied to the fleece wool where, although they have not been skirted in accordance with the prevailing AWEX COP, a registered classer has been employed to remove the likes of atypical fleeces, stains, seedy shanks, jowls, and any other excessive vegetable matter.

### **11.7 Less than 12months Growth**

Whilst not widespread, the increased frequency of shearing that is being adopted by some producers, WoolProducers questions if section 11.7, point 4. Prematurely Shorn Wool should appear earlier in section 11 of the code. WPA suggests incorporating Prematurely Shorn

Wool into 11.1 Fleece, Classing standards for Merino Fleece Wool; Secondary Fleece Line(s) made for Measured Characteristics; following after Short.