



ASWGA Quality Assurance for the use of the Rams Head Logo

The intention is to lay down a brief set of guidelines recommended for the use of the trademark on raw wool and to use as a simple check list to be completed at the beginning of shearing. It is intended that the scheme would be self regulated but auditable if necessary. In the event that there was a complaint a process would follow to audit the property concerned.

Why do we need a Quality Assurance Scheme?

For many years ASWGA has promoted our members wool as the best in the world grown and prepared by dedicated growers to the highest standards. With the proliferation of superfine growers and lower returns, clip preparation and farm hygiene practices in the Australian clip have slipped and it is necessary for us to demonstrate that our members and the wool bearing the trademark is prepared to a higher standard and worthy of the premium we seek. Most attempts at QA Schemes in the past have failed because they were costly and onerous. It is our intention not to make that mistake but to keep it simple. These guidelines are largely the same as those required by the AWEX Code of Practice and OH&S however the discipline encouraged by a formal checklist will ensure that standards are kept high.

Shearing Team Management

It is the grower's responsibility to ensure that all members of the shearing team are properly briefed and understand what is expected of them. The following list can be used as a guide for the owner or classer when briefing shed staff.

- Ensure that the classer understands the rules governing the use of the ASWGA Rams Head Stencil and understands the requirement to declare the lines which are eligible to show the ASWGA quality mark in the catalogue.
- Brief each wool handler on the proper performance of their duties.
- Demonstrate to each woolhandler the skirting standard you require.

- Brief staff on foreign object contamination.
- Explain to staff the necessity to remove brands, coloured or medullated fibre as per the AWEX Code of Practice.
- Show staff where the above contaminants are likely to be found and how it is to be removed and managed.
- Brief the woolpresser on all mob breaks and likely line changes.
- Brief the woolpresser on the minimum and maximum bale weights and correct method for fastening the bale as detailed in the AWEX Code of Practice.
- Brief the woolpresser on the use of the ASWGA stencil.

Use of the ASWGA Rams Head Stencil

- The grower must be a current paid up member of ASWGA
- Only lines which are free of offensive contamination including coloured or medullated fibre are eligible.
- The classer must be prepared to certify that sheep were presented clean and free from stain and dags to the extent that shedhands were able to ensure that all lines bearing the stencil were free of stain and prepared to a high standard.
- It is recommended that Members place their members stamp in the brand box on the classers Specification sheet and attach their number to the brand.

Breach of the rules

If a possible breach was brought to the attention of the President or the Executive an investigation / audit would be undertaken in private. In the event that a member was found to be breaching the scheme or misusing the trademark the matter would be forwarded to Council who would decide if disciplinary action was required or any further action to be taken.



CHECK LIST

This check list is a recommended set of guidelines that is provided for members using the Ram's Head Trade Mark logo. Where compliance takes place, please tick the appropriate box. This check list should be retained on your property for future reference.

Shed Rules

- No dogs allowed in wool room - chains should be provided outside shed
- Only sheep to be shorn in shed
- Black and coloured sheep to be shorn at different shearing
 - Black spots to be handled as per the AWEX Code Of Practice
- Defined space for personal belongings - away from wool room
- No smoking or eating in wool handling area- ash trays provided in smoking area.
- Sheep must not be run with or shorn in the same shed as any exotic shedding breed
- Lines containing dark, coloured or medullated fibre must not carry the ASWGA mark on the bale or in the catalogue.
- Last years classers specification and test results are available to the classer

SHEARING SHED INSPECTION CHECK LIST

Farm and Shed Hygiene

- Foot scrapers are available at the shed door
- Cotton or nylon rope fitted to shearing machines (no bailing twine)
- Towel and clothing hooks are provided away from wool containers
- The shed is free from fertiliser, grain and fodder bags
- Shed and yards are free from baling twine
- One broom or plastic sweep in new or excellent condition per wool handler
- Newspaper or non contaminate bale dividers are available
- Rubbish or anti-contamination bins (1 per 3 persons) are provided and appropriately placed
- A copy of this ASWGA Check List and the AWEX Classers Code of Practice to be placed in a prominent place and on display for staff use.
- Sheep shearing order and mob counts are displayed.
- The classer and shed staff have been briefed on the job required – The use of the trademark, skirting standards, contamination from foreign objects, stain and dark wool etc.
- All equipment is clean and in good working order.

Work Environment

- Adequate lighting is provided on the board and over the wool tables and in the wool room
- Board and wool room floor are in good condition - no protruding nails or protruding patches
- Catching pens in good order - (grating & doors)
- Shed free from unnecessary objects and equipment
- Toilets and wash facilities clean and in good order
- Every stand has a screwdriver / brush / oil can and comb container.
- Shed grating to be clear and in good order

Occupational Health & Safety

- Railings on stairways and ramps
- Guards fitted to all machinery including grinder guard
- Shearing machines safety gut fitted & working
- Grinders securely fastened and in a safe area
- Wool press in good order & in a safe area
- First aid kit available and fully stocked

Animal Welfare

- Members abides by relevant codes of practice for animal welfare

DATE INSPECTED:..... TIME:

SIGNED By the Owner / Manager

The Wool Classer



ASWGA Stamp/Member Number

This document should be completed and kept on file for at least two years and forwarded on to the ASWGA office on request.