



Responsible Wool Standard 2.1
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Contractor Declaration

Corresponds to AW5.11.

Over the years and recently, wool production has come into focus for brands and consumers; certain animal rights organizations have shone a harsh light on poor practices in farming, even if the reality is that these practices are not typical of most farming systems.

More and more companies are asking questions about where their wool comes from and under what conditions it was produced. Customers are not just asking but demanding that their supply of wool be humane. The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is the tool to give everyone the confidence they need that they are buying wool that is from sheep that have been well treated, and from farms that care for their land.

All farms supplying RWS wool undergoes full certification to verify that the goals and requirements of the standard are met. In addition to the audit, we are asking any subcontractors coming onto the farm to deal directly with the sheep to fill in the declaration that follows.



Contractor Declaration

I, _____, declare that I have reviewed the Responsible Wool Standard, and understand its intent.

I commit to ensure that the animals that my crew and I work with are treated with care. In particular, I will ensure that the following requirements of the RWS are met as they apply (*please initial beside each one*):

Number	Requirement	Initial
AW3.9	Castration shall only be carried out on males that are being kept beyond puberty.	
	AW3.9.1 For all methods, pain relief shall be applied when suitable pain relief is available.	
	AW3.9.2 The procedure shall be performed using either: a) bloodless emasculator b) application of a rubber ring, including shortening of scrotum c) surgical methods with mandatory pain relief.	
	AW3.9.3 The procedure shall be carried out between the ages of 24 hours and 8 weeks.	
	AW3.9.4 Farmers shall monitor for signs of post-operative complications and take appropriate corrective actions.	
	AW3.9.5 Lambs shall not be castrated until the ewe/lamb bond has become established.	
AW3.10	Tail docking shall only be carried out if failure to do so would lead to welfare problems.	
	AW3.10.1 For all methods, pain relief shall be applied when suitable pain relief is available.	



Number	Requirement	Initial
	AW3.10.2 The procedure shall be performed using either thermocautery (preferred method) or the application of a rubber ring.	
	AW3.10.3 The procedure shall be carried out between the ages of 24 hours and 8 weeks.	
	AW3.10.4 Docked tails shall cover the vulva in ewes and the equivalent length in rams.	
	AW3.10.5 Farmers shall monitor for signs of post-operative complications and take appropriate corrective actions.	
	AW3.10.6 Lambs shall not be tail docked until the ewe/lamb bond has become established.	
AW3.15	Shearing shall be performed by - or under the direct supervision of - a competent shearer.	
	AW3.15.1 Shearing shall be carried out under the direct supervision of the farmer or a person appointed by the farmer.	
	AW3.15.2 Shearing shall be done using techniques and equipment designed to minimize stress and injury.	
	AW3.15.3 Sheep shall be handled calmly and confidently to minimize stress. (see AW4.1)	
	AW3.15.4 Particular care shall be taken not to cut or injure the animal, especially the teats/udders of female sheep and the penis/sheath and scrotum of rams.	
	AW3.15.5 An action plan shall be instituted to address and prevent any recurring problems with injuries or mishandling.	



Number	Requirement	Initial
	AW3.15.6 Written and/or visual “Shearing Standard Operating Procedures” shall be posted in a visible location of the shearing shed.	
AW3.17	All shearing related injuries shall be attended to promptly.	
	AW3.17.1 In the event of a severe cut or injury the shearer shall cease shearing immediately to treat the injury.	
	AW3.17.2 Pain relief shall be applied for serious injuries when suitable pain relief is available.	
	AW3.17.3 Records of serious injuries shall be kept.	
AW4.1	Animals shall be handled humanely; mistreatment of animals is unacceptable.	
	AW4.1.1 Mistreatment includes rough physical contact such as kicking, striking, slamming gates on the sheep, tripping, throwing or dropping animals, dragging or pulling sheep by the fleece, tail, ears, head, horns or neck, or dragging by the back legs.	
	AW4.1.2 Extra care shall be taken when handling sheep with special needs, such as young lambs, heavily pregnant ewes, lame sheep and rams. Heavily pregnant ewes shall only be handled when absolutely necessary.	
	AW4.1.3 Electric prodders shall not be used.	

In the event that it comes to my knowledge that any of the above requirements for any reasons are not met, I will inform the certification body immediately.

Name: _____ Date: _____