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Traceability through Wool Certificates

Author:
**International Wool
Textile Organisation**

Wool certificates provide information to the users and buyers of wool. Nearly all wool is bought and sold with an IWTO test certificate.

Test certificates can also report how the wool being certified has been declared. Each major wool growing country offers a different system. This fact sheet features two: the National Wool Declaration in Australia and the Producer's Declaration in South Africa.

Your Keys to Traceability

Wool is a natural fibre and each batch will vary largely in length, colour, fineness and content. Accordingly, each bale of wool will be offered to the prospective buyers with an IWTO test certificate stating:

1. Test Certificate Number
2. Total bales tested, stipulating the weight of each
3. The Yield of each bale (how much clean wool will the bale deliver, after vegetable matter is removed)
4. VM = Vegetable Matter
5. LSCAN = Measuring the micron of the wool in that bale (how fine it is)

6. Mulesing Status (MS)

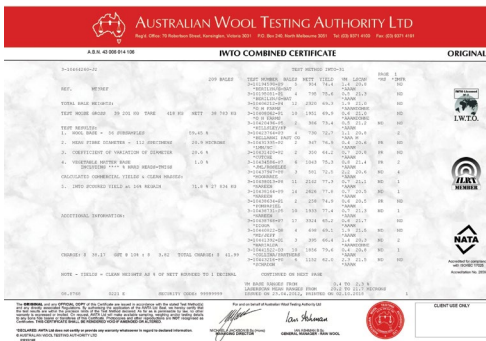
- NM = The wool comes from non-mulesed sheep
- M = Some or all of the sheep in this flock have been mulesed
- PR = All the sheep in the flock were mulesed using a registered Pain Relief product
- CM = Ceased Mulesing, meaning no lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed and no new sheep are mulesed

Wool is tested to international standards and according to the wool testing specifications set out in the International Wool Textile Organisation's White and Red Books.

Wool-testing laboratories are audited annually and conform to the international standards set by their local standardisation body.

IWTO licenses laboratories around the world to issue IWTO test certificates, the "gold standard" in the industry.

Case Study - Australia



The Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) developed the National Wool Declaration (NWD) in 2008 in consultation with industry to ensure that the NWD met the needs of stakeholders through the supply chain. In 2010 AWEX commenced on farm inspections as a key part of the NWD Integrity Program to provide greater confidence to buyers and processors of Australian wool.

AWEX supports the NWD with a series of services and functions.

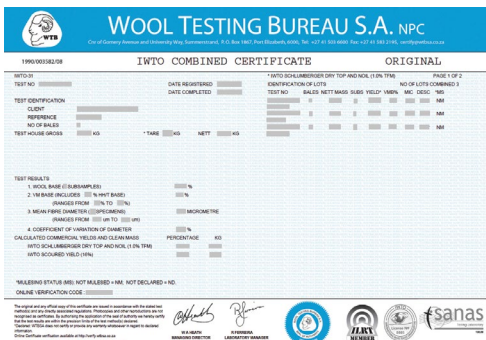
The NWD is a voluntary declaration from the wool grower or owner of the wool clip, and it applies to all sheep and sheep breeds. Declaration rates at the end of 2017 are >69% of all eligible wool.

Annually, AWEX conducts (randomly selected):

- 1,000 desk-top audits (i.e. requesting documentation from 1,000 farms)
- 225 on farm inspections (of clips that have declared NM or CM)
- 200 pain relief verifications i.e. 200 farms that have declared the use of pain relief.

Approximately 80% of the fine Merino wool used for clothing textiles is sourced from Australia and sold through the Australian Wool Exchange.

Case Study - South Africa



Currently all South African Wool is declared mulesed-free. Two Cape Wools audits were conducted by an independent agency. In both audits a 100% compliance was found. All South African wool farmers sign a document (Producer's Declaration) declaring that no mulesing was performed on any sheep on the property for the last year.

Cape Wools relies on the co-operation of the broker's field officers as well as the Cape Wools production advisors to report any mulesed sheep they may encounter. Over the past five years no such report has been made.

Approximately 95% of South African wool growers declare in writing that they adhere to the Cape Wools Code of Best Practice, a comprehensive guide on environmental sustainability, social responsibility and animal welfare.

All South African Wool exported is certified by a State Veterinarian not to have come from a farm or other source from within a zone affected by an emergency animal disease, notably Anthrax, RVF and Foot and Mouth Disease i.e. the wool is traceable back to a disease-free region or farm.

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About IWTO

With a world-wide membership encompassing the wool pipeline from sheep to shop, the International Wool Textile Organisation represents the interests of the global wool trade. By facilitating research and development and maintaining textile industry standards, IWTO ensures a sustainable future for wool. To learn more about IWTO and its activities, visit www.iwto.org.

