

PAM (Port Adelaide Monitors) – Submission to Animal Health Australia

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Sheep

Edition 1 – Public Consultation, Version 1.0

6 May 2013

PART A - General Comments

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed Standards and Guidelines. Whilst the transition from Codes of Practice to Standards and Guidelines has the potential to contribute to better animal welfare outcomes, we are concerned that the current version needs significant amendment if it is to reach this goal.

As members of the community in a participative/deliberative democracy we have several major concerns about these standards.

Firstly, we are aggrieved that the Preface to these Standards describes them as “reflecting available scientific knowledge, current practice and community expectations” - Since the scientific studies relied upon are largely industry funded and the Writing Group that formulated the standards excluded animal welfare groups and (animal interest) community members – this claim is inaccurate.

Secondly, to serve the public interest it is crucial to disclose the organisations or interest groups that are participating, this draft does not - In each step of this process from the Writing Group to the Reference Group to the group that will review the submissions received during the Public Consultation period, the organisations involved should be disclosed. It is also important that the process used to review submissions (from the Public Consultation) and determine which recommendations are incorporated into the Standards is made public. When certain groups of participants are excluded the legitimacy of the standards themselves is called into question.

Thirdly, we believe that a key part of the role of these standards (and all law) is to address the weakest social norms and protect the most vulnerable interests, and these standards fail to do this - In our view, the most vulnerable interests in this context are the animals of lowest financial value, typically the unwanted newborn sheep, the ‘downers’, the old, the weak, the sick, the injured, the distressed, the dying and the animals who can’t move quickly or keep up with the mob. Standards regarding the treatment of these animals must be prescriptive and strong to protect them against the ongoing temptation for animal users to handle them roughly or neglect them in favour of caring for animals who will bring greater financial reward. These standards do not adequately protect the most vulnerable animals.

Fourth, the proposed standards use of vague wording like ‘sheep must have reasonable access to...’ or ‘a person must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of sheep..’ is unverifiable and unacceptable. In addition, these standards must clarify whose responsibility it is to meet the standard, including when it is a shared responsibility between a chain of people - The community won’t accept the use of vague wording which will render the standard ineffective.

Fifth, these proposed standards still use many outcome based (type) standards, despite the failure of this type of standard in this regulatory framework in the past - Despite past problems

with enforcing compliance with, and prosecuting non compliance of outcome based standards in this regulatory system, outcome based standards are still widely used. Principle-Prescriptive and Systems based standards are likely to be more effective in preventing cruelty/bad welfare outcomes since they compel animal users to take specific actions, which can prevent bad welfare outcomes. These more prescriptive types of standards potentially shift the focus so that animal users have to think about their duties (of care) to the animal rather than just focusing on a vaguely worded outcome. This adjustment would also be in line with animal law which is evolving away from a focus on the animal user's (negative duty) not to do harm to the animal, towards the animal users (positive) duty to provide for the animal's welfare needs.

Sixth, the community believes that sheep of all ages are entitled to anaesthetic and appropriate post operative care for any procedure that may potentially cause them pain – Their pain is no different to ours or to that of our companion animals.

Seventh, the use of electric shock prodders on cattle undermines the intent of regulation that sheep be handled in a low stress manner – and this is compounded by the fact that most sheep handling operations don't require staff to have reached any recognised benchmark in low stress animal handling.

Eighth, the standards rarely require any prescriptive type of monitoring or inspection regime that is accompanied by documentation – this is a missed opportunity to drive cruelty prevention by boosting industry's capacity to better recognise and more promptly address welfare challenges and to communicate these concerns through the chain of persons that are responsible for each animal in these enterprises.

Ninth, the standards rarely require documented proof that persons handling animals have reached a certain benchmark of proficiency in the way that they handle animals before they are given this responsibility – The community recognises that handling animals in a way that minimises their stress, whilst moving them efficiently through an agricultural enterprise is challenging; and therefore animal handlers must be trained to reach a required level of proficiency before care of these animals (and management of their own OHS risks) is entrusted to them.

Tenth, standards that relate to the provision of an animal's basic welfare needs (i.e. adequate food and water, shelter, acceptable handling, protection from predators, psychological wellbeing etc) must be strong and prescriptive (they're not optional) – the proposed standards have left some of these core animal requirements as guidelines, as if they are optional.

Eleventh, the proposed standards fail to include adequate definitions of concepts central to acceptable animal welfare, like for example, 'duty of care' and 'chain of responsibility' – Part of the role of Standards is to educate about what acceptable animal welfare requires and to help every person handling these animals understand that they have a shared legal duty of care to the animals under their control.

Twelfth, Regulatory oversight of the way in which these standards are being developed, implemented, enforced and prosecuted should be performed by the proposed Independent Office of Animal Welfare – the creation of this office has already been pledged to the Australian people by the labour party. Where is it? *(See suggested amendments to draft Standards below)*

Preface

[This section will be updated as necessary throughout the process, noting the need to better recognise industry contribution and ownership.]

The *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep* are an important component of the **Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (PAWS)** — an Australian Government initiative that guides the development of new, nationally consistent policies to improve animal welfare arrangements in all Australian states and territories.

The standards provide a basis for developing and implementing consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia, and provide guidance for all people responsible for sheep. They are based on current scientific knowledge, recommended industry practice and community expectations.

The development of these standards is an important project in a comprehensive program under the **AAWS** to develop standards and guidelines for all commercial livestock species and at all points along the production supply chain.

The standards were developed in consultation with state and territory governments, livestock industry organisations, animal welfare groups and the general public under the auspices of the **Animal Welfare Committee**, which is ultimately responsible to the **Standing Council on Primary Industries**.

The standards were drafted by a writing group comprising researchers and government and industry representatives, supported by a widely representative reference group and managed by **Animal Health Australia**. An important part of the process was the preparation of a regulation impact statement to assess the proposed standards and evaluate the costs resulting from changes to existing requirements.

An extensive consultation process was undertaken, with the final public consultation highlighting ethical and practical issues, which led to the development of more robust standards. The reference group considered the views and comments of all stakeholders in developing the final standards and guidelines for recommendation to **Standing Council on Primary Industries**.

These standards and guidelines replace the following model code of practice:

- *Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — The Sheep*, **PISC/SCARM Report Series 89**, **CSIRO Publishing, 1991 (revised 2006)**

The preparation of these standards represents a significant investment by all parties, especially members of the writing and reference groups. Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged by **Animal Health Australia**.

Comment [r1]: Scientific knowledge has no legitimacy unless it is independently funded

Comment [r2]: These standards DO NOT reflect community expectations

Comment [r3]: Why wasn't there representation from animal welfare groups on the Writing Group? For transparency purposes, the members (organisations) of the writing and the reference group should be listed

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state standards and guidelines for the welfare of sheep in Australia. The document informs all those with responsibilities for the care and management of sheep.

The standards provide the basis for developing and implementing consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia, and direction for people responsible for sheep. They reflect available scientific knowledge, current practice and community expectations.

The standards and guidelines may be reflected in the industry-based quality-assurance programs that include sheep welfare provisions.

In May 2009, primary industries ministers took the position that guidelines, regardless of their purpose in existing codes and the new standards and guidelines documents, will not be regulated.

In particular, agreement was reached that:

All future revisions of Model Codes and 'Australian Standards and Guidelines' documents must provide a number of:

- a. clear essential requirements ('standards') for animal welfare that can be verified and are transferable into legislation for effective regulation, and
- b. guidelines, to be produced concurrently with the standards but not enforced in legislation, to be considered by industry for incorporation into national industry QA along with the standards.

This document has been prepared as part of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. It is part of a series of standards and guidelines, each of which brings together welfare standards and guidelines for a particular species – in this case, sheep.

This document aims to:

- specify the legal standards of management and husbandry required to protect and maintain the welfare of sheep in Australia
- provide recommended guidelines for livestock producers, owners, managers, stockpersons and contractors, to complement the standards and to assist them to minimise risks to the welfare of sheep in all types of sheep farming and related enterprises.

Comment [r4]: The community expects the scientific studies to be INDEPENDENTLY COMMISSIONED, not paid for by the sheep use industry.

Comment [r5]: Doesn't reflect community expectations

Comment [r6]: Standards should be prescriptive or process or systems based in preference to outcome based standards. Previous experience has shown outcome based standards to be difficult to enforce and complex to prosecute non compliance under

Comment [r7]: Standards should be prescriptive or process/systems based in preference to outcome based standards. Previous experience has shown outcome based standards to be difficult to enforce and prosecute

Scope

The standards and guidelines will apply to all sheep farming enterprises in Australia from extensive grazing to fully housed systems. Some provisions such as handling standards will apply in other enterprises if there are not already higher provisions in place, such as during transport or at abattoirs or saleyards.

The standards apply to all those responsible for the care and management of sheep. 'Sheep' includes a single ovine animal.

These standards and guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other requirements for livestock, and related Commonwealth, state and territory legislation, including:

- for farming enterprises — model codes of practice or standards and guidelines for livestock species, saleyards, livestock processing (slaughter) establishments and the *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock*
- for transport — the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines — Land Transport of Livestock*, *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock*, livestock health and biosecurity requirements, and regulated livestock loading schemes and driver regulations
- for research and teaching purposes — *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*, 7th edition, 2004.

Where legislation requires a higher standard than these standards, the higher standard will apply. Where there is a conflict with another standard in meeting the livestock welfare standards, the welfare of livestock must be the first consideration unless there is a work health and safety requirement.

Cruelty and unacceptable animal welfare practices can be prosecuted under cruelty and aggravated cruelty offence clauses in animal welfare legislation. For example, sheep must not be allowed to die from lack of feed or water.

Advice or assistance with welfare management and disease control is available from state and territory departments of agriculture, locally based private consultants or veterinarians, as appropriate. These Australian standards and guidelines do not endeavour to describe 'best practice', because it is often too difficult to concisely describe known regional variation in best practice around the country in a single document. Other documents are better placed to recommend industry best practice.

Development process

Each document in the series of *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* is produced following the same process. Production of the document is undertaken by a writing group and guided by a reference group that includes appropriate representation from industry, government and nongovernment organisations.

Comment [r8]: Prosecutions for unacceptable animal welfare practices that don't constitute extreme cruelty (with sufficient evidence) are rare, so this is misleading

Comment [r9]: Insert-that does not include animal welfare group representatives

Standards are based on the collective experience and judgement by the writing group and, where possible, on relevant published scientific literature and other references. The four main decision-making principles¹ used for standards are that they are:

- **desirable for livestock welfare**
- **feasible for industry and government**
- **important for the livestock welfare regulatory framework**
- **will achieve the intended outcome for livestock welfare.**

A regulation impact statement (RIS) is also prepared for the proposed standards in the document.

Through a public consultation process, the community, industry, government and any other relevant stakeholders are given opportunities to comment on drafts of the standards and guidelines document, and the RIS. Final documents are made available in print and on the internet at

www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au

The final documents are also provided to state and territory jurisdictions and industry bodies for referencing in relevant legislation, and to be available for incorporation into industry quality-assurance programs.

Interpretation

Each numbered section of the document covers a particular topic (water, feed, etc.) and contains the following information:

- **Animal welfare objective — the intended outcome(s) for each section of the standards and guidelines.**
- **Standards — the animal welfare requirements designated in this document (i.e. the requirements that must be met under law for livestock welfare purposes). The standards are intended to be clear, essential and verifiable statements. However, not all issues are able to be well defined by scientific research or to be quantified. Standards use the word 'must'. They are presented in a box and are numbered, with the prefix '5'. The use of * in the standards indicates a defined term.**
- **Guidelines — the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes. Guidelines use the word 'should' and complement the standards. Noncompliance with one or more guidelines will not in itself constitute an offence under law.**
- **Notes — explanations of the context of the standards and guidelines (notes are advisory statements for selected background information).**
- **Definitions — are described in the glossary. Jurisdictions may vary in their definition of specific terms under their animal welfare legislation. Every endeavour has been**

Adapted from HA Linstone and M Turoff (2002). 'The policy delphi', chapter 111.6.1 in *The Delphi Method: Techniques and Applications*, New Jersey Institute of Technology 2002.

Comment [r10]: Need to identify WHO reviews the submissions from the public consultation process, and who decides which comments will be incorporated and which won't.

made to adopt terms that have nationwide application. Readers are urged to check the relevant definitions under the relevant legislation to their situation.

Further detail on livestock management practices can be found in other industry and government publications.

Note the use of 'a person' or 'a person in charge' in the standards. 'A person' means more than one person (plural) and not just a specific person. Use of 'a person in charge' is appropriate where responsibility is shared and may extend along a hierarchy of management. In contrast, the term 'the person in charge' relates to a single, specific person.

Some standards describe the required welfare outcomes, without prescribing the exact actions that must be done.

The 'risk to welfare of sheep' is the potential for a factor to affect the welfare of sheep in a way that causes pain, injury or distress to sheep. The outcome could include sunburn, hypothermia, heat stress, dehydration, exhaustion, abortion, injury, metabolic disease or death. These risks can be managed by undertaking reasonable actions to prevent or reduce the risk. 'Sheep' includes a single ovine animal.

A 'reasonable action(s)' are those actions regarded as reasonable to be done by an experienced person in the circumstances to address a problem, as determined by accepted practice and by other similarly experienced people. It is not intended that all reasonable actions are described in this document.

Comment [r11]: And undertaken without delay

Principles for sheep welfare

Sheep in Australia are managed in environments that vary from extensive rangelands to intensively housed systems. In all cases, the people in charge of sheep are responsible for the welfare of the animals under their control. In achieving improved welfare outcomes envisaged by the standards, it is important that people responsible for animals have the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to undertake the various procedures and meet the requirements of the standards, in a manner that minimises the risk to sheep welfare.

Adherence to good animal husbandry principles is essential to meet the welfare requirements of animals. Sheep strongly prefer to be with other sheep in a flock. Good husbandry principles that also meet the basic physiological and behavioural needs of sheep may include:

Comment [r12]: Add dot point: Regular monitoring of sheep welfare and prompt actions taken to remedy sheep suffering distress, sickness, disease or injury

- - a level of nutrition adequate to sustain good health and welfare
 - access to sufficient water of suitable quality to meet physiological needs
 - social contact with other sheep
 - sufficient space to stand, lie and stretch their limbs and perform normal patterns of behaviour
 - handling facilities, equipment and procedures that minimise stress
 - procedures to minimise the risk of pain, injury or disease

- provision of appropriate treatment, including humane killing if necessary

Comment [r13]: Both of which must only be performed by a suitably qualified person

- minimising the risk of predation
- provision of reasonable precautions against extremes of weather and the effects of natural disasters
- selection and breeding of sheep appropriate for the environment and the level of planned flock management to be provided
- assessment of the need to undertake any husbandry procedures that may result in significant short-term pain against alternative strategies for the long-term welfare of the sheep
- undertaking of any husbandry procedures required for planned flock management in a manner that reduces the impact of these procedures and minimises risks to sheep welfare.

I Responsibilities

Objective

A person knows their responsibilities for sheep welfare and is able to perform the required tasks to minimise the risk to the welfare of sheep.

Standards

S1.1 A person must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of sheep under their care.

Guidelines

G1.1 Elements of responsibility for sheep management should include:

- understanding the standards and guidelines for sheep welfare
- obtaining knowledge of relevant animal welfare laws
- understanding sheep behaviour
- planning and undertaking actions for the enterprise to meet the welfare standards and address contingencies that may arise
- assessing the quantity, quality and continuity of feed and water supply
- maintaining appropriate records
- handling to minimise stress, and using handling aids, facilities and other equipment appropriately
- undertaking hygienic husbandry procedures in a manner that minimises the risks to sheep welfare
- understanding and following chemical and drug treatment instructions for sheep
- identifying distressed, weak, injured or diseased sheep, and taking appropriate action
- humanely killing sheep by appropriate methods, or seeking the assistance of someone who is capable and equipped to kill them humanely.

G1.2 Agistment responsibilities should be communicated, documented and clearly understood by both parties.

G1.3 Owners, managers and stockpersons of sheep should have an appropriate staff induction program, periodically review existing practices, and be aware of new developments.

Comment [r14]: Need to spell out what 'reasonable actions' are or this is not verifiable. Suggest Add: Reasonable actions require the responsible person to monitor animals regularly to ensure the animal has an appropriate body score and the opportunity to behave normally; and that it is free from distress, sickness, disease and injury. The responsible person must take action to prevent distress, sickness, disease or injury and to treat it promptly and adequately if it occurs.

2 Feed and water

Objective

Sheep have access to feed and water to **minimise** the risk to their welfare.

Comment [r15]: To suitable feed and water to meet their physical needs and satisfy their thirst and hunger

Standards

52.1 A person in charge must ensure sheep have reasonable access to adequate and appropriate feed and water.

Comment [r16]: Continuously except for short periods due to shearing, medical treatment, transport and prior to slaughter. Water deprivation should never exceed 12 hours.

Guidelines

G2.1 Sheep should have access to feed and water daily, except where reasonable management practices, such as shearing, preparation for sale, transport, slaughter and drenching, result in a longer period of water deprivation, to a maximum of 48 hours. Feed and water deprivation exceeding 48 hours should be avoided.

Comment [r17]: Extra standard; Responsible persons must ensure that sheep have a body score of between 2.5 and 5

G2.2 If sufficient feed and water cannot be provided to sheep, options that should be considered are to relocate, agist, sell or humanely kill the sheep before sheep welfare is adversely affected.

G2.3 Weaned lambs should gain weight and be provided with appropriate energy and protein supplements when grazing dry pastures or stubbles.

G2.4 Lambs should be supplementary fed with ewes (imprint feeding) before weaning, where appropriate for the production system, so that the lambs learn to accept supplementary feed.

G2.5 Regular assessment should be made of the needs of the sheep in relation to the quantity and quality of feed and water.

G2.6 Self feeders and watering points should be checked regularly and maintained.

G2.7 Access by sheep to contaminated and spoilt feed, toxic plants and harmful substances should be managed or avoided if possible.

G2.8 Sheep should be gradually introduced to a change of diet to enable them to adapt and to prevent digestive problems, and should be closely monitored.

G2.9 A body condition, fat scoring or weighing system should be used as a guide for the monitoring and planned feeding of sheep.

G2.10 Sheep should be closely monitored during transition to varying water quality (e.g. mineral content, salinity, etc.) to ensure that they are drinking. Alternate water supplies should be provided if sheep are seen not to drink.

3 Risk management of extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation

Objective

Sheep are managed to minimise the impact of threats to their welfare, including extremes of weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation.

Standards

S3.1	A person in charge must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of sheep from threats, including *extremes of weather*, *drought*, fires, floods, disease, injury and predation.
S3.2	A person in charge must ensure the *inspection* of sheep at intervals, and at a level appropriate to the production system and the risks to the welfare of sheep.
S3.3	A person in charge must ensure appropriate treatment for sick, injured or diseased

Comment [r18]: Not verifiable unless you itemize inspection intervals for the main production systems.

Comment [r19]: Add 'distressed'

Comment [r20]: Add 'promptly'

Guidelines

Contingency planning, inspection and drought management

- G3.1** Contingency plans to minimise risks to sheep welfare should include:
- emergency contact details
 - breakdown or mechanical failure affecting feed, water or ventilation
 - adverse weather — specifically conditions that predispose sheep to heat or cold stress
 - flood, fire and drought
 - disease outbreak or injury
 - other issues specific to the enterprise or sheep being managed.
- G3.2** Inspection of sheep should take into consideration:
- feed availability
 - water supply
 - age
 - pregnancy status
 - weather

Comment [r21]: Add: a documented record of

- disease risk, including flystrike
- predation risk
- recent management procedures.

G3.3 Sheep that appear to be isolated from the flock, caught in structures or bogged should be inspected immediately and appropriate action taken.

Comment [r22]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, and add The persons in charge must ensure that

G3.4 Drought strategies should be prepared in advance and then progressively implemented. Strategies should be implemented before paddock feed runs out and may include:

- relocation
- supplementary feeding and use of stock containment areas
- sale or agistment
- segregation according to risk
- early weaning
- humane killing.

G3.5 Sheep being fed in a drought situation should be carefully observed. Weak sheep and shy feeders may require segregation to ensure appropriate treatment.

Comment [r23]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, and add The persons in charge must ensure that

Comment [r24]: Must be observed at least weekly

Weather

G3.6 Sheep and lambs should be provided with adequate shelter. In the absence of natural protection, consideration should be given to the provision of shade, windbreaks or sheds.

Comment [r25]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, and add : The persons in charge must ensure that sheep and lambs are provided with etc.

G3.7 Shorn sheep should be given protection during cold conditions and sudden weather changes.

Comment [r26]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, and add: The persons in charge must ensure that sheep are given protection etc...

G3.8 Protection for sheep around shearing may include:

- postponing shearing
- using snow combs
- providing shelter
- providing wind breaks
- providing additional feed.

G3.9 Sheep handling should be minimised during extreme weather and particularly during extremely hot weather.

Predators

G3.10 Predator control programs should be implemented where predation is a risk to the welfare of sheep.

Comment [r27]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, and add: The persons in charge must ensure that etc.....

Injuries and disease

G3.11 Advice on sheep disease prevention or treatment should be sought from qualified advisors. A health management plan should be devised and implemented.

G3.12 Unexplained disease and deaths should be investigated to formulate appropriate remedial and preventive actions.

Comment [r28]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD: and add: The persons in charge must ensure that they can show evidence that unexplained disease and deaths have been investigated etc....

G3.13 Sheep should be vaccinated against relevant diseases.

G3.14 Treatments and vaccines should be administered in accordance with directions. Records of treatments should be kept.

Comment [r29]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, and substitute should with must

G3.15 Internal and external parasites should be monitored and controlled.

G3.16 Where flystrike is a risky preventive techniques that should be considered are:

- selecting replacement sheep with greater genetic resistance to flystrike
- culling sheep with high wrinkle scores
- culling previously struck sheep
- tactical crutching/shearing during high prevalence periods
- strategic chemical use
- using an effective flock worm control program and/or grazing management to prevent scouring
- selecting replacement sheep with correct tail length and/or breech modification
- tail docking lambs
- using clips and other appropriate new technologies
- mulesing lambs.

Comment [r30]: Add dot point: 'Regular inspection of all sheep'

4 Facilities and equipment

Objective

Facilities and equipment are appropriate to minimise the risk to the welfare of sheep.

Standards

S4.1 A person in charge must take reasonable actions in the *construction*, maintenance and operation of *facilities* and equipment to ensure the welfare of sheep.

Guidelines

G4.1 Facility construction or modification should take into account:

- sheep behaviour
- topography (location and drainage)
- flood and fire risk
- climate
- purpose/length of confinement
- space
- feed and water space requirements
- shade/shelter
- surface materials
- cleaning and waste disposal.

G4.2 Shade ~~should be considered~~ in hot weather for outdoor pens where sheep are penned for extended periods.

Comment [r31]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G4.3 Floor surfaces should be nonslip, nonabrasive and free-draining. Concrete is only recommended for high-traffic areas.

Comment [r32]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G4.4 Facilities should be free from protrusions and obstacles that may cause injury.

Comment [r33]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G4.5 Facilities and equipment for restraining sheep should only be used:

- for the minimum time necessary
- with the minimum restraint necessary.

Comment [r34]: Add Extra Standard: Ther persons in charge must ensure that sheep being kept in a pen for more than 12 hours pens have appropriate, clean bedding

5 Handling and husbandry

Objective

Handling and husbandry practices are appropriate and minimise the risk to the welfare of sheep.

Standards

S5.1 A person must handle sheep ~~in a reasonable manner~~ and must not:

- 1) ~~*lift*~~ off the ground by only one leg, or by the head, ears, horns, neck, tail or wool, unless in an ~~*emergency*~~; or
- 2) ~~throw~~ or drop, except to land on its feet from a height less than one metre; or
- 3) strike ~~in an unreasonable manner~~, punch or kick; or
- 4) drag sheep that are not standing by only one leg, ~~except in an emergency to allow safe handling, *lifting*, treatment or humane killing; or~~
- 5) drag by the ears, tail, or wool; or
- 6) drag by mechanical means, except in an ~~*emergency*~~, for the minimum distance to allow safe handling, ~~*lifting*~~, treatment or humane killing.

S5.2 A person in charge of a dog ~~that habitually bites sheep~~ must muzzle the dog while working sheep.

S5.3 A person in charge must ensure a sheep is shorn before the wool reaches 250 mm in length.

S5.4 A person must ~~consider the welfare of sheep when using an electric prodder, and must not use it:~~

- 1) ~~on genital, anal, udder or facial areas of sheep; or~~
- 2) ~~on sheep less than three months old; or~~
- 3) ~~on sheep that are unable to move away; or~~
- 4) ~~in an unreasonable manner on sheep.~~

S5.5 A person must not trim or grind the teeth of sheep.

Comment [r35]: With respect and in a manner that minimizes their stress

Comment [r36]: Delete throw

Comment [r37]: Delete

Comment [r38]: delete

Comment [r39]: delete

Comment [r40]: not use an electric prodder on sheep

	surrounding *skin* (pizzle dropping).
55.7	A person in charge must ensure that tethered sheep are able to exercise daily.

Guidelines

Handling

G5.1 Sheep should be handled to take advantage of their natural flocking behaviour when mustering, yarding and handling. People handling sheep should have an understanding of the flight zone.

G5.2 Extra care should be taken when handling sheep with special needs — for example, young lambs, heavily pregnant ewes, lame sheep and rams.

Comment [r41]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD. Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with is. Also add: old or weak sheep, distressed sheep and injured sheep

G5.3 Sheep should be restrained and isolated for the minimum time necessary. Sheep isolated in a pen should be provided with a pen mate.

G5.4 The use of dogs and handling aids should be limited to the minimum needed to complete the task.

G5.5 During mustering, sheep should be rested or allowed to slow if they show signs of laboured breathing.

G5.6 Temporary yards should be used where appropriate for husbandry procedures.

G5.7 Overcrowding of sheep in pens or yards should be avoided. Precautions should be taken to prevent smothering, especially for lambs and weaners.

G5.8 Care should be taken when handling, catching or restraining a segregated sheep, but particularly a ram, because this act may result in serious injury to an animal. Handling practices and facilities should be appropriate to manage these risks.

G5.9 Sheep should be returned to feed and water as soon as possible after handling.

G5.10 Unnecessary sheep handling should be avoided during extreme weather.

Comment [r42]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD. Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Husbandry

G5.11 Operators should adopt practices to manage risk from dipping and other forms of ectoparasite treatments, which include treatment failure, post-dipping infections and injury. When dipping sheep, take into consideration:

- that adverse weather is not prevailing or predicted
- that sheep should not be overloaded in the dip
- the use of disinfectant if dipped immediately after shearing.

G5.12 Feet should be inspected as appropriate and any necessary action taken.

G5.13 Operators should adopt practices to manage risk from drenching and other forms of oral treatments, which include treatment failure, toxicity, inhalation of the medication and injury. This applies to treatments with solutions, suspensions, pastes, capsules or any form of bolus, including bullets.

G5.14 Manufacturer's instructions should be followed for husbandry procedures for sheep, such as applying clips and ear tags.

G5.15 Horn trimming should avoid excessive damage to soft tissue.

G5.16 Earmarking, tattooing, tagging and vaccination should be done in a way that minimises the risk of infection and with instruments that are sharp and clean.

G5.17 Sheep fitted with nets or coats should be inspected regularly to ensure that they do not become tangled, cast or adversely affected by grass seeds.

Comment [r43]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should section with 'must be inspected at least weekly'... etc.

G5.18 Insect worry should be managed by implementing control measures where appropriate.

Wool harvesting

G5.19 Care should be taken when shearing and crutching to minimise cuts, and severe cuts should be treated at the first reasonable opportunity.

Comment [r44]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with is and must. And say must be treated promptly and appropriately

G5.20 When harvesting wool, consider:

- stopping if cold, wet and windy weather is experienced or predicted and

- releasing newly shorn sheep into adequate shelter or allowing sheep to remain in the shed until the risk has passed
- ensuring there is adequate feed and water available for newly shorn sheep.

adequate shelter is not available

G5.21 Rams that are sedated for shearing or crutching should be managed to prevent exposure, sunburn and smothering in accordance with the directions of the prescribing veterinarian.

Comment [r45]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with are

G5.22 Sheep that grow and retain long wool should be shorn annually.

Comment [r46]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

6 Tail docking and castration

Objective

Tail docking and castration are done only when necessary, and in a manner that minimises the risk to the welfare of sheep, particularly pain and distress.

Standards

56.1	A person performing tail docking or castration must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, or be under the direct supervision of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills.
Tail docking	
56.2	A person must not *tail dock* sheep that are more than six months old without using *pain relief* and haemorrhage control.
56.3	A person must leave a docked tail stump of a sheep with at least two *palpable free joints* remaining.
Castration	
56.4	A person must not *castrate* or use the cryptorchid method on sheep that are more than six months old without using *pain relief* and haemorrhage control.

Comment [r47]: Replace with 'be accredited to perform these surgical procedures.'

Comment [r48]: 3 months

Comment [r49]: Only dock tails through the joint space and must...

Comment [r50]: 3 months

Guidelines

G6.1 Tail docking and castration should only be done where there are no alternatives and the procedure results in:

- benefits to life-time sheep welfare
- better flock management
- a reduced work (occupational) health and safety risk.

G6.2 Tail docking and castration ~~should~~ be done after a secure maternal bond has been established, and after the lambs are 24 hours old.

Comment [r51]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G6.3 Lambs should be tail docked, castrated or made cryptorchid as young as possible and before they are 12 weeks old.

Comment [r52]: Insert 'only'

Comment [r53]: Add, 'but no younger than 2 weeks old'

- G6.4 Tail docking, castration and other marking procedures should be planned with consideration to the age of lambs, weather, staff availability and facilities, including the use of temporary or permanent yards.
- G6.5 Good hygiene practices should be practiced in relation to facilities, hands, handling and instruments. Disinfectant should be used and changed frequently.
- G6.6 Infection should be minimised by avoiding muddy or dusty yards, and wet or humid weather.
- G6.7 Operators should adopt appropriate strategies to minimise the risk and impact of common infections, such as by *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* and *Clostridium tetani*, through vaccination of lambs and/or their mothers.
- G6.8 Lambs should be appropriately restrained in a lamb cradle and, when released, should land on their feet to avoid contact of the wound(s) with the ground.
- G6.9 Lambs should be separated from their mothers for the shortest possible time.
- G6.10 Haemorrhage should be minimised by selecting an appropriate method, preventing overheating of lambs and allowing them to settle after mustering.
- G6.11 Tail docking and castration should not be undertaken during extreme weather.
- G6.12 Tail docking and castration should be done when fly activity is minimal, or in conjunction with appropriate preventive flystrike treatments.
- G6.13 Sheep should be inspected regularly and with minimal disturbance for signs of post-operative complications during the healing process, and appropriate action taken.
- G6.14 Tail docking and castration should be accompanied by pain relief when practical and cost-effective methods become available. Operators should seek advice on current pain minimisation strategies.
- G6.15 Ewes should be managed to optimise milk production to maximize protein availability for the lamb to aid wound healing.
- G6.16 After placement in paddocks, lambs should not be forcibly mustered and yarded until wounds are healed.
- Tail docking**
- G6.17 Lambs should be tail docked by the hot knife or rubber ring methods, in preference to the sharp knife method or other cutting methods, except for larger tails. The **hot knife method** is generally preferable for tail docking done with mulesing. Recommendations may change with future research and development.
- G6.18 A hot knife should be operated at the recommended temperature.

Comment [r54]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r55]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with is

Comment [r56]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must, and replace extreme weather with weather 35 degrees or over

Comment [r57]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r58]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that sheep are inspected the next day and then at least every 2nd day for the next week..... And replace should with must

Comment [r59]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r60]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r61]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that ALL TAIL DOCKING IS ONLY DONE BY ACCREDITED PERSONS USING PAIN RELIEF..... And replace should with must

G6.19 ~~The tail should be docked through the joint space.~~

Comment [r62]: Delete this

G6.20 The docked tail should be long enough to cover the vulva in female lambs and be of similar length in males.

G6.21 ~~Tail docking should not be done for cosmetic reasons or on fat-tail sheep breeds.~~

Comment [r63]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD. Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should not be with is not

Castration

G6.22 Lambs destined for slaughter before they are 12 weeks old, or before the onset of puberty, should not be castrated.

7 Mulesing

Objective

In circumstances where mulesing is necessary for the long-term welfare of the sheep, it is done in a manner that minimises the impact of the procedure.

Comment [r64]: Insert: and where it can be proven that non surgical alternatives could not be used

Standards

57.1	A person performing *mulesing* must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, or be under the *direct supervision* of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills.
57.2	A person must not *mules* sheep that are less than 24 hours old or more than 12 months old.
57.3	A person must not *mules* sheep that are 6-12 months old without using *pain relief*.
57.4	A person must not *mules* sheep showing signs of debilitating disease, weakness or ill-thrift.

Comment [r65]: Replace with: Only an accredited operator who has..... are permitted to mules sheep

Comment [r66]: 3 months old

Comment [r67]: Delete this section

Comment [r68]: Add: injury or distress

Comment [r69]: Insert: Wool bearing skin that is at risk of developing fly-strike

Note: Mulesing does not include nonsurgical approaches that deliver analogous outcomes for the sheep such as clips, intra-derma I injections of chemicals or other future, non-cutting technologies.

Guidelines

G7.1 ~~The options for breech strike prevention should be considered~~ before undertaking mulesing including:

Comment [r70]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must be able to prove that other options have been considered... etc

- selection for resistant conformation
- culling susceptible sheep
- clips
- crutching
- timing of shearing
- chemicals for flystrike prevention
- internal parasite control.

G7.2 Selection for breech flystrike-resistant conformation should include low dag score, low wrinkle score and low breech cover score.

- G7.3 In areas prone to high breech flystrike risk, lambs with a high dag score and/or high wrinkle score should be culled.
- G7.4 In assessing breech flystrike risk and the need for mulesing, factors that should be considered are:
- sheep are at a high risk of breech flystrike on the property on which they are kept
 - lambs are intended to be kept as adult sheep
 - sheep are likely to be sold and kept as adults in areas prone to breech flystrike.
- G7.5 The mulesing operation should only remove sufficient wool-bearing skin appropriate to the conformation of the **Iamb** being treated to achieve flystrike protection.
- G7.6 **Where** mulesing is performed, lambs ~~should be~~ mulesed at 2-12 weeks of **age**.
- G7.7 **Mulesing** ~~should~~ only be done where there are no alternatives and the procedure results in:
- benefits to life-time sheep welfare
 - better flock management
 - a reduced work (occupational) health and safety risk.
- G7.8 **Mulesing** ~~should~~ be accompanied by pain relief ~~where practical and cost effective methods are available~~. Operators should seek advice on current pain minimisation strategies.
- G7.9 **Good** hygiene practices should be practiced in relation to facilities, hands, handling and instruments. Disinfectant should be used and changed frequently.
- G7.10 Risk of infection should be minimised by avoiding muddy or dusty yards, and wet or humid weather.
- G7.11 Operators should adopt appropriate strategies to minimise the risk and impact of common infections, such as by *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* and *Clostridium tetani*, through vaccination of lambs and/or their mothers.
- G7.12 **Lambs** ~~should~~ be appropriately restrained in a lamb cradle and, when released, should land on their feet to avoid contact of the wound(s) with the ground.
- G7.13 Lambs should be separated from their mothers for the shortest possible time.
- G7.14 Ewes should be managed **to** optimise milk production to maximize protein availability for the lamb to aid wound healing.

Comment [r71]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

Comment [r72]: Add: But not before 2 weeks old

Comment [r73]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r74]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r75]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r76]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G7.15 Haemorrhage should be minimised by preventing overheating of lambs and allowing them to settle after mustering.

G7.16 Mulesing should be done when fly activity is minimal, or in conjunction with appropriate preventive flystrike treatment.

G7.17 Sheep should be inspected regularly and with minimal disturbance for signs of post-operative complications during the healing process, and appropriate action taken

Comment [r77]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD. Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with are

G7.18 After placement in paddocks, lambs should not be forcibly mustered and yarded until wounds are healed.

G7.19 Mulesing should be planned with consideration to the age of lambs, weather, staff availability and facilities, including the use of temporary or permanent yards.

G7.20 Mulesing should not be undertaken during extreme weather.

Comment [r78]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD. Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r79]: Of 35 degrees or over

8 Breeding management

Objective

Breeding management practices are appropriate and minimise the risk to the welfare of sheep.

Standards

- 58.1 A person performing artificial breeding procedures on sheep must ~~not cause~~ unreasonable pain, distress or injury to sheep.
- 58.2 A person must be a veterinarian, or operating under veterinary *supervision*, to perform surgical embryo transfer and laparoscopic insemination of sheep.

Comment [r80]: Be able to prove that they have taken appropriate action to reduce

Guidelines

- G8.1 ~~Technicians~~ responsible for breeding management ~~should~~ have ~~an~~ understanding of reproduction and behaviour of both the ewe and the ram.
- G8.2 The timing and duration of the joining period should be managed to align with feed availability for the ewes and lambs, and to reduce weather risk for lambs.

Comment [r81]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r82]: Insert: documented accreditation to demonstrate

Ewes and lambing

- G8.3 ~~In~~ the last 4-6 weeks of pregnancy, management practices ~~should~~ minimise stress on ewes to reduce pregnancy toxemia and other metabolic diseases.
- G8.4 ~~Lambing~~ ewes ~~should~~ be monitored, and disturbed as little as possible.
- G8.5 ~~Ewes~~ that receive severe injuries during lambing or that are affected by a severe adverse outcome (prolapsed uterus, unable to remove lamb) ~~should~~ receive urgent treatment or be humanely killed without delay.
- G8.6 ~~Lambing~~ ewes ~~should~~ be placed in a sheltered paddock with quality feed, especially if there is a risk of cold, wet or windy weather.
- G8.7 ~~Predators~~ ~~should~~ be controlled before and during lambing.

Comment [r83]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r84]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r85]:

Comment [r86]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r87]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

Newborn lambs

- G8.8 ~~Newborn~~ lambs orphaned at birth ~~should~~ receive colostrum or colostrum substitute as soon as possible after birth.
- G8.9 ~~Weak~~ or orphaned lambs with very little chance of survival ~~should~~ be humanely killed.

Comment [r88]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r89]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with are

Rams

G8.10 Rams should be checked at regular intervals for injuries and disease.

Laparoscopic artificial insemination, embryo transfer and semen collection by electro-ejaculation

G8.11 Ewes should be handled and restrained for the shortest duration and as gently as possible. Ewes should spend the minimum amount of time inverted.

~~G8.12 Technicians conducting artificial insemination, embryo transfer or electro-ejaculation of sheep should be trained and competent in these techniques.~~

Comment [r90]: Delete

~~G8.13 Semen collection using an artificial vagina should be used in preference to electro-ejaculation.~~

Comment [r91]: Delete

G8.14 Laparoscopic artificial insemination and embryo transfer ~~should~~ be done using sedation, analgesia and aseptic technique.

Comment [r92]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

9 Intensive sheep production systems

Objective

Sheep in intensive production systems are managed to minimise the risk to the welfare of sheep.

Standards

- S9.1** A person in charge must ensure that feed and water is available daily to sheep in *intensive production systems*.
- S9.2** A person in charge must ensure the daily *inspection* of sheep in the first week of confinement, to ensure adaptation to the *intensive production system*.
- S9.3** A person in charge must take reasonable action where sheep have not adapted to an *intensive production system*.
- S9.4** A person in charge must not allow faeces and urine to accumulate to the stage that compromises the welfare of sheep in an *intensive production system*.
- S9.5** A person in charge must ensure an indoor housing system for sheep has effective *ventilation*.
- S9.6** A person in charge must ensure sufficient space to allow all sheep to *lie* on their sternums at the same time in an *intensive production system*.
- S9.7** A person in charge must ensure ~~a sheep housed in a single pen for fine wool~~

Comment [r93]: Add: lie down so that their legs are fully stretched out

Comment [r94]: That sheep for commercial wool production are never penned separately unless it is for a brief period and it is for medical reasons. All sheep must be able to ... etc

Guidelines

Feed and water

- G9.1** ~~Drinking~~ equipment should be inspected regularly and maintained to ensure its correct operation, and that pipes, taps and ball valves are not blocked.
- G9.2** ~~Water~~ troughs should be cleaned ~~as required~~ to prevent contamination.
- G9.3** ~~Feed~~ troughs should be cleaned as required to prevent faecal contamination and build-up of stale or spoiled feed and dust.
- G9.4** ~~Trough~~ space should be adequate for the feeding system to allow the daily intake of feed and water, and to minimise bullying and shy feeders.

Comment [r95]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r96]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r97]: At least monthly and before new feed is added

Comment [r98]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

Comment [r99]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G9.5 Sheep should be gradually introduced to a change of diet to enable them to adapt and to prevent digestive problems, and should be closely monitored.

G9.6 ~~Sufficient fibre should be provided~~ in the diet to promote rumination.

G9.7 ~~Sheep~~ for intensive wool production systems ~~should be~~ maintained at or above a body condition or fat score of two out of five (five is fattest).

Management

G9.8 ~~Managers~~ of intensive systems ~~should be aware of current information in~~ intensive sheep management and health, and have contact with professionals with relevant expertise.

G9.9 When inspecting sheep in the first week of confinement, particular attention should be given to their adjustment to:

- new dietary regime
- environment
- feeding and watering facilities
- other sheep.

G9.10 Sheep should be grouped with others that they are already familiar with, and of the same class.

Inspection

G9.11 During inspections particular attention should be given to:

- identifying signs of sickness, digestive conditions or injury
- measuring feed intake
- checking feed and water facilities
- identifying shy feeders
- identifying stereotypic behaviours early, such as repetitive motion, wool biting and mouthing of railings.

G9.12 Special attention should be given to shy feeders. Management options for shy feeders may include:

- reducing pen density
- drafting sheep to pens based on size of sheep

Comment [r100]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that fibre is constantly provided .. etc

Comment [r101]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

Comment [r102]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with 'must possess documented evidence that they have accreditation/competence in ... etc

- altering trough design to enhance feed access
- removing them from the system.

G9.13 ~~Lighting in indoor systems should be adequate to allow inspection of all sheep.~~

Sheep behaviour

G9.14 Sheep should not be housed in single pens.

G9.15 ~~Wool biting and other stereotypic behaviours should be addressed. Options may include:~~

- providing coarse fibre (e.g. straw) in such a way that satisfies the need for sheep to forage and ruminate
- correcting dietary deficiencies
- enriching the environment
- removing the sheep from the system.

Disease prevention

G9.16 ~~Prior to entry into an intensive system, sheep should be inspected for disease and injury and appropriate treatment undertaken.~~

G9.17 ~~A biosecurity plan should be in place for the introduction of sheep to the system.~~

G9.18 ~~Intensive systems should have hospital pens for sick or injured sheep.~~

G9.19 ~~Dead sheep should be removed as soon as possible.~~

Pen density

G9.20 When determining space allowance per sheep, consideration should be given to:

- environment
- group size
- age
- sex
- live weight
- provision of feed and water
- behaviour of stock.

Comment [r103]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

Comment [r104]: Add, and should mimic natural light cycles for sheep's wellbeing

Comment [r105]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must take action to remedy

Comment [r106]: Add: Catering for the animals' psychological needs

Comment [r107]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

Comment [r108]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with is

Comment [r109]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And delete should

Comment [r110]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that dead sheep are removed promptly, at least daily

Comment [r111]: Add dotpoint: distress, weakness, sickness, injury or disease of individual sheep

G9.21 ~~Table 9.1 should be used as a guide for~~ the minimum space allowances per sheep in a pen or feedlot.

Comment [r112]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be used as a guide with 'must be used as'

Table 9.1 Minimum space allowances

Single pens	Minimum space allowances (m ²)
Wether or dry ewe	0.9
Ram, pregnant ewe or heavy wether	1.0
Lamb	0.6
Ewe with lamb	1.5
Group pens	
Less than 8. sheep	0.9
8-15 sheep	0.8
16-30 sheep	0.6
31 or more sheep	0.5
Outdoor feedlots	
Lambs up to 41 kg	1.0
Adult sheep	1.3
Heavy wether	1.5
Ewe and lamb(s)	1.8

Source: Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: The Sheep Edition 2,

2006. Facilities and environment

G9.22 Dust should be minimised within the intensive system.

G9.23 Pen surfaces should be maintained to minimise slipping and injury.

Comment [r113]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G9.24 Pen surfaces should be constructed and maintained in a way that reduces the buildup of manure and urine.

Comment [r114]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

G9.25 Shade and shelter ~~should be~~ provided to prevent heat and cold stress.

G9.26 All ventilation equipment ~~should~~ be checked regularly to ensure it is fully operational.

Comment [r115]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

G9.27 Indoor housing systems with controlled or forced ventilation that rely on automatic equipment ~~should be~~ inspected daily, or have a back-up system to warn of mechanical failure.

Comment [r116]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with is, and replace regularly with 'at least daily'

G9.28 Natural or artificial light should be adequate for all sheep housed in indoor systems.

Comment [r117]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD, Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should be with are

Contingency arrangements

Comment [r118]: Insert after 'adequate': to mimic natural daily light conditions

G9.29 A contingency plan should be in place for the following:

Comment [r119]: Add Standard: CCTV must be installed and operating in all housed and indoor systems to enable monitoring of animal handling and animals'

- water supply interruption



- feed supply interruption
- disease outbreak
- extreme weather conditions (heat and cold stress)
- personal accident or injury
- fire or flood.

G9.30 Fire alarms and adequate fire fighting equipment should be fitted and maintained in all indoor housing systems.

Comment [r120]: MAKE THIS A STANDARD. Add: The persons in charge must ensure that..... And replace should with must

10 Humane killing

Objective

Where it is necessary to kill sheep, it is done promptly, safely and humanely.

Standards

510.1 A person in charge must ensure killing methods for sheep result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious.
510.2 A person killing a sheep must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills to kill the sheep humanely, or be under the *direct supervision* of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, unless: 1) the sheep is suffering and needs to be killed to prevent undue suffering; and 2) there is an unreasonable delay until *direct supervision* by a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills is available.
510.3 A person in charge of a sheep suffering from severe distress, disease or injury that cannot be reasonably treated must ensure the sheep is killed at the first reasonable opportunity.
510.4 A person killing sheep must take reasonable action to confirm the sheep is dead
510.5 A person killing a lamb by a blow to the forehead must ensure that the lamb weighs less than 10 kilograms.

Comment [r121]: Insert: are carried out respectfully and in a manner which minimizes the sheep's distress and results....etc.

Comment [r122]: Documented evidence of the relevant training,

Comment [r123]: Respectfully and in a manner that minimizes its stress.

Comment [r124]: Insert after be: Standing next to the trained, competent person who is physically observing and assisting the less skilled person

Comment [r125]: Insert additional standard: - 'All sheep operations must have some staff trained/accredited in humane destruction of sheep

Comment [r126]: Replace with 'promptly'

Comment [r127]: Add after the word 'dead': by checking that the animal has gone for three minutes without experiencing any of the following responses: blinking reflex; pulse, heartbeat, and respiratory movement

Comment [r128]: Add; must use a firearm or a captive bolt. Killing a lamb of any weight by blunt trauma or by cutting and bleeding out is not permitted.

Comment [r129]: S10.6 should read: 'A person must not use bleeding out by a cut to any part of the sheep's body to kill a conscious sheep

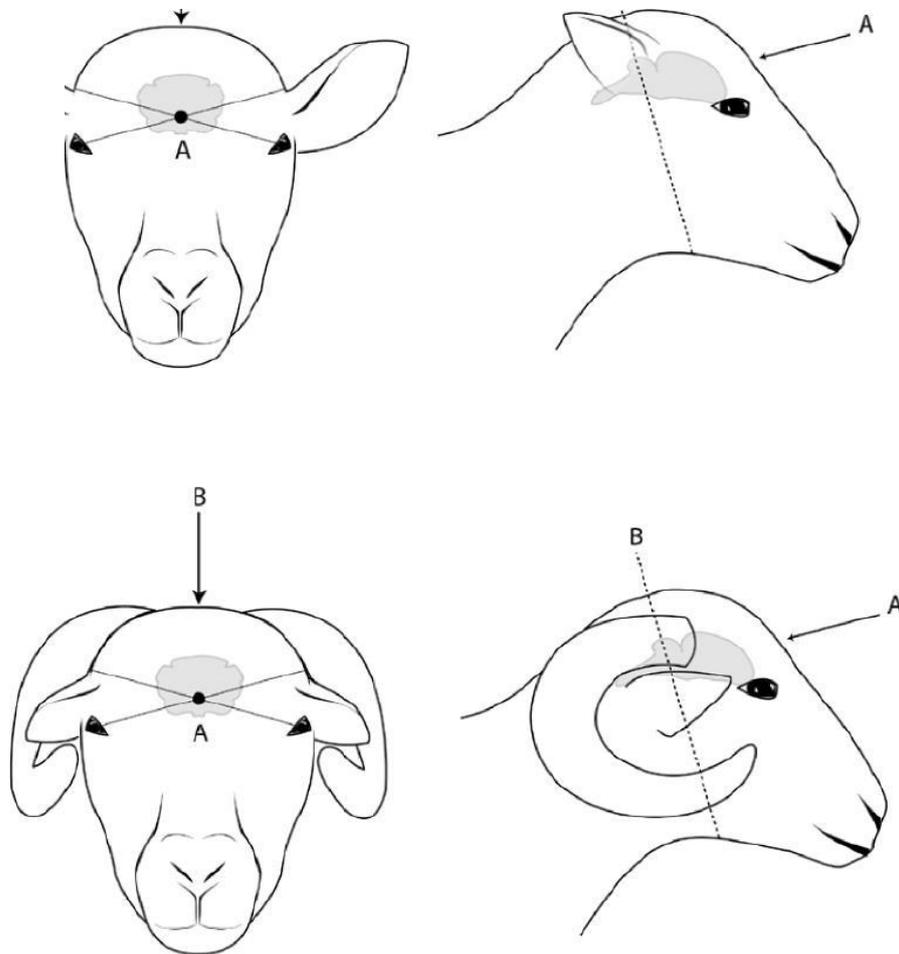
Guidelines

G10.1 The poll method is the preferred method for killing sheep (see

Figure10.1). *Note:*

A firearm should deliver at least the power of a standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge.

Figure 10.1 Recommended position and direction of fire for humane killing of sheep



Notes:

1. Close-range firearm use is recommended to be applied to the frontal or poll positions of the head of sheep.

(A) indicates the frontal method and (B) indicates the poll method. The dots indicate the point of aim and the arrows indicates the direction of aim for the positions. For the frontal method, the firearm or captive bolt should be directed at a point midway across the forehead and where two lines from the topside of the base of the ears and top of the eyes intersect For the poll method, sheep are shot through the skull just behind the base of the horns. The line of fire should be directed slightly forward of the angle of the jaw of the sheep, depending on the point of impact_

For blunt trauma use position A

- Z The diagrams are representative, and individual anatomical differences in sheep to be killed must be taken into account.

Confirming death in sheep after humane killing

G10.2 Three or more signs should be observed to determine whether the method used for humane killing has caused death.

Note:

Signs of death include:

- loss of consciousness and deliberate movement
- absence of a corneal 'blink' reflex when the eyeball is touched, or maximum dilation of the pupil
- absence of rhythmic respiratory movements for at least three minutes
- absence of a heartbeat after three minutes
- absence of a pulse after three minutes.

Firearms

Note:

Firearms energy specifications are as follows:

- The standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge means the use of any 0.22 rim-fire cartridge that produces in excess of 100 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.
- The standard 0.22 magnum cartridge means the use of any 0.22 rim-fire magnum cartridge that produces in excess of 300 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.
- The centre-fire cartridge means the use of any centre-fire cartridge that produces in excess of 1000 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle.

Captive bolt devices

Note:

Captive bolt use on sheep is recommended to be in the frontal or poll positions, accompanied by appropriate restraint and followed by an effective procedure, if necessary, to ensure death.

The captive bolt stunner should be pressed firmly on the head before being discharged, and should be positioned as described in the approved positions for sheep, which are the frontal and poll positions. The temporal position is not an option.

For penetrating captive bolt stunners, the cartridge power and length of bolt should be appropriate to the class of sheep. Non-penetrating captive bolt stunners are not recommended.

Operators should make sure that charges intended for use are appropriate for the class of sheep.

Captive bolts should be regularly cleaned and maintained in optimal working condition, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Stunning by blunt trauma to the head

G10.3 A single, sharp blow should be delivered to the centre of the forehead.

Bleeding out (exsanguination)

G10.4 Bleeding out of sheep without prestunning using the neck cut should only be done as a last resort using a suitable, sharp knife. The cut should transect both the carotid arteries and both the jugular veins. *Note:*

Bleeding out is done by cutting the main blood vessels in the neck (neck cut). The neck cut is the only method to be used where permitted in conscious sheep. When sheep are bled out, it is not necessary to sever the spinal cord or to pith.

Glossary

Comment [r130]: Also add and define the key terms, 'duty of care' and 'chain of responsibility'

access to water A reasonable opportunity for sheep to be able to drink water of a suitable quality and quantity to maintain their hydration.

animal welfare The state of an animal and how well it is coping with the conditions in which it lives.

bleeding out Loss of blood caused by cutting the major blood vessels, usually in the underside of the neck.

castration The removal or disruption of the function of the testes by excision, or by constriction and/or crushing of testicular blood supply (using a rubber ring or burdizzo clamp).

Notes:

1. Immuno-castration is not included in this definition but is not a welfare concern.
2. For the purpose of this document, cryptorchidism is effectively considered to be castration.

class A group of a livestock species defined by age, size or sex. Lactating livestock with young at foot are considered as a single class.

construction Nature of facilities or equipment includes the design, layout, installation, assembly of the facilities and vehicles, and the materials of which they are made.

crutching Removal of wool from the hindquarters and tail of a sheep.

cryptorchidism Where the scrotum is shortened by the application of a rubber ring. This results in the testes being held closer to the body and the sheep becoming sterile due to a higher testicular temperature and disrupted sperm production.

direct supervision A person (the supervised person) is acting under the direct *supervision* of another person (the supervisor) if the supervisor:

- (a) provides instructions and guidance to the supervised person in relation to the subject activity; and
- (b) oversees and evaluates the performance of the activity by the supervised person; and

Comment [r131]: Needs more explanation so that standards can be verifiable. After the word 'lives', add - Acceptable animal welfare requires that the animal has an appropriate body score and the opportunity to behave normally and experience wellbeing; and that it is free from distress, sickness, disease and injury. The responsible persons must take appropriate action to prevent distress, sickness, disease or injury and to treat it promptly and adequately if it occurs.

(c) is contactable by the supervised person; and

(d) is supervising the person in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c)

	<p>above; and</p> <p>(e) is on the same premises as the supervised person while the subject activity is being undertaken; and</p> <p>(f) is able to immediately render assistance to the supervised person, if required, at any time during which the subject activity is being undertaken.</p>
drought	<p>A severe feed and/or water shortage following prolonged periods of abnormally low rainfall not expected in the seasonal cycles.</p>
emergency	<p>Where animal welfare or human safety may otherwise be compromised.</p>
extremes of weather	<p>Temperature and climatic conditions (e.g. rain, hail, snow, wind, humidity and heat) that — individually or in combination — are likely to predispose sheep to heat or cold stress.</p>
facilities	<p>Fences, yards, sheds, raceways, feed and water troughs, portable yards, ramps and equipment, including lamb-marking cradles, dips, sprays and jetting races.</p>
heat stress	<p>When the response by animals to hot conditions above their thermo-neutral limit exceeds the ability of their behavioural, physiological or psychological coping mechanisms.</p>
hot knife	<p>Any heated device for tail docking, generally heated by gas. Also known as gas-knife, searing iron or docking iron.</p>
inspect	<p>The visual check of the health and welfare of sheep on an individual or mob basis.</p>
intensive production systems	<p>An operation where sheep are confined for a period longer than four weeks for the purposes of wool, meat or milk production, and are dependent on the daily supply of feed and or water provided by human or mechanical means.</p> <p>Does not include rams housed for breeding or stud sheep in preparation for showing.</p>
lamb marking	<p>A set of procedures commonly done at the same time. May include earmarking, ear tagging, vaccination, drenching, tail docking and castration of lambs.</p>
lie	<p>Sheep are able to rest on their sternums without restriction (or contact with other sheep or structures).</p>

lift (lifted, lifting)

Lifting off the ground. Handling of the head, neck, horns, ears, tail or wool, to control or steady an animal in a supported lift or other manoeuvre, is

	permitted where the major effort is whole body support, and does not use one or a combination of the above body parts for the major effort.
mulesing (mules, mulesed)	The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears.
mulesing shears	Specially set shears with rounded points and sharp blades.
pain relief	The administration of drugs that reduce the intensity and duration of a pain response.
palpable free joint	Where there is one tailbone segment protruding from the profile of the rump and the connecting joint can be felt and the remaining tailbone segment manipulated.
sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i> and other members of the genus <i>Ovis</i>.
shy feeder	Sheep in a feedlot that do not eat and drink sufficiently.
skin	The full thickness of the skin including the wool follicles; does not include sub-dermal tissue such as selvage (muscle fascia), muscle or other underlying tissue.
stun	
supervision	To make an animal unconscious. A person (the supervised person) is acting under the <i>supervision</i> of another person (the supervisor) if the supervisor: (a) provides instructions and guidance to the supervised person in relation to the subject activity; and (b) oversees and evaluates the performance of the activity by the supervised person; and (c) is contactable by the supervised person.
tail docking	See 'direct supervision'.
ventilation	The removal of a portion of a sheep's tail.
weaning	Natural or mechanically induced air movement sufficient to provide oxygen and remove excessive heat load and noxious gases.
wether	Liquid feed is no longer provided to the lamb. A castrated male sheep.
