



Lambs' wool

Lambs' wool shorn from sheep not older than eight months must be packed separately and marked by length category as follows:

Table 1. Lambs' wool

Mark	Contents
CL	Lambs' wool longer than 50 mm
DDL	Lambs' wool between 40 and 50 mm
DL	Lambs' wool between 30 and 40 mm
EEL	Lambs' wool between 20 and 30 mm
EL	Lambs' wool shorter than 20 mm
LBP	Bellies and pieces from lambs
LLOX	Locks from lambs
XL	Hairy and/or coarse lambs' wool

Hogget wool

Fleece wool from sheep up to 12 months old, and not shorn as lambs, (hoggets) must be packed and marked by length category as follows:

Table 2. Hogget wool

Mark	Contents
AAH	Hogget fleeces longer than 90 mm
AH	Hogget fleeces between 80 and 90 mm
BBH	Hogget fleeces between 70 and 80 mm
BH	Hogget fleeces between 60 and 70 mm
CH	Hogget fleeces shorter than 60 mm

Badly weathered/dusty backs, neck wool and other skirtings from hoggets must be packed and marked in the appropriate classes described for wool from adult sheep.



Wool being classed in a shearing shed near Barkly Pass, Eastern Cape. (Photo: Gallo Images)

Wool from young sheep

If quantity and fineness warrant separate lines, fleece wool from sheep between one and two years old can be packed and marked with the appropriate length and fineness symbols denoted in Table 3, suffixed with a Y symbol. Other parts of the fleece from young sheep must be prepared and packed according to the instructions for adult sheep.

Table 3. Fineness classes (microns)

Length groups	Superfine (<19)	Fine (19,1 - 20)	Medium (20,1 - 22)	Strong (22,1 - 24)	Over strong (24,1 - 27)
>90 mm	AAFF	AAF	AAM	AAS	AASS
80–90 mm	AFF	AF	AM	AS	ASS
70–80 mm	BBFF	BBF	BBM	BBS	BBSS
60–70 mm	BFF	BF	BM	BS	BSS
50–60 mm	CFF	CF	CM	CS	CSS
40–50 mm	DDFF	DDF	DDM	DDS	DDSS
30–40 mm	DF	DF	DM	DS	DSS
20–30 mm	EEFF	EEF	EEM	EES	EESS
<20 mm	EFF	EF	EM	ES	ESS

Miscellaneous classes

The following marks must be applied to diverse types of wool producers may have available for marketing:

Mark	Contents
VEL	All wool removed from the skin of a slaughtered animal (skin wool)
PLK	All wool removed from the skin of a dead animal which has not been slaughtered (dead wool)
MAT	All fleece wool exhibiting an overall lumpy/matted appearance
KBM, KBP, KLOX, etc.	Merino type wool containing floating kemp
BRANDS	Wool stained with marking fluids, paint, tar, marking oils or any other external agent
SDY	Excessively contaminated with seed
OG	Overgrown wool longer than 140 mm
BKS4	Fungus and/or rain-stained fleece wool
RAM	Wool shorn from rams that differs significantly from the rest of the clip
TDR	Wool with a break in the staple

In the next issue we will give more information about the correct classing and marking of white wool and cross-bred wool according to the guidelines set out in the Code of Practice for the Preparation of Wool Clips.

The Code of Practice for the Preparation of Wool Clips can be downloaded from the Cape Wools website at www.capewools.co.za. It is also available in Afrikaans. 