



**NPTC**

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## **NPTC Level 2**

# **CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN BWMB SHEEP SHEARING (Blue Seal)**

## **ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

## Level 2 – Sheep Shearing Candidate Information

### Introduction

The scheme will be administered by NPTC, in association with British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB) who set the standard for shearing wool care and presentation in the U.K.

NPTC will in association with BWMB:

- Publish
  - Scheme regulations
  - the Assessment schedule,
  - Assessment material
- Approve centre(s) to co-ordinate and administer the scheme
- Recruit, train and deploy verifiers
- Approve assessors
- Manage verification of assessors
- Issue certificates to successful candidates

BWMB will:

- Set the standard of shearing competence at all levels
- Become a NPTC assessment centre for this qualification
- Recruit and deploy NPTC-approved assessors

### Instruction

Attendance at a course of instruction is not a pre-requisite for an application for an assessment but potential candidates are strongly advised to ensure that they are up to the standards that will be expected of them when they are assessed.

NPTC does not hold a register of instructors, however instruction will normally be available throughout the U.K from the BWMB. Further information on training may be obtained from the BWMB [www.britishwool.org.uk](http://www.britishwool.org.uk) or Tel: 01274 688666.

### Access to Assessment

The BWMB will be responsible for arranging assessment on behalf of a candidate. Assessment may only be carried out by an assessor approved by NPTC/BWMB for this scheme.

**Under no circumstances can either an instructor involved in the preparation of candidates, or the candidate's work place supervisors, or anyone else that might have a vested interest in the outcome, carry out the assessment.**

The minimum age limit for candidates taking certificates of competence is 16 years.

### Assessment

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the candidate is competent in the units within this qualification. It is a process of collecting evidence about his/her capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The candidate must be registered with NPTC through the BWMB for this qualification prior to assessment.

The result of units 1 (Setting-up shearing equipment), 2 (Working with sheep) and 3 (Crutching of sheep) will be recorded on the **Witness Testimony Report** form, in the presence of the candidate.

The schedule of assessment for Units 4 (Wool care) and 5 (Sheep Shearing – Blue Seal) contains the criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of knowledge and understanding

### Assessment

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the Candidate is competent in the Units within the award to which the assessment relates. It is a process of collecting evidence about his/her capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The candidate must be registered through an NPTC approved Assessment Centre for this qualification prior to assessment.

The result of the assessment will be recorded on the assessment report form.

The schedule of assessment contains the criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of knowledge and understanding

A list of registered Assessment Centres is available from NPTC. ([www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk))

### Verification

Verification is a process of monitoring assessment; it is an essential check to confirm that the assessment procedures are being carried out in the way that NPTC has laid down. The overall aim of verification is to establish a system of quality assurance that is acceptable in terms of both credibility and cost effectiveness.

Approved Assessors will be subject to a regular visit by the verifier at a time when assessments are being undertaken.

A selection of assessment reports completed by the assessor will be evaluated by an NPTC approved verifier.

Compliance with the verification requirements is a pre-requisite for Assessors remaining on NPTC's list of approved assessors.

## **Performance Evaluation**

The result of each assessment activity is evaluated against the following criteria:

- 4 = Meets or exceeds the assessment criteria by displaying a level of practical performance and/or underpinning knowledge, with no 'minor' or 'critical' faults. (Competent).
- 3 = Meets the requirements of the assessment criteria for both the practical performance and the underpinning knowledge, with some 'minor' faults but no 'critical' faults. (Competent).
- 2 = Does not fully satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or being deficient in underpinning knowledge leading to the recording of minor faults. (Not yet competent).
- 1 = Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or safely or being deficient in underpinning knowledge leading to the recording of a critical fault. (Not yet competent).

## **Complaints and Appeals**

NPTC and BWMB have a formal 'Complaints and Appeals' procedure. In the event of any dissatisfaction with the arrangements and conditions of assessment, the candidate should first contact the assessment centre (BWMB) through whom the assessment was arranged and submit the complaint in writing.

For further information on the 'Equal Opportunities Policy' and 'Complaints and Appeals Procedures', please refer to either the NPTC [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk) or Tel: 024 7685 7300 or BWMB [www.britishwool.org.uk](http://www.britishwool.org.uk) or Tel: 01274 688666.

## **Guidance Notes for Candidates and Assessors**

The assessment is divided into five units (all compulsory)

- Unit 1 Setting-up shearing equipment
- Unit 2 Working with sheep
- Unit 3 Crutching of sheep
- Unit 4 Wool care
- Unit 5 Sheep Shearing (Blue seal)

## **The Certificate of Competence**

Certificates of competence will be awarded to candidates who achieve the required level of competence in the units to which their certificate relates.

A 'Level 2 – Certificate of Competence in Sheep Shearing' will be awarded to candidates who meet the assessment requirements for units 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Assessment of unit 1, 2 and 3 is available on a year round basis. Assessment of units 4 and 5 may only be undertaken during accepted shearing seasons.

## **Learning Outcomes**

The candidate will be able to:

- a) Assess the hazards associated with using shearing equipment
- b) Assess the safety of electrical supplies
- c) Operate safely and follow the relevant welfare requirements
- d) Handle sheep safely and competently
- e) Catch, hold, restrain and crutch FIVE sheep safely
- f) Roll and pack THREE fleeces competently
- g) Shear THREE sheep in 30 minutes under supervision under supervision.

## **Validation of Equipment**

A Manufacturer's instruction book or other operators' manual should be available for all equipment.

A static or mobile sheep handling system which complies with legal requirements, is acceptable for the assessment of unit 1 provided it is suitably equipped for all the assessment activities to be carried out.

## **Safe Practice**

Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times, with the exception of unit 5 (sheep shearing – blue seal). Any equipment used must be operated in such a way that the candidate, the assessor or other persons are not endangered.

**Failure to operate safely and comply with these requirements will result in the candidate not meeting the required standard.**

## **Additional Information**

May be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals, or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Level 2	Unit 1	Setting-up Shearing Equipment
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1.	Identify a suitable work area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sufficient space</li> <li>- suitable level surface (easily cleaned eg. wooden boards)</li> <li>- ease of entrance/exit of sheep</li> <li>- provision of services (electricity, water)</li> <li>- proximity to sheep</li> <li>- ease of access for wool sheets</li> <li>- dry area for wool storage</li> <li>- natural light</li> <li>- artificial light</li> <li>- must be free from draughts</li> </ul>
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of the hazards associated with 'Setting-up shearing equipment'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- safety of electrical supplies</li> <li>- cleanliness of equipment (to comply with current BWMB biosecurity protocols)</li> <li>- ease of access (sheep &amp; vehicles)</li> <li>- security of fencing</li> <li>- prevention of zoonoses</li> <li>- avoid sharp edges</li> <li>- non-level/uneven surface</li> <li>- impact of noise &amp; fumes</li> <li>- ventilation</li> <li>- sharp equipment (combs &amp; cutters)</li> </ul>
3.	3.a Assess the safety of electrical supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- electrical supplies and equipment are tested for safety (plug-in tester)</li> <li>- RCB plugged-in close to power socket(s)</li> <li>- extension leads positioned safely &amp; securely</li> <li>- power sockets not overloaded (1 plug per socket)</li> <li>- equipment protected using RCB (Residual Circuit Breakers)</li> <li>- identify RCBs within the electrical supplies in the building</li> </ul>
	3.b Demonstrate knowledge of the safe position of the generator where applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- noise</li> <li>- fumes</li> <li>- proximity to shearing area</li> <li>- adequate earthing</li> </ul>
4.	Comment on and discuss suitable penning and associated equipment on site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- choice of appropriate penning</li> <li>- secure assembly</li> <li>- absence of hazards</li> <li>- ease of entrance/exit of sheep</li> <li>- level finished surface of shearing boards</li> <li>- size &amp; layout of shearing pens</li> <li>- penning of sufficient size</li> <li>- adequate space for sheep</li> <li>- shearing trailer (if used) is placed in a safe &amp; secure position</li> </ul>
5.	Establish adequate wool handling facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- clean area for wool to be processed</li> <li>- flat area for rolling of fleeces</li> <li>- work area kept clean &amp; tidy</li> <li>- dry location for wool storage</li> <li>- facilities for hanging wool sheets</li> <li>- use of wool sheet frame</li> <li>- position and use of wool table (if used)</li> <li>- provision of needle/strings/pegs/labels</li> </ul>
6.	Secure shearing machines safely, or comment on security of machines on site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- location of machine &amp; dropper (close to catching pen door)</li> <li>- correct height of machine in relation to shearing floor</li> <li>- secure fixing</li> <li>- each machine protected by a RCB</li> </ul>

Level 2	Unit 2	Working with Sheep
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1.	Demonstrate knowledge of the potential risks when working with sheep and ways of minimising these risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identification of common risks eg; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• injury,</li> <li>• fire</li> <li>• zoonotic</li> <li>• disease,</li> <li>• chemicals,</li> <li>• medicines,</li> <li>• dusts,</li> <li>• noise,</li> <li>• electricity</li> </ul> </li> <li>- appropriate control methods</li> </ul>
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of the suitable condition of sheep for shearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- good general health &amp; welfare</li> <li>- rest period</li> <li>- stomach contents</li> <li>- stress levels</li> <li>- general body condition</li> <li>- crutched (preferably)</li> <li>- clean and dry fleece,</li> <li>- clean feet (preferably)</li> </ul>
3.	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of why animal welfare is essential when sheep shearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prevention of skin parasites (e.g. fly strike)</li> <li>- enhancing welfare</li> <li>- avoidance of skin cuts</li> <li>- treatment of shearing cuts</li> <li>- management of shorn sheep</li> <li>- animal productivity</li> <li>- integral part of stockmanship</li> <li>- legislation/codes of practice</li> </ul>
4.	Move sheep safely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- establish the flow of sheep</li> <li>- within a confined area</li> <li>- under control</li> <li>- drafted with ease</li> <li>- avoidance of undue stress</li> <li>- safe exit of shorn sheep</li> </ul>
5.	Demonstrate knowledge of how to encourage the movement of sheep in confined areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of daylight</li> <li>- uphill movement</li> <li>- use of decoy sheep</li> <li>- safe removal of lambs (if present)</li> </ul>
6.	Catch, handle, turn and restrain sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- suitable clothing/footwear</li> <li>- quiet, practical approach</li> <li>- move sheep to space within pen before turning</li> <li>- firm, sensible approach and grasp of sheep</li> <li>- confidence and efficiency in turning (variety of methods)</li> <li>- move sheep towards shearing/crutching area</li> <li>- full restraint of sheep in comfortable working position</li> <li>- adaptability of approach to suit size and condition of sheep</li> </ul>

Level 2	Unit 3	Crutching of Sheep	
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
1.	Demonstrate knowledge of reasons for crutching sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- general health &amp; welfare</li> <li>- prevent external parasites</li> <li>- improve value of wool</li> <li>- aids mating</li> <li>- improved observation at lambing time</li> <li>- ease shearing operation</li> </ul>	
2.	Connect comb & cutter to the hand-piece and lubricate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- choice of appropriate comb &amp; cutter</li> <li>- comb and cutter attached</li> <li>- hand-piece lubricated</li> <li>- adjust lead, throw and tension</li> </ul>	
3 a	Crutch at least FIVE sheep (according to local conditions).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- restrain, turn and remove sheep/lamb from catching pen</li> <li>- correct start position</li> <li>- appropriate restraint (choice of restraint)</li> <li>- neatness of job</li> <li>- techniques to avoid teats, vulva &amp; pizzle</li> <li>- wounds treated appropriately</li> <li>- time taken</li> </ul>	
3 b	Demonstrate knowledge of the safety precautions required when crutching sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- secure restraint</li> <li>- electrical safety</li> <li>- suitable penning</li> <li>- correct use of hand-piece</li> <li>- exit of crutched sheep/lambs</li> <li>- prevention of zoonoses</li> </ul>	
4.	Maintain equipment post-crutching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- removal of worn combs and cutters</li> <li>- lubrication of gear</li> <li>- disinfection of comb, cutter and hand-piece</li> <li>- equipment left in safe condition or</li> <li>- packed-up neatly &amp; removed from site. - cleanliness of equipment (as per BWMB biosecurity protocols)</li> </ul>	

Level 2	Unit 4	Wool Care
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1.	Demonstrate knowledge of the criteria for handling shorn wool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- separate from shearing area</li> <li>- ease of access from shearing area</li> <li>- sufficient space</li> <li>- facilities for hanging wool sheets</li> <li>- flat &amp; dry surface</li> <li>- flat area for wool processing</li> </ul>
2.	Hang the wool sheet correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- correct wool sheets provided</li> <li>- wool sheet secured safely to suitable holding mechanism (gate or frame)</li> <li>- wool sheet hung at correct height</li> </ul>
3 a	Roll THREE fleeces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gather shorn fleece and remove to wool area</li> <li>- throw fleece (according to local conditions)</li> <li>- identify breech and neck</li> <li>- separate fleeces according to breed/type</li> <li>- separate soiled wool, oddments, foreign matter &amp; sub-standard wool</li> <li>- roll fleece firmly, include suitable belly wool (according to local conditions)</li> </ul>
3 b	Demonstrate knowledge of the causes of penalty points in wool grading that lead to financial loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- unrolled fleeces</li> <li>- inclusion of foreign matter e.g binder twine</li> <li>- dags</li> <li>- locks</li> <li>- use of tar/paint brands</li> <li>- dark fibres, separation of black &amp; coloured fleeces</li> </ul>
4.	Pack rolled fleeces within wool sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fleeces packed neatly in wool sheet</li> </ul>
5.	Secure wool sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use of approved 'thread'</li> <li>- correct use of pegs or stitching</li> </ul>
6.	Demonstrate knowledge of the importance of labelling wool sheets correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- label is completed correctly</li> <li>- secured to wool sheets</li> <li>- second label placed inside wool sheet</li> <li>- separate record of wool sheets numbers</li> </ul>
7.	Demonstrate knowledge of the correct storage of wool sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- undercover</li> <li>- off the ground</li> <li>- away from water supplies</li> <li>- vermin control</li> </ul>

Level 2	Unit 5	Sheep Shearing (Blue Seal)
Appropriate footwear & clothing should be worn for this assessment		
<u>ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES</u>		<u>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</u>
1.	Shear THREE sheep (normally within 30 minutes).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- start position (sheep to dropper)</li> <li>- position of feet and hands</li> <li>- switch on machine safely</li> <li>- make shearing blows according to BWMB pattern</li> <li>- maintain satisfactory control without undue discomfort to sheep and shearer</li> <li>- carry out shearing with a minimum of second cuts</li> <li>- avoid making skin cuts and other damage to sheep</li> <li>- present 3 shorn sheep</li> <li>- switch off the machine safely</li> <li>- ensure safe exit of shorn sheep</li> <li>- shearer leaves the shearing area clear &amp; tidy</li> <li>- safety standards</li> <li>- demonstrate care for animal welfare throughout shearing process</li> <li>- replace cutter as necessary</li> </ul>
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of the treatment of shearing wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- causes of shearing wounds</li> <li>- methods to minimise shearing wounds</li> <li>- how to treat shearing wounds</li> <li>- follow-up observation</li> <li>- prevention of parasitic infestation</li> </ul>