



NPTC

Registered Charity No. 1096429

STONELEIGH PARK, WARWICKSHIRE CV8 2LG

Tel: 024 7685 7300 Fax: 024 7669 6128

Email: information@nptc.org.uk

NPTC Level 3 -

BWMB CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE

IN

SHEEP SHEARING

(Bronze Seal)

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Level 3 – Sheep Shearing Candidate Information

Preamble

Sheep shearing has an essential part to play in maintaining the health and welfare of sheep. However, it requires the skilful handling of sheep and equipment, if welfare is to be maintained and accidents avoided. Achieving these qualifications is an effective way to demonstrate your level of competence in handling sheep and the safe use of associated equipment.

This Assessment Schedule covers use of the grinder, maintenance of shearing gear and intermediate shearing. We commend it to you as part of responsible sheep husbandry.

Introduction

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

NPTC will:

- 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

Guidance Notes for Candidates and Assessors

The assessment is divided into three units:

- Unit 1 Use of the grinder**
- Unit 2 Maintenance of Shearing Gear**
- Unit 3 Sheep Shearing (Bronze 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 3 - Certificate of Competence in Sheep Shearing' will be awarded to candidates who meet the assessment requirements for units 1, 2, and 3.

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

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 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 through the BWMB for this qualification prior to assessment.

The result of units 1 (Use of the Grinder) and 2 (Maintenance of Shearing Gear) will be recorded on the **Witness Testimony Report** form, in the presence of the candidate.

The schedule of assessment for Unit 3 (Sheep Shearing – Bronze seal) contains the criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of knowledge and understanding

Performance Evaluation (applicable to Unit 3 only)

At the assessment the assessor will evaluate each activity 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).

The list of registered assessment centres for this qualification is available from BWMB (www.britishwool.org.uk) or Tel: 01274 688666.

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 visit by a technical verifier at a time when assessments are being undertaken.

A selection of assessment reports that have been completed by the assessor will be evaluated by an NPTC-approved technical verifier.

Compliance with the verification and standard setting/update requirements is a pre-requisite for assessors to remain on NPTC's list of approved assessors.

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 BWMB (the assessment centre) 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 or Tel: 024 7685 7300 or BWMB www.britishwool.org.uk or Tel: 01274 688666.

Learning Outcomes

The candidate will be able to:

- a) Make effective use of a grinder.
- b) Set-up and effectively sharpen shearing gear
- c) Shear TWELVE sheep in 60 minutes

Safe Practice

With the exception of unit 3 (Intermediate Shearing) appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. 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.

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.

Additional Information

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

Level 3	Unit 1	Use of the Grinder
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1.a	Demonstrate knowledge of the requirements when sitting a grinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clear access - level surface - adequate light - sufficient working height
1.b	Demonstrate knowledge of the hazards when sitting a grinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - electrical supplies - sharp edges - moving machinery - personal protective equipment - use of guards
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of the requirements of a suitable pendulum for the grinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - checked for wear - wear of 'pins' - wear of 'pressure bar' - straight 'rod' - compatible with grinder - secure fixing for combs/cutters (e.g. spring & magnet)
3.	Adjust the pendulum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - secure attachment - position in relation to grinder
4.	Sharpen shearing gear using the grinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discs correctly attached to spindle - clean combs and cutters - combs and cutters positioned safely on pendulum - guards in place - correct grinding technique - check combs/cutters for correct sharpening
5.	Demonstrate knowledge of how to replace the emery papers on the grinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify grit numbers - choice of emery papers - preparation of discs for gluing - appropriate glue - correct gluing technique - glued papers clamped correctly - maintenance of discs and emery papers - correct storage of papers and plates

		Unit 2	Maintenance of Shearing Gear
		ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1.a	Demonstrate knowledge of the adjustments of the machine and drive shaft (dropper)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - importance of electrical connections and safety devices - importance of lubrication - choice of gear speed - flexible and solid drive shafts (droppers) - bayonet and worm drives
1.b	Check, and if necessary , adjust the shearing machine		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify component parts - separate drive shaft (dropper) - check and adjust drive shaft (dropper) - check and adjust drive belts - lubricate machine and drive shaft (dropper) - check electrical connections - machine and drive shaft (dropper) positioned correctly for shearing
2 a	Select and prepare combs and cutters, for the selected sheep		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - types of bevel - choice of comb - dressing of combs
2 b	Demonstrate knowledge of combs and cutter design		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reasons for bevel shapes - choice of comb - range of cutters - correct storage - appropriate dressing methods and equipment
3 a	Maintain and lubricate hand-piece		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify component parts - check and remove tension pin and fork assembly, - examine comb bed for wear - examine drive pins and cogs, and replace if necessary - examine back joint and leather and replace if necessary - check and if necessary replace fulcrum post - reassemble hand-piece - reset hand-piece - clean and disinfect hand-piece - lubricate hand-piece
3 b	Demonstrate knowledge of hand-piece maintenance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identification of worn components - methods to dismantle hand-piece - procedure to check and adjust worn components - causes of hand-piece noise
4	Replace any TWO worn hand-piece components		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two from; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tension pin • Back joint • Fork assembly • Leather cover

Level 3	Unit 2	Maintenance of Shearing Gear cont'd
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
5 a	Attach comb and cutter to hand-piece.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - correct choice of comb and cutter - comb and cutter attached to hand-piece correctly - adjust lead and throw
5 b	Demonstrate knowledge of the reasons for different settings of the comb & cutter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cutting action of comb and cutter - type of sheep affect choice of comb and cutter - causes of variation to lead and throw

Level 3	Unit 3	Sheep Shearing (Bronze Seal)
Appropriate footwear & clothing must be worn for this assessment		
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1 a	Demonstrate knowledge of the correct condition of sheep for shearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sound health of sheep for shearing - appropriate fitness (condition) of sheep for shearing - dry wool - absence of parasites
1 b	Demonstrate knowledge of the causes & prevention of the second cutting of wool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>cause 1</u> – rigid hand grip of hand-piece - <u>prevention 1</u> – flexible hand grip - <u>cause 2</u> – shallow angle of hand-piece onto sheep's skin - <u>prevention 2</u> – maintain 45° onto sheep's skin - <u>cause 3</u> – bottom tooth of comb not on sheep's skin - <u>prevention 3</u> – ensure comb's bottom tooth always in contact with sheep's skin
1 c	Demonstrate knowledge of the causes & prevention of skin cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>cause 1</u> – supporting hand not holding sheep's skin tight - <u>prevention 1</u> – hold sheep's skin more tightly - <u>cause 2</u> – sheep not held in correct position - <u>prevention 2</u> – ensure held in correct position at every stage of shearing - <u>cause 3</u> – incorrect choice of comb - <u>prevention 3</u> - correct choice of comb according to sheep/shearing conditions
2.	Shear appropriate number of sheep according to BWMB standard (on average TWELVE sheep an hour – assessor to specify in advance, according to breed/type)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - shearer's fitness to maintain shearing throughout the day - start position of sheep and shearer - position of feet and hands - switch machine on safely - make shearing blows consistently according to BWMB pattern - maintain good control without undue discomfort to sheep or shearer - carry out clean shearing with a minimum of second cuts - avoid making skin cuts and other damage to sheep - present the required number of well-shorn sheep - switch machine off safely - the fleece is complete & undamaged - shearer leaves the shearing area clear & tidy - ensure safe exit of shorn sheep - demonstrate care for animal welfare throughout shearing process
3.a	Treat shearing wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - causes of shearing wounds - methods to minimise shearing wounds - treat shearing wounds
3.b	Demonstrate knowledge of sheep with treated shearing wounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - follow-up observation - prevention of parasitic infestation
4.	Treat shearing equipment post shearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - power supply is disconnected - dropper is removed from machine - machine is removed from hanging bracket - removal of comb & cutter - disinfection of comb, cutter & hand-piece (to comply with current BWMB bio-security protocols)