Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package release 11.0 |

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| AHCSHG204 | Shear sheep to improver level |
| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to select, handle and shear sheep under supervision to improver level.  Improver level is defined as shearing a minimum of 80 adult merino sheep or 100 adult crossbred sheep per day to industry standards.  This unit applies to individuals who work under broad supervision and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection and use of available resources.  All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures and standards, state/territory health and safety, animal welfare and biosecurity legislation and codes of practice, and sustainability practices.  No licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Pre-requisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Shearing (SHG) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Prepare for shearing | 1.1 Identify relevant awards, agreements and workplace policies associated with shearing sheep  1.2 Check shearing equipment for correct operation prior to shearing session according to workplace standards  1.3 Select, use correctly and maintain suitable personal protective equipment (PPE)  1.4 Identify, catch sheep and move to required location in line with workplace work health and safety (WHS), industry and animal welfare standards  1.5 Identify potential and existing hazards in the workplace and report to the overseer  1.6 Communicate with wool harvesting team members to ensure steady workflow according to workplace standards |
| 2. Perform shearing operations | 2.1 Position sheep for shearing using identified positions  2.2 Activate handpiece and position in readiness for shearing operations according to manufacturer specifications  2.3 Shear sheep using identified method and positions  2.4 Use shearing methods that ensure that injuries and damage to the sheep and fleece is avoided while meeting volume expectations  2.5 Use safe and humane handling techniques at all times according to workplace standards |
| 3. Respond to complications | 3.1 Identify contamination during shearing operations and report to wool handlers  3.2 Suture sheep cuts as required in line with animal welfare standards  3.3 Identify flyblown sheep and report to overseer  3.4 Identify problem sheep and report to overseer |
| 4. Complete shearing operation | 4.1 Place wool to avoid contamination and for wool handlers to collect  4.2 Set handpiece to non-operational position and store as per workplace requirements  4.3 Release sheep safely from the board into the count-out pens and tally sheep shorn in line with workplace standards  4.4 Report shearing grievances and difficulties to overseer  4.5 Follow workplace biosecurity and environmental policies to maintain quality standards |

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| Foundation Skills  This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria. | |
| Skill | Description |
| Oral communication | * Use clear language and industry terminology to relay information pertaining to shearing |
| Numeracy | * Estimate and apply time requirements to achieve the required output |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current release | Code and title previous release | Comments | Equivalence status |
| AHCSHG2X04 Shear sheep to improver level | AHCSHG204 Shear sheep to improver level | Application wording clarified  Changes to Performance Criteria’s for clarification  Foundation Skills information added  Changes to Performance Evidence to specify volume and frequency  Knowledge Evidence, more specificity added and other wording clarification  Assessment Conditions clarified | Equivalent |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:  https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72 |
| TITLE | Assessment requirements for AHCSHG2X04 - Shear sheep to improver level |
| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has:   * shorn and tallied a minimum of 80 adult merino sheep or 100 adult crossbred sheep per eight-hour day to industry standards * communicated workplace issues on at least four occasions. | |

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| Knowledge Evidence |
| An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:   * types of shearing sheds, boards and catching pens and how they impact upon shearing techniques * shearing machinery required, their respective functions and possible faults * industry shearing techniques and positions and method of shearing, including:   sitting sheep on its rump  rolling sheep onto its right hip, leaning against shearer’s neck  sitting sheep up on its rump  laying sheep on its right side  positioning sheep on its right hip, neck bent between shearer’s legs  moving sheep to its left hip, keeping head and legs in front of the shearer with sheep leaning on the shearer’s legs   * safe handling techniques for catching, dragging, shearing and releasing sheep * basic anatomy of male and female sheep as it relates to the safe humane removal of wool * common sheep diseases, including:   footrot  scabby mouth  listeriosis  pneumonia  ovine Johne’s diseases   * humane treatment of animals * shearing issues including:   the impacts of sheep behaviour on moving and handling sheep and shearing sheep  weather conditions  condition of the sheep  workplace tallying methods for shorn sheep   * personal protective and equipment (PPE), and when and how it should be used * appropriate communication with team and overseer to ensure steady shearing workflow * teamwork principles:   working towards a common goal  communicating effectively and cooperatively  understanding the work responsibilities of team mates  respecting others needs  embracing diversity   * Federal and/or State shearing awards and agreements associated with shearing sheep * workplace policies associated with the improver level shearer job role in a shearing shed, including:   biosecurity  environmental  Fair Work Act  Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Act  animal welfare standards and codes of practice  shed quality standards   * manufacturer specifications relating to the use of shearing equipment and materials. |

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| Assessment Conditions |
| Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions:   skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions   * resources, equipment and materials:   equipment and materials appropriate for shearing sheep   * relationships:   overseer  wool harvesting team members  sheep  Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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