



Contractor Declaration

Corresponding to requirement AW1.6

Over the years and recently, wool production has come into focus for brands and consumers; certain animal rights organizations have shone a harsh light on poor practices in farming, even if the reality is that these practices are not typical of most farming systems.

More and more companies are asking questions about where their wool comes from and under what conditions it was produced. Customers are not just asking, but demanding that their supply of wool be humane. The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is the tool to give everyone the confidence they need that they are buying wool that is from sheep that have been well treated, and from farms that care for their land.

All farms supplying RWS wool will undergo full certification to verify that the goals and requirements of the standard are met. In addition to the audit, we are asking any subcontractors coming onto the farm to deal directly with the sheep to fill in the declaration below:



Contractor Declaration

I, _____, declare that I have reviewed the Responsible Wool Standard, and understand its intent.

I commit to ensure that the animals that my crew and I work with are treated with care. In particular, I will ensure that the following requirements of the RWS are met as they apply (*please initial beside each one*):

AW4.11: Tail docking shall only be carried out if failure to do so would lead to welfare problems.

1. Pain relief shall be applied when suitable pain relief is available.
Initial here: _____
2. The procedure shall be performed using either thermocautery (preferred method) or the application of a rubber ring. *Initial here:* _____
3. The procedure shall be carried out between the ages of 24 hours and 8 weeks.
Initial here: _____
4. Docked tails shall cover the vulva in ewes and the equivalent length in rams.
Initial here: _____

AW4.12: Castration shall only be carried out on males that are being kept beyond puberty.

1. For all methods, pain relief shall be applied when suitable pain relief is available.
Initial here: _____
2. The procedure shall be performed using either: *Initial here:* _____
 - a) Application of a rubber ring
 - b) Emasculator
 - c) Shortening of scrotum
 - d) Surgical. Pain relief is mandatory
3. The procedure shall be carried out between the ages of 24 hours and 8 weeks.
Initial here: _____

AW4.16: Shearing shall be performed by, or under the direct supervision of a competent shearer, using techniques and equipment designed to minimize animal stress and injury.



1. Sheep should be handled calmly and confidently to minimize stress.
Initial here: _____
2. Particular care shall be taken not to cut or injure the animal, especially the teats/udders of female sheep and the penis/sheath and scrotum of rams.
Initial here: _____
3. An action plan shall be instituted to address and prevent any reoccurring problems with injuries or mishandling. *Initial here:* _____

AW4.17: All shearing related injuries shall be attended to promptly.

1. In the event on a severe cut or injury the shearer shall cease shearing immediately to treat the injury. *Initial here:* _____
2. Pain relief shall be applied for serious injuries when suitable pain relief is available. *Initial here:* _____
3. Records of serious injuries shall be kept. *Initial here:* _____

AW5.3: Animals shall be handled humanely; mistreatment of animals is unacceptable.

1. Mistreatment includes rough physical contact such as kicking, striking, slamming gates on the sheep, tripping, throwing or dropping animals, dragging or pulling sheep by the fleece, tail, ears, head, or neck, or dragging by the back legs.
Initial here: _____
2. Extra care shall be taken when handling sheep with special needs, such as young lambs, heavily pregnant ewes, lame sheep and rams. Heavily pregnant ewes shall only be handled when absolutely necessary. *Initial here:* _____
3. Electric prodders shall not be used. *Initial here:* _____

In the event that it comes to my knowledge that any of the above requirements for any reasons are not met, I will inform the certification body immediately.

Name: _____

Date: _____