

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

Overview

This standard covers carrying out and completing the shearing of livestock, including sheep, **camelids** and goats. Livestock must be dry and free from excessive dirt and debris before being sheared and shearing should be carried out at an acceptable commercial speed.

Throughout the procedure the welfare and general well-being of the livestock must be maintained. If cuts occur you must be able to apply the appropriate treatments to the livestock.

The finished product (fleece, fibre) must be correctly rolled and stored in wool bags to prevent damage. The work area must also be restored to a suitable condition on completion of shearing.

When working with livestock or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those who carry out and complete the shearing of livestock.

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks prior to carrying out the shearing of livestock
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. confirm that the work area is safe, clean and suitable for shearing, including a safe electricity supply with an appropriate trip system
4. select, prepare, use and store the required tools and equipment safely and correctly
5. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
6. gather the livestock awaiting shearing safely and in the appropriate numbers, in a suitable holding area
7. confirm that the livestock are dry, free of excessive dirt and debris, and suitable for shearing
8. identify and deal with livestock that are unsuitable for shearing
9. handle and position livestock correctly at all times while carrying out shearing
10. maintain the welfare and general well-being of the livestock at all times
11. maintain the quality of the fleece/fibre while carrying out shearing
12. achieve the removal of the fleece/fibre with the minimum stress and injury to livestock
13. make the appropriate modifications to the shearing process where changes in conditions may reduce the quality of the fleece/fibre
14. apply treatments or identification, where required, to the livestock on completion of shearing
15. remove livestock from the work area on completion of shearing, safely and in a manner that causes minimum stress
16. wrap and store fleeces/fibre, on completion of shearing, correctly and in a manner that maintains their quality
17. leave the work area in a suitable condition, ready for future use and with tools and equipment clean and ready for grinding or sharpening
18. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
19. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
20. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental, health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

- policies
21. complete records as required by relevant legislation and the business

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess the risks of the work area and the shearing activity, including the safety of the power supply
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of tools and equipment required for shearing livestock and how to prepare, maintain, use and store these safely and correctly
4. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
5. the suitable handling systems appropriate for shearing livestock
6. the suitable holding areas for livestock and the need for such areas to be secure
7. the condition and appearance of livestock that are suitable for the shearing procedure, and the reasons why livestock may be unsuitable for shearing
8. the methods of handling and positioning livestock while carrying out shearing
9. the ways in which livestock respond to your behaviour and the suitable methods of handling difficult livestock
10. the reasons for, and the methods of, maintaining the welfare of the livestock while carrying out, and on completion of, shearing
11. the importance of completely removing the fleece and why complete, undamaged fleeces are more desirable
12. the types of damage to the fleece/fibre that may occur while carrying out shearing and the ways in which these can be minimised
13. the effects that changes in the weather and the performance of the equipment can have on shearing, and the modifications that can be made to the shearing process
14. the types of injury to the livestock that may occur, and the ways in which these must be minimised
15. the types of treatments for livestock that may be necessary and how these should be applied
16. the importance of shearing, both commercially and for animal health and welfare
17. the methods of wrapping and storing fleeces/fibre to maintain their quality and the importance of a clean, dry area

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

18. the reasons why the work area, tools and equipment should be left clean and in the correct condition for future use
19. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
20. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
21. your responsibilities for the welfare of livestock under relevant animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice and business policies
22. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
23. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

Glossary

Camelids include: llamas, alpacas

Links to other NOS

LANLP18 Deliver treatments to livestock

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

Developed by Lantra

Version Number 2019

Date Approved January 2019

Indicative Review Date January 2024

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating Organisation Lantra

Original URN LANLP14

Relevant Occupations General Farm Worker; Farmer

Suite Livestock Production

Keywords sheep; goat; lama; alpaca; livestock; fleece; fibre; shearing
