

13 October 2014

End of an era – old wool packs to be phased out

New wool packs commence production

October 31, 2014 marks the final day that the 'old' standard nylon wool packs can be imported into Australia. Whilst the old standard wool packs are the only wool packs currently available they will be phased out as they are used and the production and import of new wool packs builds.

Changes to the wool pack were initiated following concerns raised at a stakeholder meeting held in Dubbo in February 2011 between the NSW Government, NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS - formerly RTA), NSW Police, wool industry stakeholders and transport operators. At that meeting the industry was made acutely aware that most transport loads of wool bales did not comply with road regulations and that this situation, which had been identified in the early 1990's, had to change.

AWEX in its role as developer and custodian of the wool pack standard immediately commenced an extensive trial to identify the key factors effecting wool bale length and how to resolve them.

The result is the new wool pack which is distinguished by the following changes:

- A four seamed base. Previously, the wool pack had two seams and the pack was known to have one "long-panel" and two "short panels", and
- The new Bale Fastening Guide (BFG) sewn on each flap. The BFG will assist wool pressers to produce a compliant length wool bale by providing a mark to reach with each bale fastener.

It is important to note that all other dimensions and the capacity of the wool pack remain unchanged.

Following the final approval of the new wool pack, AWEX received a letter from the Mr Ray Williams MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Transports and Roads congratulating "AWEX and the wool industry on their commitment to addressing a significant issue regarding the transportation of wool bales on NSW roads."

"The NSW Government acknowledges AWEX's role in the research work which led to this ground-breaking result. By ensuring wool bales are more square and stable when transported, the new wool pack standard will help reduce the safety risks associated with oversize and overmass loads."

Mark Grave, AWEX CEO, added "The extensive trials and the pragmatic solution would not have been possible without the valued support of the NSW Government, NSW RMS and wool industry stakeholders."

"The new standard is wool pack will assist in reducing safety risks and ensuring that wool can continue to be transported safely on Australian roads."

Wool growers can continue to use any existing wool packs on farm or available through retailers. The new wool pack is expected to be available in Australia towards the end of 2014.

For more information contact:

Mark Grave, CEO AWEX

e: mgrave@awex.com.au

p: 02 9428 6100