

26 September 2023

## Wool Classer: Registration Update

At its meeting on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the Australian Wool Exchange Board accepted the recommendations from the Registration Review Committee (RRC) on two matters, namely:

1. To suspend the registration of an AW Wool Classer for 12 months for a Breach of Rules (Misuse of Stencil), and
2. To modify the registration conditions of a second AW Wool Classer imposing corrective reporting actions for a breach of preparation standards of a high commercial impact (undetected and undescribed black wool).

These will become effective from October 1, 2023.

### About the Registration Review Committee (RRC)

The Registration Review Committee is comprised of senior industry personnel across multiple sectors, to whom the AWEX Wool Classer Registrar can refer Wool Classers that, in the Registrar's opinion, are believed to be in breach of the Rules of Registration or have significant or repeated preparation concerns. It [the RRC] provides independent recommendations to AWEX on appropriate outcomes ranging from no case to answer to deregistration. Each Wool Classer referred to the RRC is advised beforehand and is provided with the opportunity to make a submission. All considerations are confidential.

AWEX CEO, Mark Grave: "The AWEX Board considers the RRC to be an important piece in maintaining the quality, integrity, and compliance components of the Wool Classer Registration Scheme. It ensures there are detailed and fair processes with appropriate checks and balances when considering cases believed to be significant breaches of Rules or preparation standards.

In the case of the Misuse of Stencil, the Wool Classer was not present at the wool shed for extended periods and the wool was prepared by unqualified personnel. This practice may result in potentially significant legal implications to the Wool Classer and the personnel misrepresenting themselves as qualified. The Wool Classer Stencil on a bale means the registered holder is present in the wool shed and has classed the wool.

In the case of undetected black wool, the Wool Classer was instructed to handle wool stored in butts from another shed. This wool was pressed into a bale as part of a larger line of Merino Lambs without inspecting or classing the contents. The butts contained black wool. The black wool was ultimately discovered by the wool processor.

AWEX will continue to work to preserve the integrity of Australian classed wool so that all stakeholders, from grower to end user, have confidence in a classed product that meets expectations."

For more Information:  
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