

# BOARDtalk

## Message from the Registrar



Thank you for renewing your woolclasser registration for the next triennium. Seasonal conditions have generally been favourable across Australia over recent times and with a forecast increase in sheep numbers we look forward to a positive future. A review of the Code of Practice (COP) has been undertaken to coincide with the re-registration process with feedback being sought from all industry stakeholders including woolclassers. Thank you to the woolclassers (over 500) who completed the November 2011 survey; this information has been collated and provides valuable feedback to the Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) review of the COP.

The survey indicated a generally high level of satisfaction with the 2010-12 Woolclassing Code of Practice. There was also a theme that woolclassers were not looking for many changes. With relatively few changes the 2013-15 Woolclassing Code of Practice will look and feel similar to the 2010-12 version.

The changes to the COP are summarized in this Special Edition of BOARDtalk for your convenience. Take time to read through your new COP and if you have any queries please contact me.

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## What's in your re-registration pack?

**2015 Stencil:** Constructed of new, stronger, plastic overcoming breakage problems experienced with the 2012 stencil.

**2015 Stamp:** The self inking stamp is slightly larger resulting in better clarity and legibility on the Bale Label.

**Bale Label Permanent Marker:** This black permanent marker is a new inclusion and for use on bale labels only (i.e not on the bale face). It is UV resistant and chisel pointed. **Hint! Have a practice run using paper, making neat and large capital letters and numbers using the thick edge of the pen.**

**Bale Pressing Poster:** This new poster highlights the importance of the maximum bale length of 1.25 metres, correct bale weights and the new Bale Fastening Guide which is stitched into the closing flap.

**Bale Description Guide Poster:** This poster is an easy to carry guide you can readily use as a reference or put up in the shearing shed. Please note that this chart has a few changes so make sure to dispose of any old charts.

**Sheep Breed Compendium:** An updated version of this highly successful booklet with new breeds added. A fantastic ready reference for the multitude of sheep breeds we now have in Australia.

## What HAS changed in the Code of Practice

### Bale branding descriptors

- M DOHNE has been removed as a breed descriptor from the Breed Group section. Dohne wool can now be branded using the Merino descriptors, e.g. AAA M for main fleece line.
- The Breed Group descriptor for wool from SAMMs has been shortened to SM e.g. AAA SM for main line. Remember to use the SM descriptor for these wools, NOT the merino descriptors.
- The branding code AAAA M can be used to denote the main line of merino if required.



*we know wool*

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AWEX is a national organisation of brokers, growers, exporters, processors and private treaty merchants which, in the best interests of the wool industry, provides: Industry standards (wool packs, wool preparation), Clip inspection services, the National Wool Declaration-Integrity Program, Woolclasser registration, Independent market reports, Wool description and appraisal, Wool sale rostering and Wool administration.



## What HAS changed in the Code of Practice (continued)

### Bale Pressing

- Increased emphasis has been placed on the length of bales not exceeding 1.25m. Overlength bales present problems along the wool pipeline and with 2.5m being the width of a truck wider loads are considered a road safety problem.
- This Code of Practice includes reference to a Bale Fastening Guide (BFG). The Bale Fastening Guide is a white nylon stitch line on the flaps of the bale. Ensure the bale fasteners reach, or extend beyond this guide stitch line when closing bales. You will begin to see these new packs as existing old stock packs are sold out by suppliers.
- The minimum weight definition has been clarified. The 90kg minimum gross weight is applicable only to single bale lots of speciality superfine fleece wool. A minimum gross weight of 110kg applies to all other bales.

### Skirting

- Increased emphasis regarding skirting of fleece. All fleece except, black, dermo and heavy cot must be skirted. Any bale of wool containing unskirted fleeces shall not have a woolclasser stencil placed on it.

### Classers Specification/ National Wool Declaration

- The content of the NWD has been updated and simplified on the woolclasser specification. Carefully read the explanation notes and always liaise with the grower. A valid NWD must be signed by the woolgrower. The NWD may be subject to a random audit as part of the NWD Integrity Program.

### Various

- Some additional breeds have been added into the sheep breeds table located in the appendices at the back of the COP.
- The current version of the AWEX-ID typing chart has been included in the Appendix. This is useful reference when reading your Activity Statements.
- The NLIS Eartag colours per year have been included in the Appendix.

## What HAS NOT changed in the Code of Practice

### “AAA M”

A number of woolclasser survey responses indicated concern about the number of AAA Ms. ISAC reviewed these comments and has elected to retain the current policy. It concluded that;

1. The Bin Code mechanism was introduced to assist classers with this issue, and
2. The classer has access to 4 levels of line description (AAAA, AAA, AA and cast). In most clips this was more than adequate to allocate lines.

### Pieces and Bellies

Some survey responses suggested the Code of Practice should allow Pieces and Bellies to be mixed. The Code of Practice does allow this for short (carding) length but not for combing length. This was reviewed by ISAC. ISAC has not endorsed this practice as:

1. Pieces are a critical component in the buyer/processor recipe structure in their blends.
2. Bellies have a higher dark fibre risk than pieces.
3. There is strong likelihood these lines would be described as Pieces.
4. Recognising this practice in “small clips” suggests a different preparation standard exists depending on the size of the clip.

Lines of combing wool offered with Pieces and Bellies will be deemed to be non-conforming to the Code of Practice.

### Unskirted Crossbred

Some woolclasser survey responses suggested the Code of Practice should recognise unskirted, but classed Crossbreds. ISAC reviewed this request. There was not support for introducing this practice. Fleece wool prepared to the Code of Practice must be skirted (with the exception of black, heavy dermo and hard cots/matts). Unskirted fleece wool must not have a stencil on the bales or the specification.