

2 February 2018

AWEX Pursuing Misuse use of Stencils

AWEX is investigating recent complaints regarding the alleged misuse of wool classer stencils. The complaints raise the real concern about whether the person classing is the same person who has trained, registered and has been assigned the classer's stencil being used. In most cases where someone is impersonating a classer they are untrained and may have stolen or been given the stencil to use.

AWEX CEO, Mark Grave said; "The Australian wool industry is a ~\$4 billion industry. The misuse of the classer's stencil undermines the wool classer registration scheme and threatens the integrity and reputation of the Australian wool industry. Australia has invested over 50 years in developing the world's best standards and training programs which have been designed to add value to the Australian wool clip in a competitive global market. Our exporter and processor customers have confidence in how we prepare wool and in the integrity of our industry. Actions such as this can destroy that hard earned reputation overnight."

"AWEX is seeking support from Growers, Brokers, Classers, Contractors and all industry participants to help ensure that the integrity of the system is maintained." said Mark Grave.

Wool prepared on farm by a registered wool classer is eligible for a 'P' certificate. Wool prepared by other people is not. The 'P' certificate is highly sought after by exporters and processors.

"Setting lines in a shed and leaving others with the responsibility of classing is not classing by a registered classer. The classer's stencil can only be used by the registered wool classer and cannot be transferred to another person to use."

Mark Grave added "These are serious issues and if a classer's stencil has been used by another person there are criminal and civil consequences for those people which may include (but not limited to) receiving monies by deception and impersonating a wool classer."

To confirm the registration status of a classer go to www.awex.com.au and click on the "CONFIRM CLASSER" icon on the home page.

AWEX Wool Classer Rules of Registration 2016-18 are available on the AWEX website: www.awex.com.au

If anyone is aware of or has information regarding this issue please contact AWEX:

Mark Grave, CEO, p: 02 9428 6100 or e: mgrave@awex.com.au or

Fiona Raleigh, AWEX Wool Classer Registrar on p: 02 9428 6100 or e: fraleigh@awex.com.au .