

Domain	SMALL STOCK	Unit ID:	1374
Title:	Shear sheep		
Level: 2			Credits: 3

Purpose

This unit standard specifies the competencies required to:

- Set-up for shearing sheep
- Shear Sheep
- Carry out post-shearing operations.

This unit standard is intended for people working in agriculture.

Special Notes

1. Entry information:

Prerequisite:

- *Unit 1357 - Handle farm animals*

2. This unit standard is to be delivered and assessed in the context of agricultural operations and can be assessed in conjunction with other relevant technical unit standards.

3. The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations.

4. Assessment evidence may be collected from a real workplace or an appropriate simulated environment in which agricultural operations are carried out.

5. Assessment of practical application to shearing sheep may be performed using either hand operated tools or mechanical equipment.

6. All inspection, operation and maintenance procedures associated with the use of tools and equipment shall comply with manufacturers' guidelines and instructions.

7. Glossary of terms

- '*Specifications*' refers to any, or all of the following: manufacturers' specifications and recommendations, as well as workplace specific requirements.
- '*Safety requirements*' may include but are not limited to safe systems and procedures for handling livestock, hazard and risk control, operating livestock handling equipment, safe use of hand tools and equipment, manual handling procedures, application and storage of hazardous substances, maintaining personal hygiene, outdoor work and the use of personal protective equipment.
- '*Personal protective equipment (PPE)*' may include but is not limited to clothing and footwear that prevents feet crushing, skin abrasions and

tangles in machinery, helmet, gloves, protective eye wear, hearing protection, respirator, face mask and sun protection.

- '*Potential and existing hazards*' may include but are not limited to animal movement and handling, obstacles, veterinary chemicals, damaged infrastructure, solar radiation, slippery and uneven surfaces, electricity, sharp tools, unsafe and damaged equipment and machinery and loose clothing.
- '*Workplace procedures*' may include but are not limited to work notes, plans, product labels, manufacturer's specifications, operator's manuals, safety plans, fire control, waste disposal, recycling, re-use guidelines and supervisors oral or written instructions.

8. Regulations and legislation relevant to this unit standard include the following:

- Labour Act No. 11, 2007
- Regulations relating to the Health and Safety of employees at work, 1997
- Animal Health Act 2011
- Animal Protection Act of 1962
- Standards Act, 2005, Standards Regulations: Standards Act, 2005 and relevant Namibian Standards as established

and all subsequent amendments to any of the above.

- All current sets of Good Agricultural Practices to which Namibia subscribes and that regulate agricultural products entering a country to which Namibian producers may export.

Quality Assurance Requirements

This unit standard and others within this subfield may be awarded by institutions which meet the accreditation requirements set by the Namibia Qualifications Authority and the Namibia Training Authority and which comply with the national assessment and moderation requirements. Details of specific accreditation requirements and the national assessment arrangements are available from the Namibia Qualifications Authority on www.namqa.or.na and the Namibia Training Authority on www.nta.com.na.

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element 1. Set-up for shearing sheep

Range

Equipment may include but is not limited to shearing scissors or friction cone, down-tube assembly and a shearing hand piece.

Shearing may include but is not limited to hand shearing or mechanical shearing.

Sheep may include all ages and gender of sheep.

Performance Criteria

- 1.1 Suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) is selected, used and maintained in line with the safety requirements and workplace procedures.

- 1.2 Potential and existing hazards for people and animals are identified, controlled and reported according to workplace procedures.
- 1.3 Facilities are inspected and assessed according to industry standards and workplace procedures.
- 1.4 Shearing equipment is prepared or assembled, set-up and checked for correct operation.
- 1.5 Equipment faults or malfunctions are identified and reported for repair or replacement according to workplace procedures.
- 1.6 Contaminating substances are removed according to regulations and workplace procedures.
- 1.7 Bins/wool pack holders are placed in a strategic position.
- 1.8 Sheep are moved into holding/catching pens according to workplace procedures.

Element 2. Shear Sheep

Range

Safe manual handling techniques may include but are not limited to catching, dragging, positioning and releasing sheep.

Industry agreed shearing method may include detailed procedures for removal of wool from the belly and crutch, first hind leg, wig, first side neck and shoulder, side and back (long blow) second side neck and shoulder last side and last hind leg, positioning of the sheep and shearer in relation to the down tube, use of free hand, safety procedures, how to avoid second cuts and other damage to wool, and damage to sensitive and vulnerable parts of the sheep's anatomy.

Injuries to sheep may include but are not limited to injury to the vulnerable areas of the sheep such as teats, penises, ears, vulva, wrinkle and skin, eyes, hamstrings, joints, blood vessels and sinewy parts close to the surface. Damage to horns, ear-tags, second cuts and skin pieces should also be avoided.

Performance Criteria

- 2.1 Sheep are caught according to workplace procedures.
- 2.2 Sheep are dragged from the catching pen to the shearing board using safe manual handling techniques.
- 2.3 Sheep are positioned for shearing in line with industry agreed shearing method.
- 2.4 Sheep are sheared in position suitable to the individual's competence with minimal injury to sheep.
- 2.5 Sheep are released safely from the board into the count-out pens.

- 2.6 Shearing effort is maintained to achieve the required minimum rate per day to work place acceptable standard.

Element 3. Carry out post-shearing operations

Range

Adverse weather conditions may include but are not limited to rain, wind, wind and rain in combination, ultra-violet radiation, hail, snow, frost, and extreme heat and cold.

Appropriate actions may include but are not limited to the provision of suitable shelter, shedding or moving livestock, covering or moving fodder, the provision of fire fighting equipment, and auxiliary power supplies.

Performance Criteria

- 3.1 Wool is packed and stored according to workplace procedures.
- 3.2 Shearing facilities and equipment are cleaned according to workplace procedures
- 3.3 Damaged and malfunctioning equipment is removed and reported.
- 3.4 Waste is disposed of according to regulations and workplace procedures.
- 3.5 Adverse weather conditions are determined to minimise loss or damage to sheep after shearing operations.
- 3.6 Livestock condition and health status is assessed and recorded according to workplace procedures.
- 3.7 Shearing records are kept according to work place procedures.

Registration Data

Subfield:	Livestock
Date first registered:	25 November 2015
Date this version registered:	25 November 2015
Anticipated review:	2020
Body responsible for review:	Namibia Training Authority