IWTO
Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare

A concise summation of good practice principles for ethical wool sheep production
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Foreword

Wool is increasingly seen by consumers as a sustainable lifestyle choice in fashion textiles and interior solutions. Retail purchasing managers need to be assured of the provenance and sustainability credentials of the products they select for their ranges. When raw materials are sourced from animals, the welfare and environmental credentials need to be above scrutiny, and supporting documentation should be available for Corporate Social Responsibility audits of their respective brands.

The transformation from raw wool into textile products crosses many borders and is part of a global industry. From a production perspective, the legislative frameworks, best practice guidelines and technical specifications vary depending on country specific production systems, environmental legislation and wool sheep types. The IWTO is the recognised global authority on production practices and manufacturing standards in the wool industry.

Transparency in each step of the wool pipeline is essential. Animal welfare and sustainable environmental practices are governed by the national legislative framework of each individual country. The woolgrower is governed by local environmental laws and animal legislation. For his own economic benefit, it makes complete business sense to handle his resources with the utmost care and to the best of his capabilities. Scarcity in food or water or any stress related incidents would cause his most valuable asset to diminish in return. This applies to the animals and the land they graze on, since a healthy ecosystem ensures optimum growth of the livestock that lives on it.

This document is intended to clarify the many rules and regulations guarding the wool industry from pasture to shop floor, and to highlight the specifications our responsible and law-abiding members use to conduct the business of growing wool. The document is a living resource that will be updated regularly to include the latest science, research and development in the field of wool sheep husbandry.

Peter Ackroyd
President
International Wool Textile Organisation
www.iwto.org
Introduction

The term 'animal welfare' is best described by the World Organisation of Animal Health in Chapter 7 of the Health Code for Terrestrial Animals'.

“Animal Welfare relates to how the animal is coping with the conditions that surround it. The welfare of an animal (evaluated in accordance with scientific evidence) is considered satisfactory if the following criteria are met; good health, sufficient comfort, good nutrition, safety, possibility of expression of natural behaviour, lack of suffering such as pain, fear or distress.

Animal welfare requires the following; prevention and appropriate treatment of diseases, protection, management, nutrition, manipulations performed humanely, slaughter or killing carried out in decent conditions.

The concept of animal welfare refers to the “state of the animal”.

In recent years, there has been a rapid evolution of what constitutes good animal welfare practice, reflecting rising societal awareness of the importance of good animal husbandry. Originating in the UK during the 1960’s, the so-called ‘Five Freedoms’ started out as a list of required provisions for farmed animal well-being. These now underpin modern welfare standards and Chapter 5 of this document is based on these codes. From a legal perspective, each country has sovereign responsibility for its laws and regulations pertaining to animal welfare practices. For this reason, the IWTO communicates a global stance on what it has agreed with its members to constitute good wool sheep welfare practices and lists the specific laws and regulations pertaining to each wool-growing member country.

1 http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_aw_introduction.htm
Overview of the Wool Sheep Industry

Primitive man has been sourcing his clothing and home textiles from animals for centuries and traces of domestic sheep have been found dating back to 10,000 BC. Sheep were kept for their milk, wool, fleece and meat. Herders soon realized that it was more profitable to keep sheep for their wool, as the fresh growth could be harvested every year. By the time the Romans invaded the United Kingdom in 55 BC, local farmers had already developed a wool industry and were trading in textiles made from wool and fleece.

Breed registries are mostly kept by developed countries and from these we learn that there are more than 1,000 distinct sheep breeds with different body, wool and temperament types. Coats can be short and fine or long and coarse and each breed has specific needs relating to the best environmental and animal husbandry conditions for optimum health and welfare. Wool farmers will choose a particular breed of sheep according to the historical data available for that particular area relating to topography, rainfall and market driven indicators.
1.1 Argentina

Argentina is a small producer of wool accounting for around 2% of global raw wool production and has 30,000 farmers who grow wool from 12.2 million sheep. The most common breed of sheep in Argentina is Merino, followed by Corriedale. The average farm size is 600 hectares with an average of 350 sheep. In Patagonia the average farm size is 10,000 hectares with an average of 3,000 sheep. Seventy percent of Argentinean wool measures around 24.5 microns and is used for apparel, and the remaining 30% for a wide range of other textiles.

Animal health and welfare in Argentina is supervised by the National Service of Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA). SENASA is a decentralized organization with economic, financial, technical and administrative autonomy with its own legal status, under the National Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. A wide range of aspects related to animal health, welfare and cruelty to animals have been addressed by Argentine national legislation and resulting regulations as from 1954. Degrees of responsibility have been established as well as penalties for non-compliance or breaches of procedures. Specific procedural guidelines are in place to ensure that animal welfare criteria are duly carried out. A Joint Advisory Committee on Animal Welfare within the sphere of SENASA has been created to coordinate all aspects of animal welfare. This committee comprises experts from the areas of animal health, veterinary medicine faculties and agricultural innovation entities. Consultation continues with organisations throughout the world in order to maintain an updated position.
1.2 Australia

With 24% of total production, Australia is the world’s largest wool producer. There are approximately 55,000 farmers who grow wool from around 72 million sheep. The Merino breed is predominant in Australia, producing fine wool used in apparel. The average farm enterprise size in Australia is 3,100 hectares with the average woolgrower running 3,000 sheep. Australia is the largest producer of apparel wool, producing around 75% of all wool destined for clothing and fashion. The largest percentage of Australian wool is finer than 24.5 microns.

Australia is a federation made up of a national government, six state and two territory governments. The Australian Constitution determines that animal health and welfare is the responsibility of the six state and two territory governments. Each of these jurisdictions has specific, but separate legislation governing animal health, welfare and cruelty. Contravention of these laws will result in prosecution. Codes of Practice, Standards and Guidelines have been developed nationally for all livestock industries, including sheep farming. These help to guide or inform lawmakers on how to interpret the legislation. The federal government of Australia has no direct responsibility for animal welfare. However, it supports the state governments to ensure a coordinated approach by facilitating the development of the Australian Standards and Guidelines for Sheep. This regulatory tool assists the state governments, ensuring that their legislation is based on fact and the latest developments in R&D and production.

The relevant state government departments responsible for animal welfare are:

- **NSW** - the Department of Primary Industries
- **Victoria** – Agriculture Victoria
- **Queensland** - the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries
- **South Australia** - the Department Environment, Water & Natural Resources
- **Tasmania** – the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment
- **Western Australia** – Department of Food & Agriculture
1.3 New Zealand

At 10% of global production, New Zealand is the third largest producer of wool and is also the largest producer of strong wool used in interior textiles. New Zealand has 25,000 farms that grow wool from 30 million sheep, amounting to over 6 sheep per head of population. The most common sheep breeds in New Zealand are Romney Marsh, Perendale, Coopworth, Merino and Corriedale. The average farm size in New Zealand is 250 hectares running 3,000 sheep. The overwhelming majority of New Zealand wool is coarser than 24.6 microns; hence it is destined for non-apparel textiles and carpet manufacture.

New Zealand has a national animal welfare system. The Animal Welfare Act (1999) sets out the high level of responsibilities for owners and persons in charge of animals to provide for their physical health and behavioural needs. Codes of welfare provide minimum standards for specific species and situations and contain more detail than what is covered in the Act. The Sheep and Beef Cattle Code of Welfare sets minimum standards to adhere to by sheep and cattle farmers. New Zealand is currently consulting on animal welfare regulations that fall between the Act and the codes of welfare. The regulations are more specific than the Act and provide for direct penalties for non-compliance. In contrast, codes of welfare must currently be enforced via offences in the Act. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RNZSPC) both have responsibilities for animal welfare compliance in New Zealand. The MPI deals primarily with farmed animals while the RNZSPCA is largely concerned with pets.
1.4 South Africa

South Africa is a small producer of wool accounting for around 2.5% of global production. South Africa has 35,000 farms that grow wool from 24.9 million sheep. The most common breeds of sheep in South Africa are Merino, Dorper, Dohne and Mutton Merino. South Africa’s wool is particularly well suited to apparel production with the bulk measuring between 18.5 and 21.5 micron.

1.5 United Kingdom

The UK is a small producer of wool, accounting for around 2% of worldwide greasy wool production. The UK has approximately 40,000 sheep farmers growing wool from 34 million sheep. It has the most diverse and extensive range of sheep breeds with over 60 breeds of sheep, including Swaledales, Welsh Mountains, Romney Marsh, Lincoln, Border Leicester, Suffolk, Cheviots and Scottish Black Face. Their uses range from making fine cloth, blending in apparel, knitwear and yarns to insulation and carpets. The average farm size in the UK is 120 hectares with a flock size of 300.

Animal welfare in the UK is governed by well-documented national legislation. The welfare of sheep is protected by the Animal Welfare Act (2006) according to which it is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals – to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken for the animal’s needs to be met. These general requirements are supplemented by detailed requirements as set out in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 No 2078).

The government department responsible, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and the Devolved Assemblies, are advised by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) about the welfare of farmed animals. FAWC has identified five freedoms to provide for animals’ physical, health and behavioural needs. The Five Freedoms form a logical and comprehensive framework for analysis of animal welfare and are enhanced by the Cross Compliance requirements as required under European rules to access EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) payments. To qualify, the farmer must follow Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) of which SMR 18 aims to protect the welfare of all farmed animals by setting minimum standards for their care and husbandry.
1.6 United States

The US is a small global producer of wool accounting for around 2% world greasy wool production. The US has approximately 88,000 farms, growing wool from approximately 5 million sheep. The most common breeds of sheep are the Rambouillet and Columbia. The average farm size in the USA is 60 hectares with a flock size of 60. Just over half of USA wool is finer than 24.6 microns and suitable for apparel.

Farm animal welfare is regulated at state and local levels through laws varying between the 50 state and numerous county governments. The American Sheep Industry Association’s Sheep Care Guide was developed in 2005 to serve as a reference for US sheep producers and has been written in acceptance of the ethical responsibility for the humane care of animals. It recognises that each sheep producer’s professional judgement, experience and training are key factors in providing for animal care. Animal Agriculture Alliance and some of the state laws include animal welfare.
1.7 Uruguay

Uruguay is a small global producer of wool, accounting for around 2% of global production. Uruguay has approximately 19,800 farmers who grow wool from 6.6 million sheep. The most common breeds of sheep in Uruguay are Corriedale, Merino and Polwarth. The average farm size in Uruguay is 535 hectares running 400 sheep. Nearly two thirds of Uruguayan wool measures 24-30 microns that is used mainly by the interiors textile market, while the remaining third ranges between 18 and 24 microns, suitable for apparel and fashion.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) is in charge of the regulation and control of animal welfare in production species. Representatives also head the Animal Welfare Group, which guides policy makers about all aspects of animal welfare. The Uruguayan Wool Secretariat (SUL), managed and funded by wool growers, and the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) collectively play an active role in animal welfare. Research projects, partnerships in education, training and communication plans are auctioned by this forum. Both these organizations, together with the Agricultural Plan Institute (IPA), the National Institute of Meat (INAC) and the University of Veterinary and University of Agronomy were tasked to develop a ‘Guideline for ethical sheep production in Uruguay’. Several voluntary codes of practice are applied by sheep farmers and woolgrowers, including a code of practice for shearing sheep and clip preparation.

WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION BY COUNTRY: CLEAN 2015 (% SHARE)
Total 1,160 mkg (+0.5% change y-o-y)

Legislative Frameworks for Wool Production

Each country has sovereign responsibility for its laws and regulations pertaining to animal welfare practices. The sovereign responsibility may be devolved to states and territories within countries (such as is the case in Australia), or individual countries within a regional aggregation, such as the European Union. This legal framework is designed to ensure that individuals and businesses at all times operate within the law of these countries. These legislative tools cover almost every aspect of farm operations including how farmers care for the land and animals, the animal husbandry practices they are allowed to use and specific chemicals and processes banned under local law.

Legally binding instruments (Decrees, Acts, Directives and Regulations for example) form the baseline for acceptable practice. They provide the high-level and interpretive requirements that farmers in each wool producing country have to adhere to. Meeting the appropriate legal requirements relevant to their jurisdiction is compulsory for farmers and those breaking the law would be prosecuted accordingly.

Supporting the legislation outlined above are the best practice tools. These tools are based on the latest research and development, welfare expertise and animal husbandry practices. These guidelines are dynamic and ever evolving as new information becomes available. For example, best practice may recommend that a farmer manages sheep to reduce the risk of pests; however how and when this is done will depend on whether the farm is located in a summer or winter dominant environment and the type of sheep present. These management tools are highly specific to the production system, environment and type of sheep. The approach that wool-producing countries have taken with these best practice tools also varies. Some countries adopt one programme that covers all facets of wool production\(^3\), whereas others have different guidelines for each facet of production\(^4\).

\(^3\) Best Practice Reference Manual for Wool Sheep Farming - South Africa

\(^4\) Paraboss, Lifetime Ewe Management, Grain and Graze - Australia
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEGALLY BINDING AND NON-LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENTS

WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)
OIE is the intergovernmental standard setting organisation responsible for improving animal health. With 178 member countries worldwide, the OIE is recognised as a ‘reference organisation’ by the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Animal welfare was first identified as a priority in the OIE 2001-2005 Strategy Plan. OIE was mandated by its members to take the lead on animal welfare internationally and provide recommendations and guidelines covering animal welfare practices. The international community views the OIE animal welfare standards as the key guiding principles upon which individual countries develop further detailed tools.

THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO)
FAO’s aim is to provide food security for all. It strives to raise the level of nutrition, improve agriculture productivity, improve the lives of the rural population and contribute to the growth of the world economy. This objective is achieved by making relevant information accessible, sharing policy expertise, providing a meeting place for nations and bringing knowledge to the field. FAO has devised the ‘Gateway to Farm Animals’ to build good farm welfare practices. The Gateway is a single access point for international and national aspects related to animal welfare. It is a participatory platform and allows for the retrieval and submission of information.

5 http://www.oie.int
6 http://www.fao.org/home/en/
IWTO Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare

In the establishment of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OIE acknowledges the guidance provided by the internationally recognized Five Freedoms\(^7,8\):

1. **Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition** – through ready access to fresh water and a diet sufficient to maintain full health and vigour.

2. **Freedom from discomfort** – through provision of an appropriately sheltered and comfortable environment.

3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. **Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour** – through provision of sufficient space, suitable facilities and company of the animal’s own kind.

5. **Freedom from fear and distress** – ensuring conditions and treatments imposed avoid mental suffering.

\(^7\) OIE (2016). Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Article 7.1.1

ENVIRONMENT

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code states:

“The physical environment, including the substrate (walking surface, resting surface, etc.), should be suited to the species so as to minimise risk of injury and transmission of diseases or parasites to animals. The physical environment should allow comfortable resting, safe and comfortable movement including normal postural changes, and the opportunity to perform types of natural behaviour that animals are motivated to perform.... For housed animals, air quality, temperature and humidity should support good animal health and not be aversive. Where extreme conditions occur, animals should not be prevented from using their natural methods of thermo-regulation."

Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines, the general principle is that sheep should be managed so as to minimise the impact of threats to their lifetime welfare, including extremes of weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation. Specifically:

1. Sheep should be purpose-bred and effectively managed so as to enable a high level of physical adaptation to the production environment and minimise undue stress;
2. Sheep should be inspected at intervals appropriate to risks to their welfare;
3. Consideration should be given to the provision of shelter in the absence of natural protection;
4. When sheep are confined for extended periods, they should:
   a. have effective ventilation;
   b. be housed in social groups; and
   c. have non-slip, non-abrasive and free-draining floor surfaces that avoid the accumulation of faeces and urine likely to compromise their welfare.
5. Handling facilities should be free from protrusions and obstacles that may cause injury.
6. Measures should be put in place to prevent sheep being harmed or killed by predators.

NUTRITION

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code states:

“Animals should have access to sufficient feed and water, suited to the animals’ age and needs, to maintain normal health and productivity and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration."

Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines:

1. Sheep should have reasonable access to feed and water appropriate for their age and needs.
2. If sufficient feed and water cannot be provided for sheep, options such as relocating, sell, or humanely dispose of the sheep should be considered before their welfare is adversely affected.
3. Self-feeders and watering points should be checked regularly to ensure feed and water quality and quantity is maintained.
4. Access to contaminated and spoilt feed, toxic plants and harmful substances should be avoided.
5. Digestive problems should be prevented by gradually introducing sheep to a change of diet.

10 OIE (2016) Terrestrial Animal Code, Article 7.1.4 (7)
HEALTH
The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code states:

“Diseases and parasites should be prevented and controlled as much as possible through good management practices. Animals with serious health problems should be isolated and treated promptly or killed humanely if treatment is not feasible or recovery is unlikely. Where painful procedures cannot be avoided, the resulting pain should be managed to the extent that available methods allow.”

Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines:

1. As part of a preventative approach to managing the health aspects of sheep welfare, a health management plan should be designed and implemented under the guidance of qualified advisors;

2. Within the health management plans, disease prevention strategies should include vaccination against relevant diseases, monitoring and control of internal and external parasites, and selection toward genetic resistance and resilience to parasites and diseases;

3. Sheep should be inspected regularly, and unexplained diseases and deaths should be investigated to formulate appropriate remedial and preventive actions;

4. Appropriate treatment for sick, injured or diseased sheep should be undertaken at the first reasonable opportunity, and sheep suffering from ill health that cannot be reasonably treated should be humanely euthanized at the first reasonable opportunity;

5. Surgical procedures should be avoided wherever possible and should only be performed where there is a positive health or welfare outcome for the animal. Where surgical procedures cannot be avoided, the resulting pain should be minimized by selection of the most appropriate method for the age of the animal and the use of anaesthesia and analgesia. Genetic, technological, and management interventions should be sought and applied to remove the need for surgical procedures;

6. Good hygiene practices should be applied relating to facilities, hands, handling and instruments; and

7. Sheep that grow and retain long wool should be shorn at least annually.

**BEHAVIOUR**

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specifies that:

*“Social grouping of animals should be managed to allow positive social behaviour and minimise injury, distress and chronic fear.”*\(^\text{12}\)

Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines:

In general sheep should be able to express normal behaviour free from undue stress or constraint.

1. Sheep confined for extended periods should be able to turn around, see, hear, smell and touch neighbouring sheep or have a companion if individually penned;

2. Trough space should be adequate to allow sufficient daily intake of feed and water by all sheep, including shy feeders, and to minimise bullying;

3. In intensive production systems sufficient space should be allowed for all sheep at the same time to lie on their sternums; and

4. Sheep should be restrained for the minimum time necessary and tethered sheep should be able to exercise daily.

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**HANDLING**

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specifies:

*“The handling of animals should foster a positive relationship between humans and animals and should not cause injury, panic, lasting fear or avoidable stress.”*

And:

*“Owners and handlers should have sufficient skills and knowledge to ensure that animals are treated in accordance with these [OIE] principles.”*\(^\text{13}\)

Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines:

1. Handling practices should be appropriate and minimise risk to the welfare of sheep:
   
   a. handling should be minimised during extreme weather;
   
   b. extra care should be taken when handling sheep with special needs – for example, young lambs, heavily pregnant ewes, lame sheep and rams; and
   
   c. sheep should be returned to feed and water as soon as possible after handling.

2. Overcrowding of sheep in pens or yards and on transport vehicles should be avoided. Precautions should be taken to prevent smothering - especially for lambs and weaners;

3. Handling facilities should be appropriate to minimise risks to sheep welfare;

4. The use of dogs and handling aids should be limited to the minimum needed to complete the task. When dogs are used, they should be effectively trained and manage; and

5. In the interests of the livestock and all involved in the farm enterprise, farm staff involved in management of livestock should be suitably proficient in their animal management practices.

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\(^{13}\) OIE (2016) Terrestrial Animal Code, Article 7.1.4 (10,11).
Glossary

ACCESS TO FEED AND WATER
A reasonable opportunity for sheep to be able to drink water of a suitable quality and quantity to maintain their hydration, and consume a sufficient quality and quantity of feed to maintain appropriate levels of health and vigour.

ANIMAL WELFARE
The state of an animal and how well it is coping with the conditions in which it lives.

CRUTCHING OR CLIPPING
The removal of wool from the breech of the sheep.

EXTREMES OF WEATHER
Temperature and climatic conditions (e.g. rain, hail, snow, wind, humidity and heat) that, individually or in combination, are likely to predispose sheep to heat or cold stress.

FACILITIES
Fences, yards, sheds, raceways, feed and water troughs, portable yards, ramps and equipment, including lamb-marking cradles, dips, sprays and jetting races.

HUSBANDRY
The practice of breeding and raising livestock.

INTENSIVE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS
An operation where sheep are confined for a period longer than four weeks for the purposes of wool, meat or milk production, and are dependent on the daily supply of feed and or water provided by human or mechanical means. Excluding rams housed for breeding or stud sheep in preparation for showing.

IWTO
International Wool Textile Organisation.

LAMB MARKING
A set of procedures commonly undertaken simultaneously. May include earmarking, ear tagging, vaccination, drenching, tail docking and castration of lambs.

LIE
Sheep are able to rest on their sternums without restriction (or contact with other sheep or structure).

OIE
OIE TERRESTRIAL CODE
Sets out standards for animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide.

PAIN RELIEF
The administration of veterinary medicine that reduce the intensity and duration of a pain response.

SHEEP
Ovis aries and other members of the genus Ovis.

SURGICAL PROCEDURE
A procedure requiring surgery that is conducted to improve the long-term welfare of a sheep. Usually conducted during lamb marking.

TROUGH
A container for animal feed or water.

VENTILATION
Natural or mechanically induced air movement sufficient to provide oxygen and remove excessive heat load and noxious gases.

WEANER
An adolescent sheep that no longer requires liquid feed.

WETHER
A castrated ram (male sheep).
The following table provides an overview of the key legal requirements in each country and the legal entity that governs over it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUMENT TYPE</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
<th>LINKS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Victoria)</td>
<td>The Act does not permit cruelty to occur. Where people are not complying with the specific requirements of these other Acts, standards or codes they can still face prosecution for cruelty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Sheep (Victoria) (Revision Number 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)</td>
<td>The Act promotes the responsible care and use of animals. It places a legal duty of care on people in charge of animals to meet those animals’ needs in an appropriate way. The Act is administered by Biosecurity Queensland. Specially trained Biosecurity Queensland or RSPCA animal welfare inspectors, or the police, investigate complaints about alleged offences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Frameworks per Country</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Website/Link</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Welfare Regulations 2012 (South Australia)</td>
<td>The Code is intended as a set of guidelines that provides detailed minimum standards for assisting people in understanding the standard of care required to meet their obligations under the laws that operate in Australia's States and Territories.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/ANIMAL%20WELFARE%20REGULATIONS%202012/CURRENT/2012.187.UN.PDF">www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/R/ANIMAL%20WELFARE%20REGULATIONS%202012/CURRENT/2012.187.UN.PDF</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Welfare Act 2002 (Western Australia)</td>
<td>The Act and its accompanying regulations provide the legal framework for ensuring that all animals in Western Australia have appropriate standards of care. The Act intends to promote and protect the welfare, safety and health of animals, ensure the proper and humane care and management of animals in accordance with generally accepted standards and reflect the community's expectation that people in charge of animals will ensure that they are properly treated and cared for.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/wa/consol_act/awa2002128/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/wa/consol_act/awa2002128/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code of Practice for Sheep in Western Australia (2003)</td>
<td>This Code has been prepared to assist all persons handling or using sheep in Western Australia, and reference to this Code is made in Regulations provided under Section 25 of the Animal Welfare Act 2002 for the purposes of a defence against cruelty.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Code%20of%20Practice%20for%20Sheep%20in%20Western%20Australia_2003.pdf">www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Code%20of%20Practice%20for%20Sheep%20in%20Western%20Australia_2003.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Welfare Act 1993 (Tasmania)</td>
<td>Under the Animal Welfare Act, persons who have the care or charge of animals have a legal “duty of care” for the welfare of those animals, and must take all reasonable measures to ensure their welfare. In the case of sheep, persons with this legal duty of care include the owner, the person with control or custody, the operator or manager of the premises where the sheep are kept and the manager or director of a body corporate which owns them.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/tas/consol_act/awa1993128/">www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/tas/consol_act/awa1993128/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep (2016)</td>
<td>The ‘Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep’ has been developed to provide nationally consistent rules for sheep care and management across Australia. They have been endorsed by state and territory Ministers who will use these to guide legislation in their respective states. Under this system guidelines are accepted good industry practice that should be complied with and would replace those state based codes highlighted in yellow.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/sheep/">www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/sheep/</a></td>
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### New Zealand

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### South Africa


### Argentina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Uruguay**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decree No 369/983</th>
<th>For the humanitarian slaughter of animals including transport:</th>
<th><a href="http://www.impo.com.uy/bases/decretos-reglamento/369-1983">Link</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pre mortem (Art. 17 to 38) and post mortem (Art. 39 to 86) vet inspection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pen facilities (Arts. 23), pre mortem (Art. 158) and post mortem handling (Art. 165)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transportation (Art. 284, 285, 286, 288, 289)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Loading and unloading (Arts. 287, 290)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Stunning and Slaughter (Arts. 79, 178, 179, 180)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Wools of Uruguay**

Further information about the guideline and general information regarding wool production in Uruguay can be found at "Wools of Uruguay".

[Link](http://www.wool.com.uy/animal_welfare.htm)
[Link](http://www.sul.org.uy/sitio/Publicaciones)

**SUL (Secretariado Uruguayo de la Lana, Uruguayan Wool Secretariat), created by law no. 13.602 in 1966**

SUL seeks to promote sustainable development of the sheep sector, maximizing economic performance through research, technology transfer, training and supply of highly specialized services.

[Link](http://www.sul.org.uy)

**INIA (National Institute of Agricultural Research), created by law no. 16.065 in 1989**

INIA seeks to generate and adapt knowledge and technology aiming at contributing to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector and overall to Uruguay’s economic and social development. With a focus on national policies, social inclusion and market demands.

[Link](http://www.inia.uy)

**INAC (National Institute of Meat), created by law no. 15.605 in 1984**

The Institute has a wide scope of action given that it monitors performance for several species, namely beef, sheep, pigs, and poultry, and various links of the meat chain concerning processing in the domestic and international markets. They are in charge of the Animal Welfare Certification Program, including the farm, transportation and the slaughter plant.

[Link](http://www.inac.gub.uy)
## Legislative Frameworks per Country

### United Kingdom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK Animal Welfare Act (2006)</td>
<td>The UK Animal Welfare Act (2006) established the legislative framework surrounding animal welfare in UK. It is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals – to ensure all reasonable steps are taken so that the animal’s needs are met.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents">www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guidelines</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidelines</td>
<td>This Sheep Care Guide was developed to serve as a reference for US sheep producers and has been written in recognition of an ethical responsibility for the humane care of animals.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms_AnimalHealth_AnimalCareWelfare">www.sheepusa.org/IssuesPrograms_AnimalHealth_AnimalCareWelfare</a> <a href="http://nationalaglawcenter.org/center-outreach/animalcrueltyenforcement/">http://nationalaglawcenter.org/center-outreach/animalcrueltyenforcement/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 Wool Industry Resources

INTERNATIONAL
International Wool Textile Organisation
www.iwto.org

ARGENTINEAN INDUSTRY
Federation Lanera Argentina (FLA)
www.flasite.com

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY
Australian Wool Innovation
www.wool.com

Federation of Australian Wool Organisations
woolindustries.org

WoolProducers Australia
www.woolproducers.com.au

The Woolmark Company
www.woolmark.com

NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRY
National Council of NZ Wool Interests (Inc)
Email: ncnzwii@gmail.com

SOUTH AFRICAN INDUSTRY
Cape Wools SA
www.capewools.co.za

UNITED KINGDOM INDUSTRY
British Wools
www.britishwool.org.uk

UNITED STATES INDUSTRY
American Sheep Industry Association
www.sheepusa.org

URUGUAYAN INDUSTRY
Cámara Mercantil de Productos del País
www.camaramercantil.com.uy

Wools of Uruguay
www.wool.com.uy
Acknowledgements

The original IWTO Guidelines for Wool Sheep Welfare were developed in 2013 through a consultative process involving representatives of all the individual grower countries and technical experts in the fields of animal welfare and veterinary science, through the IWTO Sustainable Practices Working Group.

This guide was updated with the latest Legislative Frameworks for Wool Production in 2016 and all the relevant woolgrower countries were consulted to provide the legal resources for each nation, including Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

The objective of this guide is to clearly define and widely promote animal welfare practices in wool production, relevant to the wide diversity of production environments around the globe. While specifically relevant to the global wool sheep production industry, these good welfare practices are closely aligned with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

DISCLAIMER: Please note that this guidance document is intended for information purposes only. It has been produced by the IWTO in November 2016 to provide informal, non-binding advice on the legal requirements and best practices guiding the wool industry internationally. As the area of environmental and animal welfare legislation is continuously evolving, it is not possible for this Guidance document to cover all possible applicable rules and practices globally. Users should therefore not base their actions on the contents of this report only and carry out their own due diligence where it comes to conducting the business of wool production and providing guarantees concerning sheep welfare. This Guidance should be read in conjunction with local applicable rules and regulations. The legal requirements and practices described in this Guidance should not be taken as an authoritative statement or interpretation of the law, as only the courts have this power. It is ultimately the responsibility of individual businesses to ensure their compliance with the law. The IWTO expressly declines responsibility and liability for any misinterpretation or damage incurred by persons, entities (private or public) or organisations as a result of the contents of this Guidance document.