Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Wool—Fleece testing and measurement

Method 5: Measurement of mean fibre diameter using the OFDA measuring system

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TX/12, Wool to supersede AS/NZS 4492.5(Int):1997.

This Standard is based on the method of testing core samples using an OFDA instrument in IWTO 47-95, *Determination of the mean and distribution of fibre diameter of wool using an Optical Fibre Diameter Analyser (OFDA)*. Attention is drawn to the introduction to this series of fleece testing methods in Part 0.

The measurements should be regarded as relative, not absolute values, and they should only be used for within-flock comparisons.

The terms 'normative' and 'informative' have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

METHOD

1 SCOPE This Standard sets out a procedure for obtaining the mean fibre diameter, and in some cases the fibre diameter distribution, of a sample of fleece wool. The procedures also include requirements for drawing subsamples and preparing test specimens.

2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide the wool industry with a method of determining mean and distribution of fibre diameter by OFDA for the purpose of ranking sheep or classing fleeces according to mean fibre diameter.

3 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

3.1 Snippet sample—all of the fibre snippets cut from a subsample that have been cleaned where necessary.

3.2 Test specimen—the portion of the snippet sample spread over the glass slide ready for measurement.

4 PRINCIPLE Short snippets of fibres are dispersed onto a glass slide and measured on an OFDA. The snippets are cut from the subsample using a minicorer. The fibres may be cleaned either before or after minicoring.