

# Australian/New Zealand Standard™

---

## Wool—Fleece testing and measurement

### Method 1: Weighing and sampling greasy wool for fleece testing and measurement

---

#### PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee TX/12, Wool to supersede AS/NZS 4492.1(Int):1997.

This Standard relates to a method of obtaining a sample of greasy wool which may be put to several uses. The major use is to provide suitable material for measurement of washing yield or mean fibre diameter on single fleeces, for fleece testing application in sheep selection programs and the classing of fleeces into diameter groups prior to sale.

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

---

#### METHOD

**1 SCOPE** This Standard sets out a procedure for weighing individual fleeces and for obtaining a representative sample of greasy wool from an individual sheep.

**2 OBJECTIVE** The objective of this Standard is to provide the wool industry with a method of weighing and sampling greasy wool from sheep for the purpose of fleece testing.

#### 3 APPLICATION

**3.1 General** The sample may be used for the measurement of washing yield, mean fibre diameter and diameter distribution as described in this series of fleece testing Standards. The sample may also be used for the measurement of staple length, staple strength, position of break, resistance to compression, bulk, colour, wax and suint.

While samples may be taken from different parts of the fleece, research\*† has shown that the midside must be used when estimates of the fleece mean for washing yield, mean fibre diameter and fibre diameter distribution are required. However, other sites can be used for the ranking of animals, provided the sampling site is consistent between animals.

---

\* HANSFORD, K.A. Fibre diameter distribution: Implications for wool production. *Wool Technology and Sheep Breeding*. 1992, vol 40, no. 1.

† TURNER, H.N., HAYMAN, R.H., RICHES, J.H., ROBERTS, N.F. and WILSON, L.T., Physical definition of sheep and their fleece for breeding and husbandry studies with particular reference to merino sheep. *CSIRO Div. Report. No. 4 (Series S.W. - 2)*. 1953.