



# RULES FOR WOOL CLASSER REGISTRATION 2022-2024



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CLASSER REGISTRATION  
**2022-2024**

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## SECTION 1: THE WOOL CLASSER REGISTRATION SCHEME

### 1. Definitions

In these Rules:

‘**AW**’ means a person registered under these Rules as an Australian Wool Classer;

‘**AWEX**’ means the Australian Wool Exchange Limited;

‘**AWEX Management**’ means the Chief Executive Officer of AWEX or his or her nominee from time to time;

‘**AWEX Committee**’ means any working group or committee established by AWEX to act on behalf of AWEX;

‘**Business Rules**’ means the business rules of AWEX as amended from time to time;

‘**CA**’ means a person registered under these Rules as a Classer Associate;

‘**Code of Practice**’ means the *Code of Practice: For the Preparation of Australian Wool Clips - The Wool Classer* as amended by AWEX from time to time;

‘**Corrective Action**’ means measures taken by a Wool Classer to rectify an identified breach of the Code of Practice or these Rules and to ensure the breach does not re-occur. Corrective Action may include:

- (a) changes in procedures or practices, and/or
- (b) increased inspection of product;

‘**Deregister**’ means a Wool Classer’s registration is made void on the Register;

‘**OC**’ means a person registered under these Rules as an Owner Classer;

‘**MC**’ means a person registered under these Rules as a Master Classer;

‘**Register**’ means the register of Wool Classers;

‘**Registered Wool Classer**’ means a person registered under these Rules as an MC, AW, OC or CA;

‘**Registrar**’ means the person appointed by AWEX as the Registrar of Wool Classers under Rule 1 of Section 2 of these Rules;

‘**Registration Review Committee**’ means the advisory committee established in accordance with Rule 7.2 of Section 2 of these Rules;

‘**Reprimand**’ means a statement from the Registrar outlining the problems and consequences of the identified faults and repeated contravention of the Code of Practice or these Rules;

‘**Retraining Program**’ means an AWEX approved Retraining Program based on the relevant units for Wool Classer training as identified by AWEX. Retraining Programs are conducted by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) approved by AWEX;

‘**Rules**’ means these Rules for Wool Classer Registration 2022-2024;

‘**Scale 3**’ means a clip preparation fault that is deemed as severe and does not conform to the Code of Practice;

‘**Scheme**’ means the Wool Classer Registration Scheme detailed in Section 1 of these Rules;

‘**Suspension**’ means that the record of the Registered Wool Classer is marked as inoperative on the Register and the suspended Wool Classer is prohibited from placing his or her stamp or stencil on a wool clip until Corrective Action or a Retraining Program has been successfully completed and the inoperative mark removed from the Wool Classer’s record on the Register;

‘**Training Program**’ means an AWEX approved Training Program based on the relevant units for Wool Classer training as identified by AWEX. Training Programs are conducted by a RTO approved by AWEX;

‘**Wool Classer**’ means a person registered under these Rules as an MC, AW, OC or CA;

‘**Wool Classer ID Number**’ means the unique number assigned to each Wool Classer at registration; and

‘**Wool Classer Identification**’ means the stamp or stencil displaying a Wool Classer ID Number, provided by AWEX to the Wool Classer upon registration.

## 2. Introduction

The Scheme is managed by AWEX.

This document contains:

- an explanation of the Scheme;
- the rules of the Scheme; and
- the administrative procedures for registration and renewal of registration under the Scheme.

All Wool Classers registered with AWEX as at 31 December 2021 are eligible to renew their registration in one of four Wool Classer categories:

- Australian Wool Classer (AW);
- Master Classer (MC);
- Owner Classer (OC); or
- Classer Associate (CA).

## 3. Purpose of the Wool Classer Registration Scheme

To provide integrity for the sale of Australian greasy wool.

To ensure that any wool clip displaying a current Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) has been prepared by a Registered Wool Classer in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice. Any wool that does not meet the Code of Practice requirements **must not** carry the Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) of a Registered Wool Classer or Classing House.

These Rules relate to Wool Classers only; separate rules are used for the registration of Classing Houses.

The objectives of the Scheme are to:

- acknowledge the occupation of Wool Classing through formal qualifications;
- provide assurance and confidence to wool producers and purchasers that wool preparation is performed by an individual possessing skills and knowledge to undertake the classing function to the industry standard;
- provide a means of identifying that the classing of a particular clip has been carried out by a qualified Registered Wool Classer;
- provide a mechanism to ensure that all Wool Classers keep up to date with developments in wool and wool classing technologies and practices; and
- provide a mechanism for trace-back through the wool pipeline.

The Scheme will be kept under review.

## 4. The Australian Wool Exchange Limited

AWEX is the industry body in Australia for managing:

- the maintenance and improvement of the quality of the Australian wool clip; and
- compliance monitoring on behalf of the wool industry.

AWEX is responsible for those functions that relate to:

- facilitating the efficient marketing of wool; and
- adopting measures to improve and safeguard the quality of the Australian wool clip.

AWEX may establish committees from time to time to assist in accomplishing these functions.

## 5. AWEX Committees

AWEX may from time to time establish specific AWEX Committees. These AWEX Committees will assist AWEX with its interaction with the industry in the management of accreditation schemes, registration schemes and the development of other codes and standards supporting wool quality.

AWEX presently has schemes for:

- registration of Wool Classers;
- registration of Classing Houses;
- registration of Show Floors;
- accreditation of Wool Appraisers;
- registration of wool pack manufacturers and wool pack quality;
- National Wool Declaration – Integrity Program; and
- SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme.

The roles and objectives of AWEX Committees in relation to the Scheme include:

- assisting in the formulation of these Rules;
- acting as a review panel for activities relating to the Scheme;
- monitoring the clip preparation standards of wool;
- hearing and deciding upon complaints from any individual or organisation which may be dissatisfied with any decision taken by the Registrar in relation to the Scheme; and
- considering matters of education and training that support the Scheme.

## 6. Confidentiality of Information

AWEX regards the personal information obtained as part of the operation of the Scheme as strictly confidential. All confidential information will be treated by AWEX and any AWEX Committee, including the Registration Review Committee, in accordance with the AWEX Privacy Policy, which is available upon request.

Personal details collected from Wool Classers during the conduct of the Scheme will not be disclosed to any third party, unless:

- (a) AWEX advised the Wool Classer at the time AWEX collected the personal information that it might disclose that personal information to the third party;
- (b) permission is granted by the Wool Classer (such permission **must not be** unreasonably withheld); or
- (c) the third party is entitled by legislation to access that information.

Contact details for MCs and AWs will be placed on the AWEX Wool Classer Website (see Rule 8 of Section 1 of these Rules) unless the Wool Classer advises AWEX otherwise.

## 7. Corrective Actions and Training Programs

### 7.1 Corrective Actions

Where a wool clip carries a Registered Wool Classer's ID Number (stamp or stencil) and the wool clip is identified as not being prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice, the Registrar will contact the Wool Classer and/or the wool selling agent from whom the sale lot originated. The nature of the problem will be identified to the Wool Classer and, after review of the problem by the Registrar and, if necessary, the Registration Review Committee, the Wool Classer may be required to undertake either Corrective Action or complete a Retraining Program to ensure the problem identified does not re-occur.

All costs associated with Corrective Action will be borne by the Wool Classer.

The purpose of Corrective Action and Retraining Program requirements is to increase industry awareness of the need for quality assurance in the shearing shed and to continuously improve industry standards. Refer to Rule 7.3 of Section 2 for further information about Corrective Actions and Retraining Programs.

### 7.2 Training Programs

To be registered as an MC, AW, OC or CA Wool Classer, a person is required to successfully complete the approved Training Program for Wool Classers as determined by the relevant training package and conducted by a RTO approved by AWEX. For example:

- Certificate IV in Wool Classing (for an MC or AW)
- Certificate III in Wool Clip Preparation (for an OC)

Where required for registration or Corrective Action, a Wool Classer may be required to complete a Retraining Program.

All costs associated with a Retraining Program will be borne by the Wool Classer.

## 8. Wool Classer Website

AWEX provides a unique Internet based service for MCs and AWs, which enables them to promote their services to potential clients in an innovative way, as well as provide access to up-to-date and relevant wool classing information.

Through the website, owner/managers, Classing Houses, shearing contractors or anyone seeking the services of a Wool Classer can search for currently registered MCs and AWs within a particular area.

As part of the 2022-2024 registration, MC and AW details will be automatically included on the website. If MCs or AWs do not wish for their contact details to be made available on the website, they **must** indicate this on their registration notice or notify AWEX accordingly.

## SECTION 2: RULES OF THE WOOL CLASSER REGISTRATION SCHEME

### 1. The Registrar of Wool Classers

- 1.1** AWEX will appoint a Registrar who **must**:
- maintain a Register of Wool Classers;
  - issue a unique Wool Classer ID Number to each MC, AW or OC;
  - investigate complaints and administer Corrective Actions and Retraining Programs; and
  - act as the point of contact for enquiries from Wool Classers.
- 1.2** The Registrar or a specially formed AWEX Committee may, from time to time, establish and vary procedures to be followed for the proper administration of these Rules.

### 2. Registered Wool Classers

Any individual who wishes to class wool that will be offered for sale as "classed wool" **must be** registered under these Rules.

### 3. Categories of Registration

#### 3.1 Registration Categories

- 3.1.1 An individual may be registered as:
- a Master Classer; or
  - an Australian Wool Classer; or
  - an Owner Classer; or
  - a Classer Associate.
- 3.1.2 An individual may be registered in only one registration category at any one time.

#### 3.2 Registration Non-Transferable

Wool Classer registration is assigned to an individual and is non-transferable.

#### 3.3 Master Classer

- 3.3.1 Individuals who may be registered in this category are:
- current AWs registered with AWEX who have completed an AWEX approved Training Program for Master Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules.
- 3.3.2 A MC is recognised as being competent to class any wool clip in Australia that is to be offered for sale as classed wool.
- 3.3.3 A MC **must** ensure that all greasy wool bales carrying his or her Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) have been prepared by him or her on-farm and comply with the requirements contained in the Code of Practice. The MC **must be** in the shearing shed at all times during the shearing. See also Verification of Wool Classer Presence in Rule 5 of Section 2 of these Rules.
- 3.3.4 A MC may place his or her Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) on a bale and request, prior to sale, that it be removed as the contents of the bale do not meet the requirements of the Code of Practice. The request **must be** made in writing to the Registrar. The Registrar **must** consider each request and determine whether the stamp or stencil should be removed. The Registrar **must be** satisfied that the problem in clip preparation was due to factors outside the MC's control. Any disputes as to the Registrar's decision whether or not to remove the stamp or stencil will be resolved by an AWEX Committee established for hearing such disputes.

- 3.3.5 MCs will automatically have their contact details added to the AWEX Wool Classer website as part of registration. MCs not wishing to have their contact details made available on the website **must** indicate this on their registration notice or notify AWEX accordingly.
- 3.3.6 An MC Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) **must not be** applied to any wool prepared in the following commercial enterprises (where the predominant activity is):
- export sheep enterprises;
  - abattoirs;
  - feed lots; or
  - any other commercial or industrial establishment which processes sheep.
- In the above commercial enterprises, a Classing House stencil **must be** applied.
- 3.3.7 To retain Master Classer status (for the next registration period) the MC **must**:
- Class a (minimum) average of 4 clips and 250 bales per annum per registration period.
  - Record no more than 5 x Scale 3 Clip Inspection issues in a 3 year period, and
  - Aggregate a minimum of 10 training credits per registration period.

#### Training Credit Schedule:

(a) Attendance at a BOARDtalk regional seminar#:	10 credit points
(b) Attendance at a Master Classer update course:	10 credit points
(c) Attendance at a wool sale:	5 credit points
(d) Electronic Specification training (e.g. WoolClip)	10 credit points
(e) Completion of recognised and relevant TAFE or RTO subjects:	
Computer Skills	5 credit points
Business Studies	5 credit points
First Aid (including Updates)	5 credit points
Shearer/Shedhand Training (e.g. AWI)	5 credit points
(f) Completion of relevant certificate, diploma or degree*	10 credit points
(g) Wool Industry related training*	On application

# seminars may be conducted on-line using internet technologies.

\* subject to application, relevancy and approval. Points awarded on relevancy.

Successful completion of the Master Classer course in a registration period is recognised as 10 credit points.

Where a Master Classer does not complete the requirements, the registration will revert back to the Wool Classer's original registration category at the following registration period. Wool Classers who wish to be re-instated as a Master Classer category **must** demonstrate a record that meets the retention criteria.

### 3.4 Australian Wool Classer

- 3.4.1 Individuals who may be registered in this category are:
- current AWs registered with AWEX at 31 December 2021; and
  - individuals applying for registration for the first time who have completed an AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules.
- 3.4.2 An AW is recognised as being competent to class any wool clip in Australia that is to be offered for sale as classed wool.



- 3.4.3 An AW **must** ensure that all greasy wool bales carrying his or her Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) have been prepared by him or her on-farm and comply with the requirements contained in the Code of Practice. The AW **must be** in the shearing shed at all times during the shearing. See also Verification of Wool Classer Presence in Rule 5 of Section 2 of these Rules.
- 3.4.4 An AW may place his or her Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) on a bale and request, prior to sale, that it be removed as the contents of the bale do not meet the requirements of the Code of Practice. The request **must be** made in writing to the Registrar. The Registrar **must** consider each request and determine whether the stamp or stencil should be removed. The Registrar **must be** satisfied that the problem in clip preparation was due to factors outside the AW's control. Any disputes as to the Registrar's decision whether or not to remove the stamp or stencil will be resolved by an AWEX Committee established for hearing such disputes.
- 3.4.5 AWs will automatically have their contact details added to the AWEX Wool Classer website as part of registration. AWs not wishing to have their contact details made available on the website **must** indicate this on their registration notice or notify AWEX accordingly.
- 3.4.6 An AW Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) **must not be** applied to any wool prepared in the following commercial enterprises (where the predominant activity is):
- export sheep enterprises;
  - abattoirs;
  - feed lots; or
  - any other commercial or industrial establishment which processes sheep.
- In the above commercial enterprises, a Classing House stencil **must be** applied.

### 3.5 Owner Classer

- 3.5.1 Individuals who may be registered in this category are:
- current OCs registered with AWEX at 31 December 2021; and
  - individuals applying for registration for the first time and who have completed an AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules.
- 3.5.2 An OC is registered to class on-farm ONLY wool from sheep which:
- the OC owns or part owns;
  - the OC's father and/or mother own or part own, provided the OC is working on that property;
  - the OC's son and/or daughter own or part own, provided the OC is working on that property; or
  - are grown on a property of which the OC is the manager and the OC is involved in the day to day operation of that property.
- 3.5.3 As part of registration, the OC **must** notify the Registrar of:
- the farm brands for wool that the OC will be classing;
  - any changes or additions to the notified farm brands before the commencement of the shearing where that brand is to be used.
- 3.5.4 An OC **must** ensure that all greasy wool bales carrying his or her Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) have been prepared by him or her on-farm and comply with the requirements contained in the Code of Practice. The OC **must be** in the shearing shed at all times during the shearing. See also Verification of Wool Classer Presence in Rule 5 of Section 2 of these Rules.

### 3.6 **Classer Associate**

3.6.1 Individuals who may be registered in this category are:

- (a) MCs, AWs, OCs or CAs registered with AWEX at 31 December 2021 who do not intend to actively class wool during the 2022-2024 period but wish to remain on the Register and continue to receive industry information from AWEX; and
- (b) individuals applying for registration for the first time and who have completed an AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules, but who do not intend to actively class wool during the 2022-2024 period.

3.6.2 CAs are **not registered** to class any wool clip in Australia that is to be offered for sale and do not receive Wool Classer Identification (see Rule 6 of Section 2 of these Rules).

3.6.3 CAs wishing to actively class wool may upgrade their registration at any time. To do so, they **must** have successfully completed the AWEX approved units from the relevant qualifications and **must** renew their registration as either an AW or OC.

## 4. **Code of Practice**

- 4.1 Registered Wool Classers' duties **must be** carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice. Correct performance of those duties will be demonstrated by the Wool Classer placing a current Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) on the bale and on the Wool Classer's Specification sheet.
- 4.2 Any bales containing wool that has not been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice **must not** carry a Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) at the time of sale.
- 4.3 Where a bale carrying a Wool Classer ID number (stamp or stencil) is not prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice, the Registrar may investigate the stamp or stencil holder and take action in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule 7 of Section 2 of these Rules.
- 4.4 Where the identification marks (Farm Brand, Bale Number, Bale Description) on a bale bearing a Wool Classer ID Number are altered post-farm without the permission of the Wool Classer (and the bale identification marks no longer match the Wool Classer's Specification or wool book), the classed status will be invalidated. The stencil will be removed from the bale. The exception to this clause is where corrective action is being undertaken to remedy marking error(s) (e.g. duplicate bale numbers).
- 4.5 Wool Classer reputation management: The obligations of the Wool Classer include ensuring the role of the Wool Classer is held in high regard. The Wool Classer **must** refrain from acting in a way as to bring the role of the Wool Classer, the Scheme and AWEX into disrepute.

## 5. **Verification of Presence of Wool Classer On-Farm**

- 5.1 Upon (re)-registration, each MC, AW or OC Wool Classer will be asked whether they are a principal, employee, agent, representative of, or contractor to a commercial wool buying, wool broking, wool handling or private treaty merchant company.
- 5.2 Where a relationship exists, the Wool Classer is required to keep a copy of all Wool Classer's Specification sheets (for wool declared as classed by them) with the owner/manager's name and contact details.
- 5.3 Where the Registrar believes there is some doubt about the presence of the Wool Classer in the shed, the Wool Classer will be asked to supply a copy of all Wool Classer's Specification sheets with the owner/manager name and contact details (telephone number).

These will be supplied in a time-frame determined by the Registrar, consistent with normal operational practices if prior to Sale or within timeframes declared elsewhere in this document.

- 5.4 The Registrar may, at his/her discretion, contact the owner/manager to establish the presence of the Wool Classer in the shed.
- 5.5 If the Wool Classer's Specification sheets with owner/manager name and telephone contact details are not, or cannot be furnished, or the owner/manager is unable to verify the presence of the Wool Classer, the Wool Classer will be referred to the Registration Review Committee as "Misuse of Stencil".

## 6. Wool Classer Identification

- 6.1 At registration each Registered Wool Classer is issued with a unique Wool Classer ID Number. The Wool Classer ID Number will be used and displayed on all Wool Classer Identification issued by AWEX.
- 6.2 There are two forms of Wool Classer Identification:
  - 6.2.1 Stamp - issued to all MCs, AWs and OCs.
  - 6.2.2 Stencil - issued to all MCs, AWs and OCs.
- 6.3 If a Wool Classer requires replacement Wool Classer Identification, refer to Rule 3 of Section 3 of these Rules for replacement procedures.
- 6.4 Wool Classer Identification sets will not be issued to CAs.
- 6.5 Wool Classer Identification remains the property of AWEX at all times.
- 6.6 A Wool Classer ID Number is unique and is assigned to one registered individual. Registration and the associated Wool Classer Identification sets are not transferable. A Wool Classer may hold and use only one set of Wool Classer Identification at any one time.
- 6.7 Wool Classer Identification becomes invalid:
  - 6.7.1 upon the issue of a new Wool Classer Identification, either as a replacement or for a new registration period;
  - 6.7.2 where registration is suspended (the identification will be re-validated once the suspension is lifted);
  - 6.7.3 where registration is cancelled in accordance with these Rules; or
  - 6.7.4 upon Deregistration of the Wool Classer holding the Wool Classer Identification; and once invalid, the Wool Classer Identification **must be** returned to AWEX.
- 6.8 Unless otherwise stated or agreed between a buyer and seller, all growers' wool sold as classed wool, with or without certified data, **must be** prepared by a Registered Wool Classer in accordance with the Code of Practice. Bales so prepared **must** display the Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) of a currently Registered Wool Classer.
- 6.9 The Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) **must not be** applied to greasy wool bales prepared outside Australia or to wool of non-Australian origin.

## 7. Breach of Code of Practice or these Rules

The Registrar is responsible for investigating complaints about Wool Classers and administering Corrective Action and Retraining Programs.

## 7.1 Investigating Complaints

- 7.1.1 If a complaint is made to AWEX, or the Registrar, that a Wool Classer is in breach of the Code of Practice or these Rules, the procedures as outlined in this section **must be** followed.
- 7.1.2 Upon receipt of the complaint, the Registrar **must**:
- (a) obtain particulars of the complaint in writing;
  - (b) make such other enquiries considered appropriate;
  - (c) where necessary, contact the owner/manager from whom the subject of the complaint originated; and
  - (d) decide to take no further action; or
  - (e) send such particulars of the complaint to the Wool Classer, as the Registrar deems necessary, and ask that the Wool Classer comment on the complaint within 14 days.
- 7.1.3 In reply, the Wool Classer may:
- (a) deny the accuracy of the complaint; or
  - (b) admit the breach and advise the Registrar of the Corrective Action taken; and
  - (c) explain the reason for the breach.
- 7.1.4 If the Registrar is not satisfied with the Wool Classer's reply and considers further action is required, or the Wool Classer does not reply within 14 days, the Registrar may:
- (a) recommend to AWEX Management that the Wool Classer be issued a Corrective Action or Retraining Program request; or
  - (b) refer the complaint to the Registration Review Committee and notify the Wool Classer, if the matter is to be so referred, of the:
    - (i) particulars of the Code of Practice, or of these Rules, which are alleged to have been breached;
    - (ii) particulars of the complaint on which reliance is placed;
    - (iii) date on which the complaint will be heard; and
    - (iv) particulars of the actions that may be applied.
- 7.1.5 If the Wool Classer is found to have breached a rule on three occasions in the three years, the Registrar **must** refer the complaint to the Registration Review Committee. The Registration Review Committee will take account of the prior breaches when making its recommendation to AWEX Management in accordance with Rule 7.1.6 of Section 2 of these Rules.
- 7.1.6 If the Registration Review Committee finds that a Wool Classer has breached the Code of Practice or these Rules, it may recommend to AWEX Management that:
- (a) no further action is to be taken in relation to the breach;
  - (b) the Registrar reprimands the Wool Classer;
  - (c) the Registrar issues a request that the Wool Classer undertakes Corrective Action or completes a Retraining Program;
  - (d) the Registrar suspends the Wool Classer's registration for a specified period or until appropriate Corrective Action has been demonstrated or Retraining Program has been completed by the Wool Classer; or
  - (e) the Registrar Deregisters the Wool Classer.

- 7.1.7 Before initiating any of the actions at Rule 7.1.6 (c), (d) or (e), the Registrar **must**:
- (a) notify the Wool Classer in writing of the proposed action and the reasons for it;
  - (b) allow the Wool Classer to provide a written response within a period of 28 days from the date of the letter of notification; and
  - (c) consider any response from the Wool Classer.

## **7.2 Establishment of the Registration Review Committee**

- 7.2.1 The Registration Review Committee is an advisory committee established to review complaints made about Wool Classers and to recommend to AWEX Management appropriate (corrective) actions to take in relation to Wool Classers who breach the Code of Practice or these Rules.
- 7.2.2 The Registration Review Committee will be made up of:
- (a) one member who is a representative from a RTO (voting);
  - (b) one member who is an AWEX representative, who will also act as secretary of the Registration Review Committee (voting);
  - (c) up to four members who have experience in relevant areas, including; wool production, wool preparation, wool appraisal, wool buying, wool processing, training or registration processes (voting); and
  - (d) a Chairperson, who will be nominated by AWEX. The Chairperson may be selected from the members in (a), (b) or (c) above, or be in addition to those members.
- 7.2.3 From time to time and with the approval of the Chairperson of the Registration Review Committee, AWEX Management may invite non voting individuals to attend meetings of the Committee, provided the person brings additional skills relevant to the case under consideration.

## **7.3 Corrective Actions and Retraining Programs**

- 7.3.1 The Registrar or the Registration Review Committee may recommend to AWEX Management that a Wool Classer undertakes either Corrective Action or a Retraining Program after inspection of sale lots bearing the Wool Classer's stamp or stencil or where a complaint has been forwarded to the Registrar. Corrective Action or a Retraining Program may be recommended for the following reasons:
- (a) where a Wool Classer who considers that he or she has classed a clip under extreme or adverse conditions, and placed a stamp or stencil on the bale, fails to report this to the Registrar prior to the wool being offered for sale;
  - (b) where a fault is found with the preparation of a clip. Note: where in-bale contamination occurs in an interlot component, the Corrective Action or Retraining Program will apply to the original Wool Classer;
  - (c) where non-AWEX-approved wool packs have been used;
  - (d) where bales are subject to AWEX inspection or audit due to (Scale 3) faults including:
    - (i) dark and/or medullated fibre in Merino wool;
    - (ii) urine stain in fleece wool;
    - (iii) mixed breeds and breed crosses;
    - (iv) mixed length;
    - (v) mixed quality number; or
    - (vi) others (e.g. incorrect bale marking, the presence of sheep marking substances, etc.);
  - (e) where incorrect or misleading bale descriptions are applied;

- (f) where contamination from foreign objects has occurred within a bale that is likely to cause:
    - (i) machine damage (e.g. wood, iron, etc.); or
    - (ii) fibre contamination (e.g. synthetic materials, etc.);
  - (g) failing to complete a Wool Classer's Specification as per the requirements of the Code of Practice; or
  - (h) any other breach of the Code of Practice or these Rules.
- 7.3.2 The Registrar may offer advice as how best to achieve and maintain the requirements set out in the Code of Practice and these Rules. This may include Corrective Action or Retraining Programs to address the problem or problems identified. The Registrar or Registration Review Committee has discretion to recommend which is the most appropriate action. In so doing, the Registrar or Registration Review Committee **must** follow the procedures for investigating complaints as set out in Rule 7.1 of Section 2 of these Rules.
- 7.3.3 Where a reported clip preparation fault is the first reported fault in relation to a Registered Wool Classer within a registration period, a Retraining Program may be undertaken, where appropriate. This will be assessed by the Registrar on a case-by-case basis.
- 7.3.4 If a second reported fault in relation to a Wool Classer occurs within three years of the first infringement, the Registrar may recommend to AWEX Management that the Wool Classer be required to undertake a Retraining Program, irrespective of any other Corrective Action required.
- 7.3.5 Where a Wool Classer has successfully completed a Corrective Action and/or a Retraining Program and no relevant clip preparation faults have been recorded; after a period of three years, their relevant record of fault will be made void.
- 7.3.6 Where a Retraining Program is required, the Wool Classer **must** complete the program within three months of confirmation of the Retraining Program requirement by the Registrar.
- 7.3.7 In addition to the Retraining Program, where Rule 7.3.5 of Section 2 of these Rules applies, the Registrar may issue a Reprimand and mark the record of the Wool Classer accordingly.
- 7.3.8 In addition to the Reprimand, where Rule 7.3.5 of Section 2 of these Rules applies, the Registrar may refer the matter to the Registration Review Committee.
- 7.3.9 A Wool Classer whose registration is suspended under Rule 7.3.8 of Section 2 of these Rules may, upon successful completion of a Retraining Program, apply to the Registration Review Committee to have the registration reinstated. The Retraining Program requirement will be recommended to AWEX Management by the Registrar or Registration Review Committee and will comprise components, or all, of the approved course for Wool Classer training.
- 7.3.10 All costs associated with a Retraining Program will be borne by the Wool Classer.

#### **7.4 Deregistration**

- 7.4.1 A Wool Classer will be investigated in accordance with the procedures set out in Rule 7 of Section 2 of these Rules and may be Deregistered if the Wool Classer:
- (a) fails to take Corrective Action or complete a Retraining Program as required;
  - (b) fails to successfully complete a Retraining Program within the period specified under Rule 7.3 of Section 2 of these Rules;
  - (c) repeatedly contravenes the requirements contained in the Code of Practice;
  - (d) acts in a way as to bring the role of the Wool Classer, the Scheme and AWEX into disrepute;

- (e) misuses the Identification stamp or stencil supplied by AWEX in any manner, including:
    - (i) lending the stamp or stencil to a third party;
    - (ii) placing the stamp or stencil on a bale(s) not prepared by that Wool Classer.  
Note: the MC, AW or OC **must be** in the shed at all times during the shearing;
    - (iii) use of an MC, AW or OC stamp or stencil on a bale(s) not prepared on-farm by the MC, AW or OC;
    - (iv) use of the OC stamp or stencil for classing clips other than those for which the Wool Classer was registered;
    - (v) use of an invalid stamp or stencil; or
  - (f) is found to have:
    - (i) falsely packed bales;
    - (ii) misrepresented the contents of a bale without proper excuse;
    - (iii) applied his or her stamp or stencil to bales prepared outside Australia or to wool of non-Australian origin.
- 7.4.2 Before initiating any Deregistration, the Registrar **must**:
- (a) notify the Wool Classer in writing of the proposed action and the reasons for it;
  - (b) allow the Wool Classer to provide a written response within a period of 28 days from the date of the letter of notification;
  - (c) consider any response from the Wool Classer, and
  - (d) refer the matter in writing together with all relevant information to the Registration Review Committee.
- 7.4.3 A Wool Classer who has been deregistered under Rule 7.4.1 of Section 2 of these Rules may apply for re-registration upon successful completion of a Retraining Program. The Retraining Program requirement will be determined by the Registration Review Committee and will comprise components of, or all the AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules. The application for re-registration will be treated as an initial registration in accordance with Rule 2 of Section 3 of these Rules. This rule does not in any way limit the right of AWEX not to re-register a Wool Classer.
- 7.4.4 All costs associated with completion of a Retraining Program will be borne by the Wool Classer.

## 8. Appeals

- 8.1** If a Wool Classer is dissatisfied with a decision of the Registrar under these Rules, the Wool Classer may appeal that decision. The appeal **must be** in writing. The Registrar will provide contact details for such an appeal. The Registration Review Committee will hear the appeal.
- 8.2** If a Wool Classer is dissatisfied with a decision of the Registration Review Committee under these Rules, the Wool Classer may appeal to the Appeals Committee of AWEX in accordance with the Business Rules. The Registrar will provide contact information for such an appeal.

## 9. Considerations of the Registration Review Committee

Any considered recommendation of the Registration Review Committee, in relation to Wool Classer registration issues, will be given to AWEX Management.

## SECTION 3: REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

### 1. Registration Renewal for Currently Registered Wool Classers

- 1.1** If a person:
- 1.1.1 is currently registered as a Wool Classer (that is, holds registration that is valid until 31 December 2021); and
  - 1.1.2 makes an application in accordance with the registration procedures set out in these Rules, the Registrar may register that person as a Wool Classer under these Rules.
- 1.2** A person who is registered under these Rules as an MC, AW, OC or CA is referred to as a Registered Wool Classer.
- 1.3** To register:
- 1.3.1 complete the on-line registration and pay the appropriate fee by going to [www.woolclip.com.au](http://www.woolclip.com.au); or
  - 1.3.2 complete the registration notice and return it with payment of the appropriate fee.
- 1.4** The registration period is from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024.
- 1.5** The registration fees that apply can be found at [www.awex.com.au/members/fees-and-charges](http://www.awex.com.au/members/fees-and-charges). Note: a late payment fee, determined by AWEX from time to time, applies to all registration fees paid after 31 December 2021.
- 1.6** All fees are non-refundable.
- 1.7** Upon receipt by AWEX Management of a registration notice and the appropriate registration fees, a Wool Classer ID Number and Wool Classer Identification set for the 2022-2024 registration period will be issued to MCs, AWs and OCs.
- 1.8** A person who is currently registered as a Wool Classer and has made a valid application for registration in the 2022-2024 registration period may continue to use their stamp and/or stencil issued for the 2019-2021 registration period until they receive their new Wool Classer Identification, or until 31 March 2022, whichever is the sooner.
- 1.9** All stamps and stencils issued for the 2019-2021 registration period become invalid after 31 March 2022 and **must not be** used.
- 1.10** Under no circumstances can an invalid Wool Classer ID Number (stamp or stencil) be used. This action contravenes these Rules and may delay the sale of the wool.

### 2. Initial Registration

This section is applicable to individuals seeking registration for the first time.

- 2.1** An applicant **must** seek registration within one year of completing an AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules. Failure to apply for registration within this timeframe may require the applicant to complete a Retraining Program. Evidence of completion of AWEX approved Training Programs will be required prior to registration being accepted.
- 2.2** Applicants **must** complete the appropriate registration and application form, available from AWEX or from a RTO. AWEX contact details are on the back cover of this booklet.



When completing the registration and application form please ensure that:

- all details are printed **clearly**; and
- the form is signed by the applicant.

- 2.3** An application for registration can be made at any time during the registration period. AWEX will seek verification that an applicant has successfully completed an AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as described in Rule 6 of Section 3 of these Rules, with a RTO identified on the registration and application form.
- 2.4** The appropriate registration fee, as listed on the registration and application form, **must be** paid. Payment options are detailed on the registration and application form. **Please do not send cash.**
- 2.5** The registration and application form, with payment, should be sent to the Registrar. Refer to the back page of these Rules for contact details.
- 2.6** Upon receipt by AWEX of confirmation of registration and the appropriate registration fees, a stamp and stencil for the 2022-2024 registration period will be issued to all AWs and OCs.

### 3. Replacement Wool Classer Identification

- 3.1** The Wool Classer ID Number and the associated Wool Classer Identification (stamp and stencil) are issued in identification sets. Where a new Wool Classer ID Number is issued, the Wool Classer Identification **must be** replaced. All existing registration details will be cancelled.
- 3.2** If a Wool Classer's Identification is lost, replacements **must be** requested from the Registrar. Existing registration details and identification will be cancelled, and a new registration number and identification set will be issued. Only the new registration number and identification may be used once a replacement has been issued.
- 3.3** For the replacement of worn out or damaged Wool Classer Identification, a request may be made to the Registrar. The worn-out or damaged identification **must be** returned to AWEX with payment before replacement Wool Classer Identification will be issued.
- 3.4** A fee will apply to cover the cost of the replacement of Wool Classer Identification and postage. The fee is available on application to AWEX.
- 3.5** Payment is to be made by cheque/money order or Visa/MasterCard for the appropriate fee. Cheques should be made payable to the Australian Wool Exchange Limited. **Please do not send cash.**
- 3.6** Payment should be accompanied by a covering letter or verbal explanation to the Registrar, with the reasons for seeking the replacement Wool Classer Identification. Refer to the back page of these Rules for contact details. Replacement of Wool Classer Identification will not be forwarded to the Wool Classer until the appropriate fee has been received by the Registrar.

### 4. Cancellation of Registration

- 4.1** Registration may be cancelled under the following circumstances:
- (a) by the Wool Classer requesting cancellation from the Registrar;
  - (b) by the Wool Classer requesting a replacement Wool Classer Identification in accordance with Rule 3 of Section 3 of these Rules; or
  - (c) where the Wool Classer is Deregistered under these Rules.

- 4.2 Registration will also be cancelled where a Wool Classer fails to renew his or her registration upon the expiration of a registration period. It is the Wool Classer's responsibility to ensure that he or she is registered and has paid the nominated fees. A failure to do so will result in cancellation of registration within three months of the expiration of the registration period.

## 5. Changes to Registration Details

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of each Wool Classer to notify the Registrar of any permanent change to his or her registration details, including the Wool Classer's contact details, e.g. name, address, email address and phone number, etc.
- 5.2 Failure to do so may result in the Wool Classer not receiving important correspondence, such as registration notices, which could lead to cancellation of registration.

## 6. Wool Classing Courses

### 6.1 Initial Training

- 6.1.1 To be registered as an AW, OC or CA, a person **must** successfully complete an AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as determined by the relevant training package and conducted by a RTO approved by AWEX.
- 6.1.2 If a person has had experience in the wool industry that has given them knowledge and skills taught in the wool classing courses, they may be granted Recognition of Prior Learning/Current Competence by a RTO.
- 6.1.3 For information regarding approved AWEX wool classing courses, contact should be made with a RTO or the Registrar.
- 6.1.4 To be registered as a MC, the Wool Classer **must** successfully complete the initial Master Classer training course conducted by AWEX and meet the MC criteria (see Rule 3.3.7 of Section 2 of these Rules).

### 6.2 Retraining Programs

- 6.2.1 As detailed in Rule 7.3 of Section 2 of these Rules, there will be circumstances where Wool Classers will be required to complete Retraining Programs.
- 6.2.2 Retraining Programs will involve successfully completing components of the AWEX approved Training Program for Wool Classers as determined by the relevant training package and conducted by a RTO approved by AWEX. This may require Wool Classers to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills in selected units of competence within the course. The time required to fulfil this requirement will vary according to the number of units to be completed and the Wool Classer's level of competency.
- 6.2.3 The AWEX Refresher Course is an AWEX approved Retraining Program conducted through the RTOs. Previously registered Wool Classers, who **have** completed the Wool Development Program but have not registered prior to 2013, may be required to complete the Refresher Course.
- 6.2.4 The AWEX Retraining Course is an AWEX approved Retraining Program conducted through the RTOs. Previously registered Wool Classers, who **have not** completed the Wool Development Program or have not registered prior to 2001, will be required to complete the Retraining Course.
- 6.2.5 All costs associated with retraining will be borne by the Wool Classer.

## AUSTRALIAN WOOL EXCHANGE

### Contact Details:

The Wool Classer Registrar  
Australian Wool Exchange Ltd  
PO Box 651  
North Ryde NSW 1670

T (02) 9428 6144

F (02) 8088 7944

E [woolclasser@awex.com.au](mailto:woolclasser@awex.com.au)



**AWEX** *we know wool*

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