

Changes to IWTO Wool Preparation Categories

Changes to IWTO Wool Preparation Categories came into effect on 1st January 2008. A further variation in relation to the use of Classing House stencils will come into effect from 1st July 2008.

By Brendon van Rensburg

The Wool Preparation Category (WPC) is a means by which buyers can identify how wool lots have been prepared for sale. IWTO Regulations define the different WPC categories and sellers must declare a WPC if they wish to obtain an IWTO certificate on a lot of wool. The WPC is printed on the IWTO test certificate and has implications for the marketing of the wool.

Grower lots are defined as lots from an individual grower comprised of bales classed from one clip. There are two categories of grower lots:

WPC	Definition
<p>P</p>	<p>Grower Lot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wool is from a single source, • Prepared on Farm, • Classed by a Registered Woolclasser; and • Meets or exceeds the standards defined in the Woolclassers Code of Practice.
<p>D</p>	<p>Other Grower Lot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wool is from a single source, • Prepared on Farm, • Is not prepared by a Registered Woolclasser; or • (If prepared by a Registered Woolclasser) is assessed as a Non Conforming Lot as it does not meet the minimum standard in the Woolclassers Code of Practice. <p>From 1st July 2008 this Certificate Type will include sale lots where a broker has applied their stencil to wool not prepared by a Registered Woolclasser. This practice is known as Seller Inspected.</p>

AWTA Ltd staff verify that the correct WPC has been applied to lots when the bales are core sampled for Yield & Micron testing. When AWTA Ltd staff are unsure about legitimacy of a declared grower lot they may ask the seller for supporting documentation, such as a copy of the Woolclassers' Specification document or the growers ABN (Australian Business Number) details. These details can then be cross checked to ensure that the lot in question is a bonafide grower lot.

More information: brendon.vanrensburg@awta.com.au or www.awta.com.au

AWTA Ltd staff must also evaluate whether a grower lot has been classed by an AWEX registered Woolclasser and warrants a P type WPC. This is normally clear-cut because each bale in the lot will have a Woolclassers' AWEX registration number stencilled or stamped on the bale cap. AWTA will not check individual stencils for currency; this is done later by AWEX.

Confusion often arises when a grower lot is presented for sale without an AW or OC Woolclassers' registration number stencilled on the bales and the seller has applied a Classing House (CH) registration number to the bales. This is because a CH stencil may be applied to grower lots by a seller for either of these two situations:

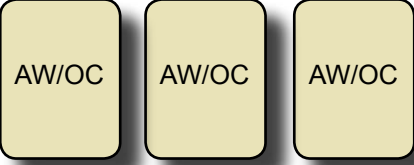
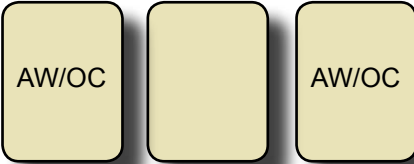
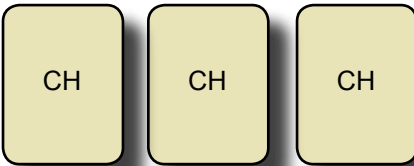
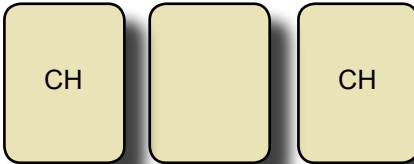

- The seller has inspected the bales and is satisfied that lot has been classed according to the AWEX Code of Practice for Clip Preparation; or
- The seller has re-classed the bales in accordance with the AWEX Code of Practice for Clip Preparation.

Until 30th June 2008 genuine grower classed lots with a CH stencil will be regarded as a P type WPC at the time of core sampling. They may well however, be subsequently changed to a D type WPC if they are later found to not be classed in accordance with the AWEX Code of Practice. This usually occurs following inspection of the display sample on the Auction show floor.

From 1st July 2008 genuine grower classed lots bearing a CH stencil must have been reclassified to be eligible for a P type WPC. Grower lots that bear a CH Stencil that have merely been inspected by the seller will receive a D type WPC.

Occasionally odd bales within sale lots may be presented at the core line without a Woolclassers registered number applied. This is often an oversight by the Woolclasser in a busy shearing shed. When this occurs, AWTA Ltd staff will ask the seller for a copy of the Woolclassers Specification and will check that the bales conform with the details on the specification. If it is found to be a legitimate oversight, the matter will be resolved in consultation with the seller. If the matter cannot be resolved, then the lot will be issued with a D type WPC.

Small but similar lots from different growers are often matched and combined to make a larger lot called an Interlot. Such lots have an I type WPC. It is important to note that only classed grower lots can be combined to make an Interlot. The inclusion of any unclassed wool will relegate the lot to a Bulkclass lot with a B type WPC.

Example	Details	WPC
	Australian Woolclasser (AW) or Owner Classer (OC) registered number on all bales. AWTA Ltd may still query lot to check if it is bonafide grower lot by referring to the Woolclassers' Specification or other documentation.	P
	One or more bales in a lot missing a registered classers' number. Non conforming lot, AWTA Ltd will query lot.	D
	Seller Inspected (until 30 th June 2008). AWTA Ltd will query lot.	P
	Seller Inspected (from 1 st July 2008).	D
	Seller Classed (from 1 st July 2008).	P
	Bulkclass prepared in AWEX Registered Classing House to standards in the Classing House Code of Practice.	Q
	Grower lot, one or more bales missing a stencil number. Non-conforming lot, AWTA Ltd will query lot.	D
	Bulkclass lot, one or more bales missing a stencil number. Non-conforming lot, AWTA Ltd will query lot.	B
	Growers lot, no registered classers number on bales. AWTA Ltd will query.	D
	Bulkclass lot or lot that cannot be verified as growers lot, no registered classers number on bales. AWTA Ltd will query. Also applies to Interlot components.	B

Australian Woolclasser (AW)

A registered AW woolclasser is recognised as being competent to class any wool in Australia to the Code of Practice. An AW stencil may only be applied by the registered person on wool that has been classed by them, on farm. AW stencils are not to be applied to Classing House or off farm preparation environments.

Owner Woolclasser (OC)

Registered Owner Woolclassers (OC) are registered to class ONLY wool that they have a direct interest in (i.e. own, parent/children own, or as manager) as outlined in the Rules for Woolclasser Registration.

Classing Houses (CH)

Classing House registration is designed for those organisation that wish to rehandle wool in accordance with the Code of Practice, and identify it as such when offering it for sale with a valid Woolclasser Stencil.