



IWTO Wool Preparation Categories

AWTA undertakes sampling and testing in accordance with the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) Core Test Regulations. These regulations stipulate how the sampling, bale weighing, testing and certification are to be conducted and the type of information that is to be printed on an IWTO Test Certificate.

In particular, the IWTO Core Test Regulations define the different classes of wool lots based on their Wool Preparation Category (WPC). This information must be included on the Test Certificate and is used by buyers to identify how wool lots have been prepared for sale.

Further, IWTO Regulations state that:

- 1.4.7 *Where an IWTO certificate is required, the seller shall provide a declaration to the Test House stating the Wool Preparation Category for the wool types where a Wool Preparation Category is defined in section 1.3.*

The nature of the declaration shall be determined by the National Committee of the country in which the Test House is situated.

If the declaration for a lot is found to be incorrect, any IWTO Certificate issued by the Test House shall be reissued if correct information is available or otherwise cancelled”.

The Australian National Committee of IWTO determined the nature of the WPC **Declaration for IWTO Certificate Request** and the process for its implementation and management in Australia. This process is:

1. The Principal Officer of the Seller requesting IWTO Certificate Testing is required to sign a Declaration for IWTO Certificate Request on behalf of his company and its subsidiaries. The Declaration is to be held by the Test House.
2. The request documentation for individual lots at sampling sites operated by the Seller must identify the correct Wool Preparation Category of the lot, and be signed by the Seller's representative.
3. The Test House will continue to monitor the Wool Preparation Category on individual lots presented for sampling.
4. Should the Test House suspect the nominated Wool Preparation Category is incorrect, the Sampling Manager of the Test House will discuss and attempt to resolve the issue with the Seller's sampling site management. If this is not possible, the Test House may, for AWEX Members, refer the matter to AWEX for consideration under the AWEX Code of Conduct and its rules relating to sampling sites. If the Seller is not a member of AWEX, or the dispute originates outside of Australia, the Test House may refer the matter to the Australian National Committee of IWTO.

The Declaration is a legally binding document that in part states that “...*Client will accurately describe the lot/s stating the IWTO Core Test Regulations Wool Preparation Category for the corresponding lot/s where such Wool Preparation Category is defined in the IWTO Core Test Regulations*”. AWTA may refuse to supervise the sampling of wool or may invalidate a Certificate if a client fails to provide information that shows that the wool is correctly described.

A table detailing the definitions of the various IWTO Wool Preparation Categories is attached to this document to assist you with their correct application.

In practice, when AWTA queries the WPC of a lot then such queries are usually quickly and simply resolved with the Seller. Most commonly, queries arise regarding Classed Grower Lots (i.e. a 'P' Lot). These queries usually arise due to:

- The condition of wool packs, nature of bale markings or obvious wool characteristics when the lot is presented for sampling; or
- Data checks by AWTA that highlight unusual grower lot characteristics such as the pattern of usage for a brand, clip make-up, previous test results, bale sequences and other details.

When querying a Classed Grower Lot AWTA requests supporting documentation which includes:

1. For wool declared as a Classed Grower Lot the following types of documentation are acceptable:
 - A completed Woolclasser's Specification including clip details, classers name and registered classer's number; and/or
 - Documentation detailing growers trading name, contact details, farm brand and ABN.
2. For wool declared as a Classed Growers Lot that has been re-classed by an AWEX registered classing house documents that include the following details may be required:
 - The original farm source details including growers trading name, farm brand and contact details.
 - The original bale numbers, farm brand bale descriptions and bale weights.
 - The re-classed bale numbers, farm brands, bale descriptions and weights including the weight of any small lines consigned to bulk class.
3. For a previously tested lot that has been purchased and re-classed:
 - The original AWTA Test Certificate number and a completed Woolclasser's Specification detailing the re-classed bale numbers, farm brands, bale descriptions and weights including the weight of any small lines consigned to bulk class.

AWTA recognises that there are many different ways that Sellers source their wool and hence we have tried to be flexible about types of supporting documentation that can be accepted. AWTA will always try to work cooperatively with the Seller but if the Seller is unable to provide satisfactory supporting documentation then AWTA will apply the appropriate WPC.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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IWTO Wool Preparation Categories

| WPC | Definition |
|----------|--|
| P | <p>Classed Grower Lot</p> <p>A lot of raw wool from an individual grower comprising bales classed from one clip. The lot meets clip preparation guidelines specified by the appropriate National Committee of IWTO; namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wool must be classed by an AWEX Registered Woolclasser or Classing House; and • Must meet the wool preparation requirements of the AWEX Code of Practice. |
| D | <p>Other Grower Lot</p> <p>A lot of raw wool from an individual grower comprising bales from one clip. The wool may not meet clip preparation guidelines specified by the appropriate National Committee of IWTO; namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is classed by a Non Registered Woolclasser or Classing House; or • Is classed by an AWEX registered Wool Classer but does not meet the wool preparation requirements of the AWEX Code of Practice. |
| Q | <p>Bulk Classed Lot (Quality Managed)</p> <p>A lot of raw wool comprising bales containing wool blended from various sources, the wool being from one country of origin. The lot meets the clip preparation guidelines specified by the appropriate National Committee of IWTO; namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be prepared by an AWEX Registered Classing House; and • Must meet the wool preparation requirements of the AWEX Code of Practice. |
| B | <p>Other Bulk Classed Lot</p> <p>A lot of raw wool comprising bales containing wool blended from various sources, the wool being from one country of origin. The wool may not meet the clip preparation guidelines specified by the appropriate National Committee of IWTO; namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is classed by a Non Registered Woolclasser or Classing House; or • Is classed by an AWEX registered Classing House but does not meet the wool preparation requirements of the AWEX Code of Practice. |
| I | <p>Interlot</p> <p>A lot of raw wool comprising bales from two or more Classed Grower Lots matched before testing, normally from different clips, the wool being from one country of origin. No re-handle or bulk classed wool is included.</p> |
| N | <p>Objectively Matched Interlot (OMI)</p> <p>A lot of raw wool containing individually tested Classed Grower Lots and one individually tested Interlot comprising a maximum of four single bale Classed Grower lots, matched after testing and certified as agreed by IWTO and in accordance with the specific National restrictions, the wool being from one country of origin.</p> |
| M | <p>Objectively Matched Lot (OML)</p> <p>A lot of raw wool containing individually tested Classed Grower Lots exclusively, matched after testing and certified as agreed by IWTO and in accordance with the specific National restrictions, the wool being from one country of origin.</p> |