



# RESPONSIBLE WOOL STANDARD CLIP-ON (RWS CLIP-ON)



## INTRODUCTION

The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is an internationally recognised assurance standard that leading fibre manufacturers are seeking as an endorsement the fibre they procure has been raised under the best practice animal welfare, environmental, and socially responsible conditions.

The RWS is owned and managed by Textile Exchange who have more than eight hundred international members representing leading brands, retailers, and suppliers in the textile industry.

## PURPOSE

NZ Farm Assurance Incorporated (NZFAI) has partnered with Textile Exchange to launch a collective NZFAP-RWS programme for NZ wool that delivers full compliance with Textile Exchange's Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) behind the farm gate.

The NZFAP-RWS comprises three audited components comprising...

1. New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP)
2. RWS Clip-on. [see scope]
3. New Zealand legislated statutes and codes of welfare

## SCOPE

This RWS Clip-on document is an assurance programme that includes additional on-farm audit requirements specific to RWS compliance.

## CONDITIONS and APPLICATION

To apply for RWS Clip-on certification NZ wool growers (farmers) need to...

1. Be 'NZFAP certified' at the time of application and maintain that throughout the certification period.
2. Apply to be NZFAP Online registered.
3. Answer the Responsible Wool Standard Farm Questionnaire within 30 days of initial audit and annually thereafter through the Textile Exchange App.
4. Complete the RWS Clip-on application form [Link](#) which will include a declaration that the applicant agrees...
  - 4.1. that any RWS compliant wool will only be traded via a NZFAP-RWS Approved Wool Exporter as identified on the NZFAI website.
  - 4.2. when required to collaborate with NZFAI to establish an industry-wide pathway for the application of pain relief for tail docking and castration as part of the RWS Clip-on. (See RWS 2.1)

## AUDIT SCHEDULE and COSTS

The RWS Clip-on audits will be undertaken...

- on-site on all farms every 3 years, and
- remotely, annually, (as a compliance check) on the square root of participating farms.
  - EG If 1000 participating farms this remote compliance check will be undertaken on 32 farms annually, and these will be identified by the CB on a random basis.
  - These remote audits will be free to the selected farmer, with the costs added back as an average on all RWS Clip-on audit costs.

### Initial Remote Audits

Recognising the NZFAI over-arching principle of 'avoiding duplication and minimizing costs' and that all NZFAP audits are undertaken on a 3-yearly rotation; the expectation is both the NZFAP and RWS Clip-on audits will be undertaken on-farm at the same time. As NZFAP certified farmers progressively elect to be RWS Clip-on certified outside of their 3-yearly recertification audit, this will in practice take time to achieve.

Accordingly, on receipt and approval of a RWS Clip-on application form the CB will within 6 weeks undertake a remote (by phone) audit of the NZFAP certified supplier applying to obtain on-farm certification under the RWS Clip-on. Any such initial audits will be undertaken remotely and annually until the farm is scheduled for its NZFAP recertification audit at which time an on-site audit of both the NZFAP and RWS Clip-on will be undertaken. There will be separate and cheaper remote audit costs v on-site audit audits.

The RWS Clip-on audit costs (either remote or on-site) are payable by the farmer or by a nominated Wool Member Company with whom the farmer has a commercial relationship subject to the member's agreement; and the farm owner must indicate their preference via the payment option box on the RWS Clip-on Application Form. If the farm owner wishes to fund the audit they will need to arrange this by credit card with the CB.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

All information and data collected by the auditing body, NZFAI and/or meat/fibre company/s will be treated with the strictest confidence. All these organisations will ensure:

- Farmer application forms include a declaration for the disclosure of all audit information to an approved auditing body as agent for NZFAI.
- That respect for the privacy and commercial sensitivity of information they may have access to during the audit process is always shown.
- All farmer files, records and manuals are held securely.
- Auditors do not enter farms/offices/homes/sites unaccompanied or look at any files, records, or manuals without express permission from the farmer.

All your actual audit data will remain confidential to you, the CAB, NZFAI, and your nominated Meat/Fibre Company/s and will not be released without your permission, while your actual audit status will be identified to NZFAI and other meat/fibre companies, other parties, and publicly.

## DEFINITIONS

CB:	Certifying Body (IE NZFAI nominated audit partner)
COMPETENT PERSONNEL:	A person who has the relevant knowledge, qualification, experience, training, or skill to carry out a particular task.
NZFAI:	New Zealand Farm Assurance Incorporated
NZFAP:	New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme
NZFAP Certified:	Been certified to the NZFAP and have any/all non-compliances satisfactorily closed.
NZFAP-RWS:	The name given to the collective programme for NZ wool that delivers full compliance with Textile Exchange's Responsible Wool Standard.
PPE:	Personal Protective Equipment
RWS	Responsible Wool Standard
RWS Clip-on:	Responsible Wool Standard Clip-On

---

# REQUIREMENTS

## RWS 1.0 ANIMAL HEALTH

Desired outcome: Livestock will be raised in accordance with the NZFAP and shall always have access to natural pasture unless emergency or severe weather conditions would otherwise negatively impact on their welfare.

### REQUIREMENT:

- RWS 1.1. Stocking rates shall be determined based on land type, pasture quality, seasonal conditions, class of stock, available feed, water resources, and total grazing pressure.
- RWS 1.2. Sheep that cannot move on their own shall only be moved using a humane conveyance method, such as a truck, trailer, sled, or cart.
- RWS 1.3. Confinement in crates is only allowed for a minimum time to address a special need such as the provision of medical care or mothering.
- RWS 1.4. Earmarking of sheep for identification shall be in accordance with legislation and best practices provided ear notching is made using tools or surgically sharp scalpels and provided not more than 10% of each ear is removed.
- RWS 1.5. The farm will hold written operating procedures for Tail docking, Castration and Shearing injuries.
  - *Template available on NZFAI website.*

## RWS 2.0 PAIN RELIEF

Desired Outcome: Farmers will engage with NZFAI if/ when required to explore suitable pain relief options.

### REQUIREMENT:

- RWS 2.1. NZFAI will collaborate with farmers to establish an industry-wide pathway for the application of pain relief for tail docking and castration and farmers will be expected to engage in this process as part of the RWS Clip-on.

## RWS 3.0 SHEARING

Desired outcome: Shearing shall be managed in a way to minimise animal stress, discomfort, and injuries and in accordance with animal husbandry operating procedures.

### REQUIREMENT:

- RWS 3.1. Shearing shall be conducted under the direct supervision of the farmer, or a person appointed by the farmer and shall be done using techniques and equipment designed to minimize stress and injury.
- RWS 3.2. Sheep shall be overseen to manage stress and particular care shall be taken not to cut or injure the animal, especially the teats/udders of female sheep and the penis/sheath and scrotum of rams.
- RWS 3.3. A process must be in place for managing injuries and a written and/or visual "Shearing Standard Operating Procedures" shall be posted in a visible location of the shearing shed.

## RWS 4.0 BREEDING

Desired outcome: Breeding procedures shall address welfare traits and suitability for the environment in which the sheep are raised.

### REQUIREMENT:

- RWS 4.1. The business shall hold a breeding strategy that considers suitable stock selection for the farm type and climatic conditions.
- RWS 4.2. Where animals are unsupervised daily, breeds or strains suited to easy births and good maternal care must be used.
- RWS 4.3. Lambing shall be supervised at a frequency relative to the farming operation, and timely action taken while keeping disturbances to a minimum to support animal welfare.
- RWS 4.4. When rams are introduced to a new group; sheep shall be monitored for signs of aggression.
- RWS 4.5. If artificial breeding procedures are used on farm...

- RWS 4.5.1. Cervical artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis shall only be conducted by or under the supervision of competent personnel trained with the techniques.
- RWS 4.5.2. Electroejaculation is prohibited and Embryotomy should only be performed on dead lambs by competent personnel or veterinarian. In the case of live lambs that cannot be delivered naturally, a veterinarian should perform a C-section.
- RWS 4.5.1. Laparoscopic artificial insemination shall only be conducted by veterinarians or by trained and competent personnel under veterinarian supervision with appropriate pain relief.

## RWS 5.0 LAND MANAGEMENT

### REQUIREMENT:

The business shall hold a written Farm Environment Plan (FEP) that includes a separate management plan for ...

RWS 5.1 SOIL

RWS 5.2 BIODIVERSITY

RWS 5.3 FERTILISER

RWS 5.4 PESTS

### RWS 5.1 SOIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Desired outcome: Farmers understand what will impact the health of their soil and have a strategy to mitigate damage and improve soil health.

### REQUIREMENT:

RWS 5.1.1. The soil health land management plan will

- a) mitigate damage to the farm soil health and forage resources by preventing or minimising over-grazing, compaction, erosion, loss of organic matter and the risk of sedimentation of water bodies.
- b) where necessary include steps to restore damaged areas.
- c) monitor for pasture composition and soil degradation through appropriate methods such as, but not limited to, photographic sites and/or soil testing sites.
- d) demonstrate that any grazing on public lands, meets or exceeds the criteria designated by the permitting authority.

RWS 5.1.2. Monitoring Sites: The same sites should be used each year and chosen to represent the overall area of interest and representative of any significant changes happening on the farm and based on the size of farm.

Total farm Area (hectares)	Minimum # of monitoring stations.
2500 or less	3
10,000	4
20,000	6
60,000	14

### RWS 5.2 BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Desired outcome: Farmers understand what will impact the biodiversity of their land and have a strategy to protect and improve it over time.

### REQUIREMENT:

RWS 5.2.1. The Biodiversity Management Plan must...

RWS 5.2.2. Include a farm map (or maps) identifying...

- a) Soil type and soil monitoring points
- b) Waterways (streams, rivers) and Waterbodies (wetlands, lakes, dams)
- c) Paddock layout where stock is grazed
- d) Sites of indigenous vegetation
- e) Exotic forestry plantations and woodlots, shelterbelts

RWS 5.2.3. Conserve and enhance biodiversity and riparian ecosystems on and around the farm.

RWS 5.2.4. Manage and monitor forage resources, stock rates, grazing practices and invasive alien species of flora or fauna to protect restore and enhance the biodiversity value of the farm and to avoid negative impacts to areas important for biodiversity (e.g., from overgrazing, compaction, or erosion) and include appropriate restoration measures.

- RWS 5.2.5. Restrict grazing on areas important for biodiversity in times of the year when it could have a negative impact on natural ecosystems, native vegetation or on wildlife species.
- RWS 5.2.6. Avoid the intentional, unintentional, or accidental introduction or spread of any invasive alien species (e.g., through the transportation of soil, plant materials, water, etc.) and if present adopt measures to avoid their spread and eradicate them from natural ecosystems
- RWS 5.2.7. Prohibit deforestation and the conversion of natural ecosystems to agricultural land shall not have occurred since 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.
- RWS 5.2.8. Assess potential impacts to riparian and aquatic ecosystems and water bodies and detail actions required to conserve and enhance aquatic life and natural ecosystems such as wetlands.
- RWS 5.2.9. Buffer zones should be maintained to restrict fertilizer, manure, and pesticide applications while minimising erosion, soil run off, and avoiding natural wetland drainage.
- RWS 5.2.10. Cover the protection and conservation of natural native vegetation within the productive area of the farm including existing vegetated zones adjacent to aquatic ecosystems and traditional boundary features and large native trees.

### **RWS 5.3 FERTILISER MANGEMENT PLAN**

Desired outcome: Farmers use the minimum number of inputs to meet the nutritional needs of their land to maintain their carrying capacity.

#### **REQUIREMENT:**

- RWS 5.3.1. A fertiliser management plan that is reviewed annually must include
  - a) a soil nutrient test, at intervals relevant to maintaining a healthy vibrant soil, and
  - b) crop requirements, based on principles of efficiency, and
  - c) application appropriate and specific to the situation as possible with minimum side effects.
- RWS 5.3.2. Fertilizers and manures shall only be applied to the intended crop area, specifically avoiding water bodies, riparian zones, and natural ecosystems and those that have a negative effect on soil microbial life and/or which contain heavy metals shall not be used.
- RWS 5.3.3. Application equipment shall be kept in good working order, cleaned after use, and regularly calibrated.

### **RWS 5.4 PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Desired outcome: Farmers use the minimum amount of pesticides to achieve adequate control of pest burden on their farm.

#### **REQUIREMENT:**

- RWS 5.4.1. The Pest Management Plan must be reviewed annually and be based on the principles of prevention, observation, monitoring, thresholds, and intervention and include the recommended thresholds or triggers to use pesticides where these are available.
- RWS 5.4.2. When used, pesticides should only be applied to the intended area, and
  - a) as specific to the situation as possible and according to manufactures label and directions, and
  - b) with appropriate well-maintained equipment, in appropriate conditions and volumes, and
  - c) specifically avoiding water bodies, riparian zones, and natural ecosystems, and
  - d) with minimal side effects whilst minimising losses, and damage to beneficial organisms.
- RWS 5.4.3. Biological, physical, and cultural control methods shall be used instead of chemical methods if they provide satisfactory control, and the prophylactic use of pesticides is prohibited.
- RWS 5.4.4. Measures shall be in place to minimise the impact and risks of pesticide application to human or animal health and the environment and avoid pesticide resistance.

## **RWS 6.0 PREDATION**

Desired outcome: Farmers shall implement measures to minimise livestock conflicts if they should exist.

#### **REQUIREMENT:**

- RWS 6.1 The only recognised predator of sheep in New Zealand is feral pigs and if present they may be controlled by recognised hunting methods.
- RWS 6.2 If feral pigs are a problem they must be killed humanely, and records kept.

## RWS 7.0 PEOPLE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Desired outcome: The farmer will demonstrate good practice regarding employment conditions, terms, and a safe working environment.

### REQUIREMENT:

- RWS 7.1 The business shall comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act (2015), the Employment Relations Act 2000, Human Rights Act (1993), Crime Act (1961), Minimum Wage Act (1983), Resource Management Act (1991), Immigration Act (2009) and Holidays Act (2003), including any amendments.
- RWS 7.2 The farm business shall have a health and safety policy that complies with New Zealand law that is accessible to all people working or visiting the property. It shall include:
- Hazard Register and how these are identified, assessed, and managed.
  - Name and responsibilities of Safety Manager.
  - When all necessary safety clothing, devices, equipment, and material shall be used.
  - The location of first aid boxes and fire extinguishers.
  - List of Emergency contacts which shall be available in farm buildings and where practical in farm vehicles.
- RWS 7.3 All people working in the business shall receive health and safety training relevant to their job and this training shall be clearly documented.
- RWS 7.4 All people working in the business shall be provided with and use personal protective equipment ((PPE), e.g., clothing, footwear, gloves, hearing protection, eye protection, dust masks) that is appropriate for the work they do.
- RWS 7.5 No deductions shall be made from wages for PPE.
- RWS 7.6 All accidents, injuries and near misses shall be recorded in a formal accident log.
- RWS 7.7 Material safety data sheets (MSDS) must be printed or in a mobile application and be immediately available, and risk assessments conducted for each chemical used.
- RWS 7.8 Facilities for proper hygiene and comfort, including clean and potable water, hand-washing facilities and toilets, and a place to store food shall be available at the main farm site.
- RWS 7.9 All external workers that come onto the farm to perform work involving the sheep shall be made aware of the relevant parts of the NZFAP-RWS standard and all subcontractors, including shearers, shall sign the NZFAP-RWS Contractor Declaration. *Template available on NZFAI website.*
- RWS 7.10 Infrastructure shall be inspected regularly to ensure the safety of buildings including fire risk and steps taken to address risks.
-