



FACT SHEET

CLEAN COLOUR

Test Outline

Average Yellowness is an important characteristic of wool because it is related to dyeing performance and it is not necessarily related to the colour of Greasy Wool.

Considerable quantities of wool are typed as H1 (Light unscourable Colour), H2 (Medium unscourable Colour) or H3 (Heavy unscourable Colour) based purely on visual assessment of the greasy wool and are discounted in the market. A number of independent research studies have shown that the colour of greasy wool is an extremely poor indicator of the clean colour of the same wool when it is scoured. This is perfectly understandable given that the greasy colour is strongly affected by wool grease and dust, both of which can generally be removed by scouring.

The benefit of testing the average clean colour of greasy wool presale is that it provides predictability of the processing potential of the wool and reduces the likelihood of discounts been applied incorrectly to wool that appears to have unscourable colour but when measured objectively it is found that the colour scours out. In New Zealand all auction wool, including merino, is presale tested for clean colour measurement.

The greatest beneficiary of the colour information is the dyer. The colour of the dyed product will be determined by the colour of the clean wool and that of the added dye. Topmakers are now increasingly measuring the colour of their tops and providing this information to their customers (including dyers). Contracts already exist between topmakers and spinners that include limits on the colour measurement of the top.



The importance of Average Colour to the Dyer is illustrated opposite. The left of the picture shows three samples of scoured and carded wool, where the yellowness increases progressively.

The top sample is clearly quite bright and white. The second sample is duller and more yellow and the third sample is even more yellow.

Each sample has been dyed using exactly the same dying process and exactly the same dye. The colours of the dyed products are clearly quite different.

Colour information is reported on the colour scale used by dye houses (D65/10°). This scale uses a daylight 6500K light source (D65) and a detector (observer) at 10 degrees (10°).

Now there is a common language from greasy wool specification to the dyer for the first time.

Service Summary

AWTA Ltd offers a Clean Colour test service for Greasy Wool Cores (Certified), Scoured and Carbonised Wool and Wool Top guidance report.

CONTACT US

For more information on this service contact **AWTA Raw Wool** on:

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