



“What The Mills Say”

Leading topmakers, spinners, weavers and garment makers that need clean, white Australian wool explain why the Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme is vital to their business.



D M F R DARK & MEDULLATED
FIBRE RISK SCHEME

“What The Mills Say”



Mr Zheng Yaokun

Mr Zheng Yaokun, Director, China Textiles Resources Nanjing Corp, China.

Importer

“The Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme is a clear and concise system to convey the potential risk of contaminating fibres in a sale lot. Such information, regardless of the actual rating, allows our buyers to purchase wool in Australia with increased confidence and is a ‘win-win’ for all concerned. Woolgrowers not using the scheme hurt their sale prospects and Australia’s reputation.”



Mr Umeysh Shroff

Mr Umeysh Shroff, Principal, Associated Sales & Exports, India.

Importer

“No other country has the ability to produce wool of the same quality or class as Australia, and we urge wool growers to take immediate steps to protect the integrity of your wool clip. As such, ASE strongly recommends that all wool growers adopt the use of the Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme to indicate the potential risk of contaminating fibres in their sale lots.”



Mr Charles Ing

Mr Charles Ing, President, Reward (Ningbo) Wool Industry Co. Ltd, China.

Topmaker

“China has now become the largest and most important market for wool imports from Australia, with a resulting market share of 62.8% in 2006. In such a market, no one can afford to be negligent; hence wool quality in general is of utmost importance and is vital for continued success for suppliers and users like us. We strongly support the current implementation of the Dark & Medullated Fiber Scheme launched, and hope more woolgrowers in Australia will have their wools listed under the Scheme.”



Mr Wen Qingnan

Mr Wen Qingnan, President, Tianyu Wool Industry Co. Ltd, China.

Topmaker

“Tianyu wishes to encourage the Australian woolgrowers to participate the DMF declaration scheme. It is not only a free of charge scheme but more importantly provides vital quality information to all sectors across the pipeline. Remember, only the Australian wool industry has the integrity to establish such a scheme.”



Mr Zhu Zhongxian

Mr Zhu Zhongxian, President, Australia Harvest Wool Textile Co. Ltd, China.

Topmaker

“Australia Harvest wishes to encourage all Australian woolgrowers to use the DMF Risk Scheme. The scheme is free, provides valuable information to mills and Australia is the only country in the world with such a scheme in place. Why wouldn’t woolgrowers use such a useful tool?”



Mr Rajesh Banka

Mr Rajesh Banka, Vice President - Marketing, Indorama Group, Thailand.

Topmaker & Spinner

“We strongly urge all Australian woolgrowers to pay close attention to clip preparation standards and to ensure their product is free of dark and medullated fibre. Although the Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk is declared on some Australian auction lots, there is insufficient quantity to be able to confidently source wool free of contamination. We encourage the Australian industry to use the DMFR scheme to assist processors in obtaining the raw material we require.”

“What The Mills Say”



Mr S.K. Patodia

Mr S.K. Patodia, Sr Vice President, Jayashree Textiles, India.

Topmaker & Spinner

“Jaya Shree relies on Australian woolgrowers to provide a quality product, fit for purpose and free from contamination such as dark and medullated fibre. In recent years we have noticed a marked increase in the number of deliveries that are contaminated with dark and/or medullated fibre. This has harmed the reputation of Australian wool and has resulted in our buyers sourcing alternative product from different countries. Jaya Shree Textiles would like to encourage all Australian woolgrowers to use the DMF Risk Scheme. Woolgrowers who are producing the right product should advertise the fact to mills to ensure they get the best possible price for their wool.”



Mr Shen Jianhua

Mr Shen Jianhua, President, Xinao Group, China.

Spinner

“We ask Australian woolgrowers to do everything possible to stop the DMF problem at its source. Please use the DMF Risk Scheme to identify and minimise risk. We will all profit from this exchange of information.”



Südwolle

Mr Götz Giebel, Südwolle GmbH & Co, Germany.

Spinner

“To reduce possible doubt about the quality of a clip for sale, the DMFR test provides a good basis for the buyer. With more stringent quality parameters required from processors further downstream, the DMFR contributes to the need of total quality management and quality certification throughout the chain. Even though, the DMFR is no guarantee for 100% dark fibre free wool, it categorises the greasy wool lot for the better part of the clip, for which price differentiations at the point of sale (auctions) should be made. Further development to quantify the amount of dark fibres is desirable.”



Mdm Chen Lifen

Mdm Chen Lifen, Vice President, Sunshine Group, China.

Topmaker to Garment Maker

“We strongly encourage all Australian merino woolgrowers to undertake all necessary steps to reduce the risk of dark and medullated fibre contamination in their wool. Please participate in the DMF Risk Scheme. We need the information and Australian wool will benefit if it is used by all its woolgrowers.”



Mdm Zhu Zhu Jie

Mdm Zhu Jie, General Manager, Youngor Group, China.

Garment Maker

“In China, wool represents quality and refinement. Australian wool or ‘Ao Mao’ as it is called represents the highest quality and is desirable to all Chinese consumers. This reputation has been built over many years and is the envy of many other textile fibres.

Australian woolgrowers must protect their wool’s reputation. Dark or medullated fibres in Australian wool diminishes its high quality reputation. We understand that a new scheme called the Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme is available for woolgrowers to use and this will assist in minimising the risk of these fibres in deliveries. For the sake of the ‘Ao Mao’ reputation, please use this scheme.”

A Note from the Federation of Australian Wool Organisations (FAWO)



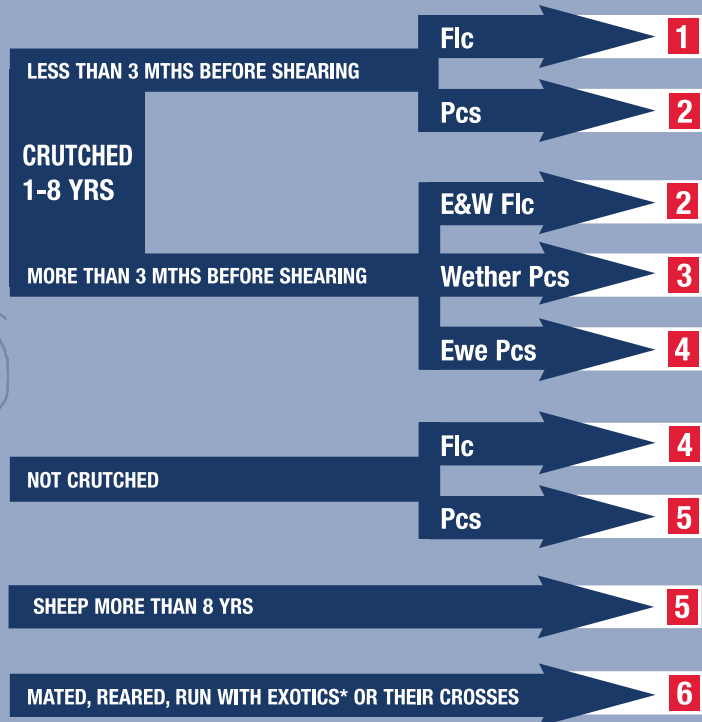
John Lewis
Chairman, FAWO

“Our customers from around the world have made it clear that they require the additional information provided by the Dark & Medullated Risk Scheme. The DMFR Scheme is free, simple to use and one of the best ways for woolgrowers to advise their customers of the status of their wool. FAWO strongly urges all woolgrowers to listen to their customers and use the DMFR scheme.”

Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk (DMFR) Scheme for Fleece and Pieces

DMFR RATINGS	
DMFR Rating	Estimated no. dmf/kg top
1	< 50
2	50 - 100
3	100 - 200
4	200 - 500
5	> 500
6	*EXOTICS

DMFR Ratings 1 and 2 are commercially acceptable for sensitive end-users



* Exotic sheep are Awassi, Damara, Dorper and Karakul



PROTECTING THE REPUTATION OF AUSTRALIA'S MERINO WOOL

Australia's well earned reputation for producing wool with low levels of dark and medullated fibres is under threat with the detection of increased occurrences of contamination by early and later stage processors of Australian Merino wool.

Australian Merino wool is used in 64% of the world's apparel wool products (90% for wools less than 19 µm) because of its high reputation. Other countries would like to be in this position. The Australian industry needs to have all growers committed to the Scheme to protect our reputation.

WHAT IS DARK AND MEDULLATED FIBRE CONTAMINATION?

Urine stain develops when wool is in contact with urine, changing from yellow to black over time. Pigmentation is due to the production of melanin in the wool follicle and skin, with the colour passing into the fibre itself. A urine stained or pigmented fibre in white or pastel fabric shows as a thin dark line or as a dark smudge. Note: dark fibre contamination is not due to staining by water, parasite infestation, dag or yolk, as the colours are usually not dark enough.

Medullated fibres are very coarse in diameter and hollow, or partially hollow, in the middle. The hollow sections of fibre do not absorb dyes resulting in a different, often white, appearance in a dark coloured fabric.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOOL IS CONTAMINATED?

Dark and/or medullated fibre contamination is often not found until after weaving or dyeing. Removal at this stage involves the very costly manual removal (picking) of the individual contaminant fibres.

Contamination in a fabric can result in a claim for compensation for picking or downgrading of the value of the product from the weaver, to the spinner and to the topmaker. Unfortunately, the topmaker invariably "wears" the claim because the identity of the contaminating bale(s) was lost when the wool was tipped into the scour. Such claims are very costly to the industry and disadvantage wool against competing fibres.

THE COST OF CONTAMINATION

In one example of the impact of medullated fibre contamination provided by the Macquarie Textile Group, the value of the product at different stages of processing was:

Wool (10,000 kg 24 microns) \$120,000

Yarn (20,000 kg wool/poly blend) \$350,000

Fabric (38,000 metres) \$500,000

Suits (10,000) \$2,500,000

In this case, the contamination was not found until the fabric stage. It only needed 10 grams in the original 10,000 kg to create the problem!

IS TESTING THE ULTIMATE ANSWER?

- No for traditional isolated dark fibre. Urine stained or pigmented staples are not randomly distributed throughout a bale and therefore are not likely to be found during core sampling. The only way for buyers to identify low risk wool (Ratings 1 and 2) is to use the DMFR Scheme.
- Yes for contact with exotics. The pigmented and medullated fibres are spread more evenly over the Merino fleece during contact and are captured in the core sample, which can then be tested. If in doubt about the consequences of possible contact with exotics, a test can indicate whether fibre transfer has occurred.

Please do not confuse what a Test can do and what the DMFR Rating Scheme can do for you.

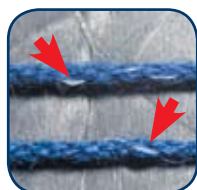
INDUSTRY USE OF THE DMFR SCHEME

DMFR Ratings help buyers and processors put wool to its right end use and helps them be aware of any potential problems with contamination, which can be very costly.

For the wool grower, the cost of not providing a DMFR declaration may be substantial. If your wool does not have a DMFR Rating and Not Declared (ND) is shown in the sale catalogue or on the test certificate, it may well be a case of BUYER BEWARE!



Medullated Fibres
in wool



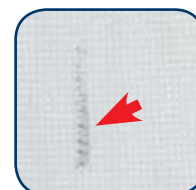
Medullated Fibres
in yarn



Medullated Fibres
in fabric



Dark Fibres
in yarn



Dark Fibres
in fabric

**DON'T LET AUSTRALIA'S "WHITE WOOL"
REPUTATION BECOME HISTORY**



Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme

For more information on the DMFR Scheme contact your selling agent (ask for the DMFR Brochure).

To read more from the companies in this brochure or to find out more about the Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme, please go to one of the following websites:

www.wool.com.au

www.awta.com.au

www.awex.com.au

www.woolindustries.org