



NZSCA Recommended Operating Procedures for Alert Level 2

Overview

The focus of these operating guidelines is to ensure that the New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association (NZSCA) continues to provide a framework for members that delivers a safe working environment for shearing teams operating on site to address any issues in relation to the transfer of Covid-19, under Alert Level 2.

These guidelines are also developed to assist and provide guidance to farmers on how to prepare and present the woolshed to accommodate shearing teams on site and for shearing contractors to ensure the safe travel to and from the work site for their team members. The safety of NZSCA people is our key priority.

Operating under Alert Level 2 (AL2) will result in shearing work moving into a slightly more familiar space than what we have been operating in over the last 6 weeks **but** the key caveat remains; that all work undertaken must be delivered **safely and that current hygiene routines are maintained**. Please refer to the attached Covid-19 link for the latest information on life at AL2 <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/>

MPI have confirmed that under AL2, all shearing contractors can continue to operate, but need to do so **safely** and have **appropriate measures in place** that prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The key focus at Alert Level 2 is on maintaining appropriate physical distancing and contact tracing registers. Further clarity and guidance around what the expectation is for safe work practice can be found on this MPI link which is being updated regularly.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/coronavirus/primary-sector-businesses-services-and-support-services/primary-sector-business-in-alert-level-2/>

Please note these guidelines and protocols are subject to change as NZSCA sees fit to ensure compliance with any Government or MPI regulatory or process amendments implemented to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

Mandatory Procedures and Expectations

No shearing contractor, employee, farmer or farmer support staff will be permitted to go to work or enter the worksite if they show any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. Anyone reporting ill:

- Shall immediately place themselves or be placed in self isolation.
- Their employer or family must contact Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) or call their doctor immediately.
- All contractors and employers are to have their tally sheet documentation (refer below) detailing at what farm the individual worked at and who they worked with to enable clear traceability by the MOH and MPI. This remains a key requirement under AL2.
- All others who had contact or exposure to the individual will need to enter isolation and be tested for Covid-19.

Under Alert Level 2, all work requested by a famer client to be undertaken by a shearing contractor and shearing teams must be able to demonstrate that it can be delivered safely, within the guidelines developed by MPI. <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/coronavirus/latest-questions-about-covid-19-and-primary-industries/frequently-asked-questions-in-alert-level-2/>

All shearing sheds will still require and must receive a “deep clean” prior to shearing under AL2. As the virus can live and therefore be spread from metal and wooden structures, a deep clean will address this and ensure a safe workplace. Please refer to this link for guidance on cleaning <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/how-were-uniting/cleaning-surfaces/>

All Shearing Contractors will maintain a register of employees detailing at what farm they have worked at via a tally sheet system to enable clear traceability. This remains a key requirement under AL2. They should also maintain a declaration form (a copy will be attached to these guidelines) that employees must sign before commencing work, confirming that employees are fit for work, and have observed appropriate social distancing and pre and post any work commitments as outlined in the Covid-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/#personal-movement>

It is expected that Farmers will also confirm to the shearing contractor via a declaration form, that they are fit and healthy and have complied with the Covid-19 social and physical distancing requirements, and that the worksite is clean and safe to work in. Farmers are required to present this documentation to the shearing contractor prior to the shearing teams’ arrival at the work site.

Operating Procedures

All work can be undertaken as long as it is delivered safely in line with Governments expectations. Both MPI and the Government have outlined that the expectation of moving to AL2 for everyone is to **play it safe**:

- You must maintain safe practices on physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning.

- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces.

All Current Best Practice Guidelines are to be followed as per the links below recognising that they may evolve further as the Government and MPI modifies its responses to any further Covid-19 developments.

Shearing Contractors are advised to continue to communicate early and regularly with Farmer clients and plan ahead. It should be understood by all that under Alert Level 2, all shearing work will still take longer to achieve. This may not be convenient, will undoubtedly be frustrating but it is the new reality. Shearing times and dates will need to be adjusted to fit within the new protocols and operating requirements of AL2.

In addition to the current best practice guidelines, all New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association members have been given, and should be following, the below guidelines, information and procedures:

1. Travel (in addition to Travel Best Practice Guidelines)

- 1.1. Contractors will minimise van overloading – the 1 metre distance rule applies in a controlled environment so contractors are to supply extra vehicles or employees are to take their own.
 - 1.1.1. All vehicles including employees' cars should be disinfected and cleaned prior to all travel to and from the workplace to prevent the spread of Covid19.
 - 1.1.2. Social and physical distance practices to be observed at all times by all team members and contractors in all vehicles.
 - 1.1.3. Travel within regions and across the country is allowed as long as good personal health measures are followed. These include:
 - 1.1.3.1. Keeping records of what travel services are used.
 - 1.1.3.2. Keeping track of who you have been in contact with.
 - 1.1.3.3. Keeping your distance from groups of people you don't know.

2. Food

- 2.1. Farmers and or cooks should continue to follow all Ministry of Health guidelines <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-food-safety/covid-19-and-food-safety-in-alert-level-2/>

3. Shearing Quarters

- 3.1. Quarters setup and management are to follow all Ministry of Health [guidelines](#)
- 3.2. All staff to follow Ministry of Health and Covid-19 guidelines for personal health and physical and social distancing rules at all times <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/#life-at-alert-level-2>
- 3.3. An isolation space is to be identified within the shearing quarters to place any person who is feeling unwell and appropriate social distancing rules are to apply for any movement of that individual off site.

4. Shearing Shed

- 4.1. Farmers will still be required to disinfect all worksites prior to a shearing team's arrival and have ample soaps and disinfectants available for use. Refer to this link <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/how-were-uniting/cleaning-surfaces/>
- 4.2. All contractors and team members are to observe all personal health and social distance guidelines at all times during rest breaks on the worksite. This includes practising appropriate physical distancing, maintaining good hygiene standards. Please refer to the Covid-19 link for guidance on this <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/#workplaces-and-businesses>
- 4.3. Farmers, farmer support staff and personnel are to minimise contact with the shearing team and adhere to all social distancing guidelines as outlined by MPI.
- 4.4. Non-essential personnel will not be permitted on the worksite.
- 4.5. All staff will provide their own handpiece, brooms and work tools etc. Please ensure all brooms used comply with the 1 metre distance requirement in a controlled environment.
- 4.6. All shearing contractor employers will supply all handwashing and PPE for their employees own personal use.
- 4.7. All selected stands will adhere to the 1 metre-controlled environment distancing rule. This may result in a physical allocation of space per shearer from dropper to dropper to ensure each shearer maintains the appropriate distance needs. In practice this may see each individual shearer's work area being identified by tape or similar to ensure each shearer maintains the appropriate distance needs. Shearers would be encouraged to GIVE WAY to each other mid shear to maintain distance, just as a shed hand currently does.
- 4.8. Shed hands are to wait until the shearer enters the catching pen to retrieve the fleece and process this 1 metre away from the shearer.
- 4.9. Shed hands or classers are always to place the fleece in a predetermined area for collection by the presser adhering to the 1 metre distance rule from all staff.
- 4.10. Presser, sheepo or farmer will fill the catching pens only when the shearer is on the shearing board shearing their sheep, again observing all 1 metre-controlled environment physical distancing obligations.
- 4.11. Wool Classer/Grader is to assess wool on a separate table from the skirting table.