

Responsible Wool Sourcing Policy

The scope of this policy is to cover all Marks & Spencer wool use – including wool blends.

Introduction

As part of our Plan A Sustainable Raw Material commitment, Marks & Spencer are committed to the responsible sourcing of wool. This policy defines the M&S position on the use of mulesing as a method for controlling blow fly strike.

Policy Objectives

Our intention is that all of the wool that is used in M&S products will come from farms with the highest animal welfare practices to protect sheep from blowfly strike. In particular, there are animal welfare concerns surrounding the practice of surgical mulesing, and therefore the ultimate objective for M&S is to only source wool from sheep that have not been mulesed.

Responsible Wool Sourcing

The M&S policy for responsible sourcing of wool is based on a risk assessment of the source and reflects the developments of alternatives to mulesing over time. The M&S' policy is in line with the position of the British Retail Consortium (BRC), which is supported by RSPCA UK.

Low Risk Sources

Wool from South Africa, New Zealand, China and South America is considered lower risk as these sources suffer much lower incidents of blowfly and mulesing is not commonly used. When claiming wool is from these sources import/export documentation is required to prove the Country of Origin (COO) and the country of destination.

Australian Wool

Wool from Australia is considered to be the highest risk as the use of surgical mulesing is wide spread. When using wool from this source, an AWTA certificate is required to prove the mulesing status.

The mulesing status of wool from Australia is categorised using the following **AWEX** (Austalian Wool Exchange) terminology:

- Non Mulesed ('NM'): none of the sheep in the flock have been mulesed
- Ceased Mulesed ('CM'): the practice of mulesing is no longer carried out, but some sheep in the flock were mulesed previously
- Pain Relief ('PR'): pain relief applied to the sheep after mulesing has been carried out by an accredited practitioner.

The only acceptable proof of mulesing status is the AWTA certificate.

Based on this, the Marks & Spencer policy for wool sourcing is:

- All wool purchased must be compliant to the M&S wool policy only if it is from low risk countries or if it is from Australia and is NM or CM – PR is not accepted.

All wool purchased for use in Marks & Spencer products must be compliant with the wool sourcing policy.

If any product is found to be containing wool from non-compliant sources, Marks & Spencer reserve the right to cancel that order or issue a RTM for the product.