

Object ID	10
Object Name	Handpiece and Downtube Preparation

AQF Level 2
Industry Sector Wool Harvesting
Category Shearing

UNDERPINNING TOPICS	OBJECT NO.
Identify and prepare equipment and materials for shearing and crutching.	31

ASSESSMENT TOOLS
A Handpiece safety
B Loading a handpiece

ASSESSMENT COMPONENT	
Purpose	Load the handpiece and maintain and safely adjust the handpiece and downtube gear for optimum performance.

ACTIVITIES	DETAILS
1. Ensure the presence and proper operation of the safety clutch and appropriate drive or equivalent mechanism	
2. Identify components on the:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handpiece • Downtube • Overhead drive "on/off" assembly
3. Outline the sequence and frequency for lubrication	
4. Lubricate or maintain overhead gear	
5. Check and observe manufacturer's specifications for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe work practices • Guidelines and tools for dismantling and assembly • Oil used in the handpiece • Tension adjustments • Settings of fulcrum post, ferrules and springs
6. Outline faults and malfunctions that can occur in the:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handpiece • Downtube assemblies
7. Demonstrate the correct use of handpiece maintenance equipment including:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shearer's brush • Scraper • Oil can • Wash up tin • Grinding tin
8. Attach the:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comb • Cutter
9. Correctly fit cutters to chicken feet and retaining mechanism	

ACTIVITIES	DETAILS
10. Tighten the comb screws in the correct sequence	
11. Adjust the:	• Lead
	• Throw
	• Safety clutch
	• Downtube/short tube
12. Attach and remove the handpiece from the downtube	
13. Describe how to load and adjust the tension of the handpiece to suit:	• Shearing conditions
	• Preference of the shearer
14. All tasks must be completed observing requirements for safe work, quality assurance and animal welfare.	

COMPETENCIES	
RTE2310A	Prepare Handpiece and Downtube for Machine Shearing