

The Shearing Stand

The shearing stand layout is one of the most critical aspects in a shearing shed. It's design, especially in relation to distance and orientation from the catching pen door and the chute can have a significant effect on both productivity and the strain (OH&S) on the shearer.

Conroy and Hanrahan point out some key minimum dimensions:

- The minimum legal distance between shearing stands is 1525 mm, but 1750 mm is recommended;
- The distance between the end shearing stand and the wall should be at least 1000 mm;
- However, recent OH&S guidelines recommend a minimum distance between stands for new or renovated or allowed shed should be 2000mm and 1500 to an end wall or obstruction;
- Regardless of board type, it is important that a suitably large and easily accessible shelf is available to accommodate the daily tools of trade for shearers. (Combs, cutters, brushes, water bottle towel etc);
- A clearance of 2425 mm from the shearing board floor to the roof is needed; and
- The height of the shearing board should be 850mm.

An important safety consideration for all shearing stands is to ensure that plants are equipped with “anti-locking” devices.

Conroy & Hanrahan present shearing stand dimensions diagrammatically (see next page):

Figure 24. Layout of a centre board with chute. Note that the chute protrudes onto the board.

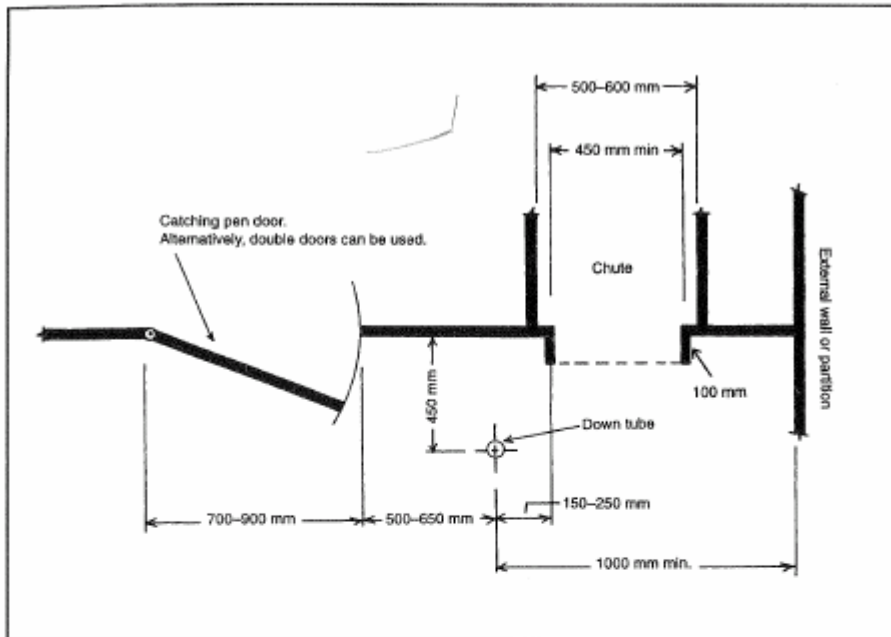
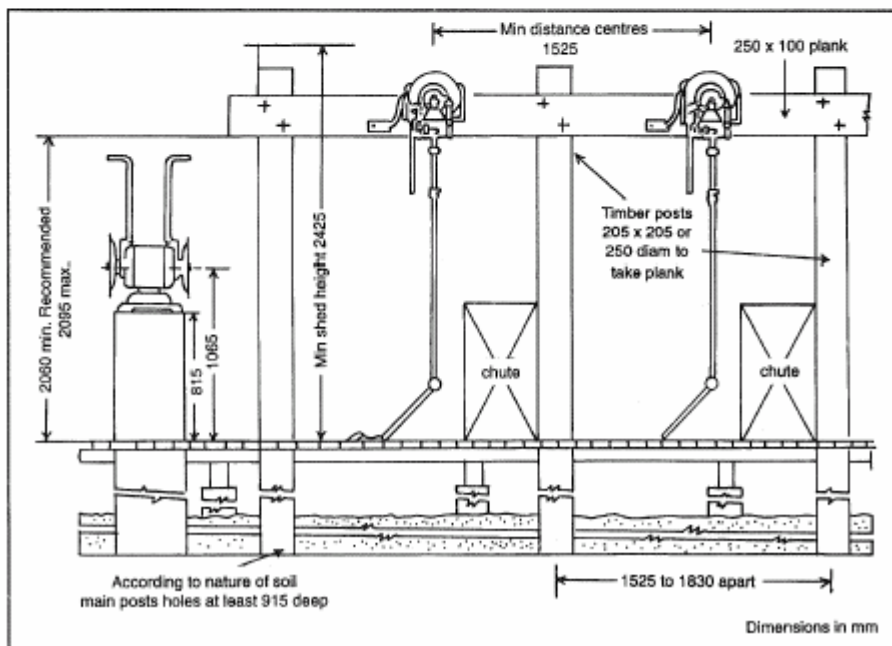


Figure 25. Typical layout of independent electric shearing gear.

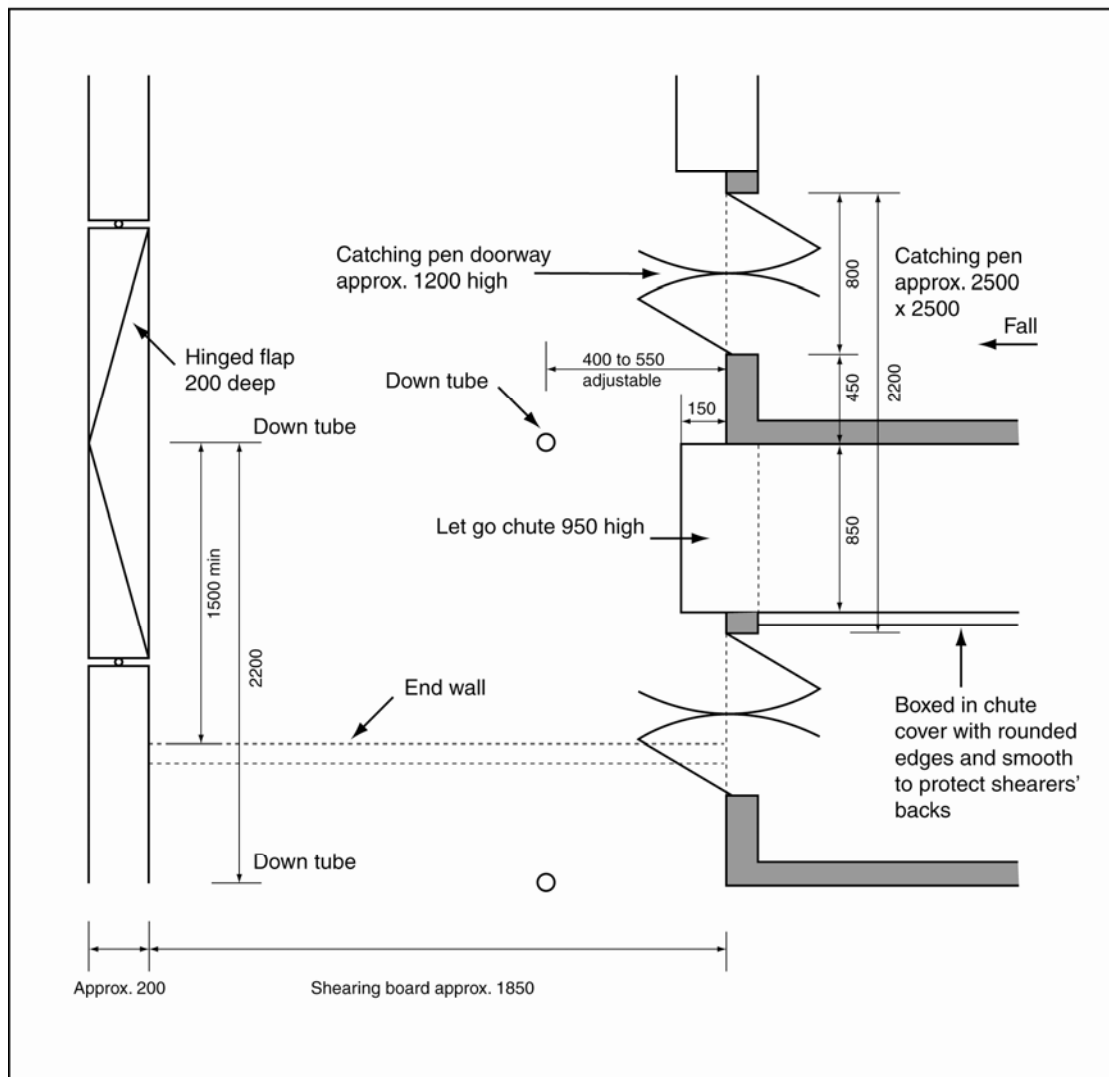


Source: Conroy & Hanrahan

Michael Lawrence and Barber & Freeman also provide dimensions for the placement of the stand –release time (last blow on sheep to whole of sheep exited off shearing board); and perceived exertion for release.

Michael Lawrence dimensions

Michael Lawrence dimensions



Source: Michael Lawrence & Associates

Barber & Freeman dimensions

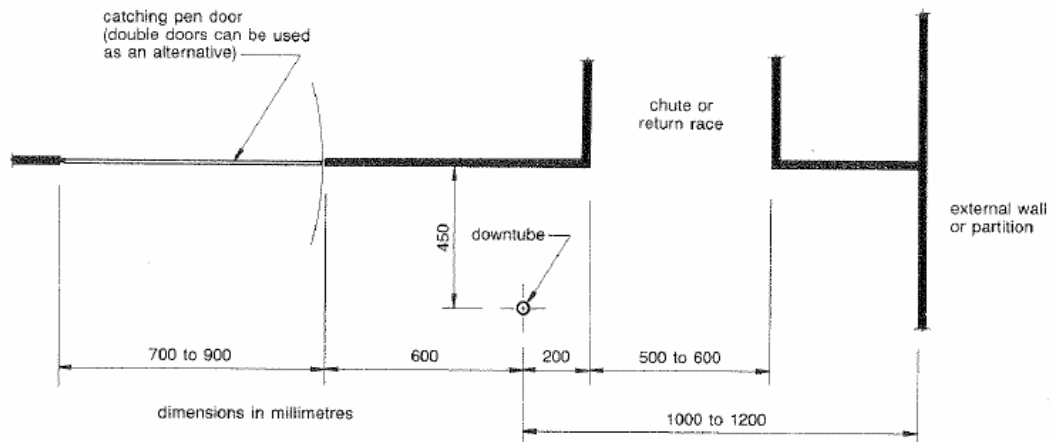


Figure 4.6 Relationship of the main features of a shearing stand

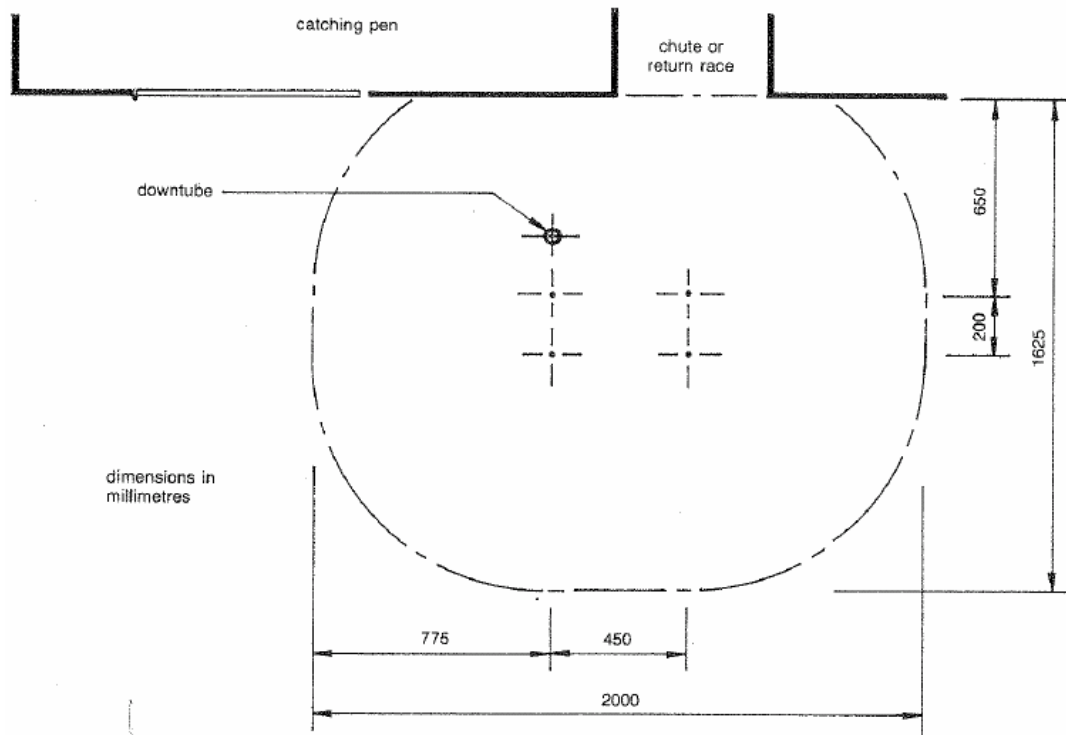


Figure 4.7 Area needed by a shearer when shearing typical sheep

Source: Barber & Freeman