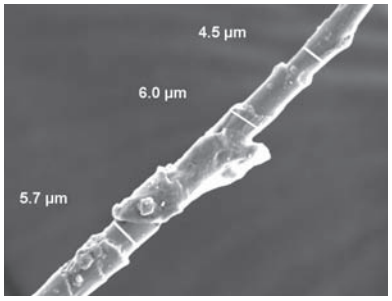
Quality Systems

SGS use quality systems to ensure maximum consistency between fleece testing and certification results. The SGS IWTO certification laboratory and the SGS fleece test laboratory are independently audited and accredited by IANZ every year.

The OFDA2000 instruments, the fleece testing laboratory instruments (OFDA 100), and the IWTO certification laboratory instruments (OFDA 100, Laserscan and airflow) are all calibrated using the same reference materials. Additional material extends the validation of the calibrations down to the ultrafine region.

During the fleece test season batches of samples are routinely exchanged between the systems to monitor consistency.

Because the two systems have different levels of precision (but are nevertheless equally accurate on average), biases are still encountered in some specific situations, but they can be predicted by experience or scientifically using software tools such as the AWI OFFM calculator. In particular, fine lines selected on the basis of fleece test results will almost always produce slightly coarser certification results and this must be allowed for.



SGS Wool Testing Services Fleece Lab
PO Box 2083
36 Meadows Road
Washdyke, TIMARU
03-688-7107
Email: nz.wool.timaru@sgs.com

SGS OFDA2000 Service Providers:

Southland:
Ron Andrews
021.227.7978

Otago:
Robyne Murray
021.448.790

Canterbury:
Don Morrison
027.2327.455

IWTO Certification laboratory

SGS Wool Testing Services
PO Box 15062
48 Kemp Street
Kilbirnie, WELLINGTON

04.387.8565
Email: nz.wool@sgs.com

For more information on any of these services, visit our website and download from an extensive library of information:

www.wooltesting.sgs.com

fleece
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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

SGS

Laboratory Fleece Testing

Our purpose-built Timaru laboratory is designed specifically to give a personalised service and the highest quality of results. It's accredited by IANZ under ISO 17025. Services routinely provided include:

- Micron (mean fibre diameter) by OFDA100
- Diameter distribution (CVD and comfort factor)
- Fibre curvature
- Washing yield
- Results reported by your specified sorting criteria

Optionally, we can also provide:

- Micron by Laserscan
- Length-diameter profiles
- Medullation
- Staple length and strength
- Estimated wool bulk
- Clean colour

Laboratory or on-Farm?

Fleece testing is undertaken to:

- Improve your flock's genetic gain, productivity and profitability
- Identify and select high value replacement animals
- Identify and cull poor performing animals
- Class fleeces into micron lines to take advantage of price differentials
- Select fleeces for specific characteristics for specialised markets

These objectives can be undertaken using either conventional laboratory testing or on-farm services. The choice usually comes down to relative convenience:

Laboratory testing on midside samples is slightly more precise, but entails delays between sampling and selection. It also allows additional tests to be carried out. Timing often isn't so critical.

On-farm testing can be undertaken in real time in the race to draft animals into selection or shearing groups.

On-farm testing can also be carried out in the shearing shed allowing lotting decisions to be made objectively. Contractor availability is critical.

On-farm Fleece Testing

Our trained and experienced operators have been providing on-farm shorn fleece and individual animal measurements since the 2000-01 season using OFDA2000 instruments. In that period they have carried out nearly 2 million measurements.

Operators can advise on the optimum set-up for your specific requirements, which will depend on the layout of your shed and yards, the timing, and whether the results will be used solely for breeding/improvement or also for objective lotting. Temporary yarding facilities may be useful in some circumstances and may be hired as needed.

The standard measurements provided by the OFDA2000 instruments include:

- Micron (mean fibre diameter)
- Diameter distribution (CVD and comfort factor)
- Staple length
- Length-diameter profile (including fibre ends fineness)
- Predicted hauteur
- Estimated bulk