



THE WOOLMARK COMPANY

WOOLMARK SPECIFICATION

AUSTRALIAN MERINO WOOL

SPECIFICATION AK-4

Effective 1 July 2026

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SPECIFICATION AK-4: 2026

AUSTRALIAN MERINO WOOL

PRODUCTS

- **Australian Merino Wool** may be applied to all Woolmark certified apparel products that meet the criteria detailed in this specification.
- Australian Merino Wool **must not** be used on Woolmark Blend or Wool Blend branded products.

Australian Merino Wool Criteria

Products must meet all requirements in Woolmark Specifications AK-1: Knitted apparel products, AW-1: Woven apparel products, SY-1: Yarns, SF-1: Knitted fabrics or SF-2: Woven fabrics.

Property	Test method	Requirements
Wool content	155	Pure New Wool
Mean wool fibre diameter (µm: absolute maximum)	22, 23 or 24	19.75
Percentage of Australian wool	Australian Wool Traceability Evidence to be submitted by licensee (see additional table for detail in Note 2)	100% (minimum)

- This table must be read in conjunction with the notes that follow.

NOTES

1. Woolmark TM22, TM23 and TM24 for mean wool fibre diameter

- 1.1. The mean wool fibre diameter is determined from yarn or fibre (as appropriate) removed from fully finished product. The absolute limit of 19.75µm for the mean fibre diameter of Australian Merino Wool represents the required maximum of 19.5µm with an allowance of 0.25µm for the error in the measurement.
- 1.2. Each yarn type used in knitted products must be evaluated separately and each must meet the requirements.
- 1.3. It is known that the mean fibre diameter can increase during textile processing due to preferential loss of finer fibres and the effects of dyes. It is not known how much change will occur for any particular set of circumstances but in order to meet the end product requirement it is advised that wools with diameters closer to 19µm be chosen at the raw material stage.
- 1.4. In some instances, the mean fibre diameter determined using TM22 or TM23 may give an inaccurate result. This can occur if the fabric is milled or treated with a shrink-resist polymer or if yarn is highly twisted. In such cases, the result from Woolmark TWC-TM24 should be accepted. In cases of dispute, the result from Woolmark TWC-TM24 must be accepted.

2. Australian Wool Traceability Evidence

The wool must be from pure Merino sheep. To substantiate the claim that a product contains 100% Australian Merino wool, the licensee must provide a documented chain of evidence linking the finished product to the Australian raw wool source. This chain of custody is designed and operated in conformance with ISO 22095:2020 (Chain of custody — General terminology and models), as amended, using the Segregated model (Clause 5.3.2). The specified characteristics maintained under this chain of custody are: (a) Australian geographical origin; (b) Merino sheep breed; (c) mean fibre diameter ≤19.5µm; and (d) 100% virgin wool.

The licensee must submit evidence for their own supply chain stage and all stages prior, back to and including the Australian wool export documentation. For example,

- A garment manufacturer must provide evidence covering garment manufacture, fabric production, and spinning.
- A fabric mill claiming Australian Merino Wool for certified fabric must provide evidence covering fabric production and spinning.
- A spinner claiming Australian Merino Wool for certified yarn must provide evidence covering

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spinning and Australian wool export documentation.

The licensee should request upstream documentation through their supplier.

Licensee chain stage	Required information	Supporting document(s)
Spinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spinner name and country • Yarn lot number(s) • Contributing top batch number(s) • Exporter name and contract/consignment reference number 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AWTA/IWTO Combined Certificate 2. AWTH Traceability Report (see Note 2.3) 3. Spinner's delivery note or invoice referencing yarn lot number(s) and contributing top batch number(s) and raw wool lot numbers. 4. Processing Declaration (Form PD-1)
Fabric mill (Weaver / Knitter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabric mill name and country • Fabric batch number(s) • Incoming yarn lot number(s) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fabric mill's delivery note or invoice referencing fabric batch number(s) and incoming yarn lot number(s)
Garment manufacturer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturer name and country • Product name / style number • Incoming yarn lot number(s) or fabric batch number(s) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yarn or fabric supplier's delivery note or invoice referencing yarn lot number(s) or fabric batch number(s)

- 2.1. The table must be read from the bottom up according to the licensee's position in the supply chain. The licensee submits evidence for their own stage and all stages above (i.e. upstream toward the raw material).
- 2.2. The AWTA/IWTO Combined Certificate is required in all cases. It provides independent verification of fibre properties and confirms breed (Merino) via lot descriptions. This certificate can be requested from top makers by spinners.
- 2.3. The AWTH Traceability Report is the preferred evidence of Australian origin, as it provides a consolidated chain-of-custody record from farm to export. Where the AWTH report is not available, a Country of Origin Certificate or equivalent Australian export documentation is accepted. The licensee should note the reason why the AWTH report was not available.
- 2.4. Where a vertically integrated manufacturer performs multiple processing stages (e.g. spinning and weaving), a single declaration covering all stages performed in-house is acceptable, provided the reference numbers for each stage are recorded.
- 2.5. Where the licensee purchases finished yarn or fabric, they should request the relevant upstream documentation from their yarn or fabric supplier. The supplier may provide a consolidated declaration covering multiple upstream stages.

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- 2.6. Supporting documents must be held on file by the licensee and made available to The Woolmark Company for approval to use Australian Merino Wool branding.

Australian-origin wool must be physically segregated from non-Australian wool at every stage of processing, in accordance with ISO 22095:2020, Clause 5.3.2 (Segregated model). Processors must perform line-cleaning or batch-changeover procedures before and after each Australian-origin production run to prevent commingling.

A completed Processing Declaration (Form PD-1) must be obtained for each production run. Processing Declarations and all supporting chain-of-custody records must be retained on file for a minimum of three (3) years.

The licensee shall ensure that personnel responsible for chain-of-custody documentation and segregation procedures are competent to perform those tasks (ISO 22095:2020, Clause 6.4). Non-conformance with chain-of-custody requirements is managed in accordance with the Woolmark licence agreement. The Woolmark Company may require corrective action, suspension of supply, or withdrawal of the Australian Merino Wool designation (ISO 22095:2020, Clause 6.5).

All chain-of-custody records are subject to audit by The Woolmark Company or its nominee.

- 2.7. The Woolmark Company reserves the right to audit the supporting documents held by the licensee and their supply chain partners.

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THE WOOLMARK COMPANY

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