

DRAFT UGANDA STANDARD

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Grading of live sheep — Specification



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This Draft Uganda Standard, DUS DARS 1846: 2023, *Grading of live sheep — Specification*, is identical with and has been reproduced from a Draft African Standard, DARS 1846: 2023, *Grading of live sheep — Specification*, and adopted as a Uganda Standard.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 213, *Live animals, meat and meat products*.

This standard will cancel and replace US 2156: 2020, *Live animals' grades — Specification*.

Wherever the words, "African Standard" appear, they should be replaced by "Uganda Standard".

Grading of live Sheep – Specification



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Introduction

There has been a high demand of sheep meat across Africa. To support and facilitate trade of live sheep, official sheep grade standards are important. Grading adds value as well as increasing demand of sheep in the market. This ensures consumer confidence in the sheep. This draft standard (specification) was developed for the purpose of describing the grading of live sheep for meat.

Grading of Live Sheep – Specification

1. Scope

This draft African standard specifies requirements for grading of live sheep based on body conditions, conformation, weight, age, and sex for meat trade.

2. Normative References

There are no normative references in this document.

3. Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions shall apply:

3.1

grade

defined parameters that categorise live sheep for meat trade into homogenous groups applied by market participants based on weight, age, sex, body condition and body conformation

3.2

sex

refers to whether a sheep is male or female

3.3

body condition

overall body state of an sheep assessed through visual observation taking into account fat and muscle deposition as it occurs in various places on the sheep's body

3.4

body condition score

score assigned through visual appraisal of specific body parts. The extent to which specific skeletal body parts {including; hips, hooks and pins, rump, shoulders, back (spinous processes of the thoracic vertebrae), ribs} are either hidden or smoothened by flesh or fat. The sheep are thus categorized as excellent; good; fair and poor;

3.5

body conformation

symmetry, size and shape of the various body regions of a sheep relative to each other or the general appearance of the sheep according to what is considered a desirable appearance.

3.6

conformation score

qualitative categorization of sheep features based on body frame, sheep height and defects, described as excellent, good or fair

3.7

castrated male

male sheep whose testicles have been rendered dysfunctional through an approved procedure

3.8

live weight:

weight of a sheep before slaughter determined through an appropriate and acceptable method

3.9

lordosis

excessive inward curvature of the spine

3.10

kyphosis

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excessive outward curvature of the spine

3.11

semitendinosus

long superficial muscle in the back of the thigh.

3.12

quadriceps

large front muscles of the thigh

3.13

apophysis/apophyses

natural protuberance from a bone

4. Grading Specification for Sheep

The grading of sheep shall be done in accordance to age, sex, weight and body condition.

4.1 Age

Categories will be based on dentition and/or records.

4.2 Sex

Categories will be based on: male castrated, male un-castrated and female.

4.3 Weight:

The live weight will be determined by any appropriate method including weighing scale and/or weight band. The minimum weight of 25 kgs will apply for Grade 1 and 2.

4.4 Body condition

The body condition of sheep shall be determined according to Table 1, as excellent, good or poor.

Table 1: Descriptions for body condition scores for Sheep

Body Score	Hind leg	Loin	Shoulder	Ribs	Brisket	Tail
Excellent	Muscle very well developed i.e., semi tendinosus, biceps femoris, quadriceps	Wide and very well developed loin up to the shoulder region, spinous processes are hidden or smoothened by flesh and/or fat	Shoulder muscles very well developed. Shoulder blade not visible	Ribs not visible	Brisket well developed, covered with flesh and/or fat	Well developed fat deposit
Good	Moderately developed,	Moderately developed loin,	Shoulder muscles moderately developed,	Ribs visible, moderate flesh	Brisket moderately developed	moderately developed fat deposit

		spinous processes not seen but easily felt.	shoulder blades slightly visible	cover		
Poor	Pin bone prominent	Poorly developed loin, spinous processes visible	Poorly developed shoulder muscles, shoulder blades prominent	Ribs visible	Brisket poorly developed	Poorly developed tail head slightly raised, limited fat deposition.

4.5 Body Conformation Score (CS)

Body conformation score shall encompass the symmetry, size and shape of the various body regions of the sheep relative to each other or the general appearance of the sheep as outlined in Table 2:

Table 2: Body conformation classifications and descriptions for sheep

Scores	Description
Excellent	Sheep of good height (tall), with large frame and long and straight rump, loin and back, large heart girth and straight legs.
Good	Sheep of medium height with medium frame, shorter but straight rump, loin and back, medium heart girth and straight legs
Fair	Sheep with defects including a short and small frame, a small heart-girth in relation to the overall body size; lordosis or kyphosis, or feet and legs that are post-legged, buck-kneed, play-footed or sickle-hocked.

4.6 Sheep grades

The interaction of the characteristics identified above (sex, age, body condition) shall be categorized into three (3) grades as described in Table 3:

Table 3: Grades and grading parameters for sheep

Grade	Sex	Age(Months)	Live Weight (kg)	Body condition	Body conformation
1	Male(uncastrated and castrated)	≥ 6	≥ 25	Excellent	Excellent
	Female	6 – 18	≥ 25	Excellent	Excellent
2	Male and female	≥ 6	≥ 25	Good	Good
3	Male and female	≥ 6	No limit	Poor	Fair

Bibliography

1. Kenya Standard, KS 2774-3:2018, *Grading live animal for meat trade-Specification-Part 3:Sheep*.

