



# SGS Wool Testing Services

## WOOL TESTING – ABOUT US

Wool Testing Services has been operating in New Zealand as an independent wool quality certification body since 1964. It was originally a branch of Wool Testing Services International, based in England, which provided similar services to clients throughout Europe, Central Asia, and South America. Since 1988 Wool Testing Services has operated as a division of SGS New Zealand, part of the Société Générale de Surveillance

group, and has continued to commit resources to a continuous quality improvement programme.

Whilst we test most animal fibres, Most of our work is undertaken on greasy and scoured sheep's wool in accordance with the requirements of the standards and regulations of the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO: [www.iwto.org](http://www.iwto.org)). This organisation was created to defend the interests of the wool industry

as a whole - from woolgrowers to wool textile traders, processors, spinners and weavers. Its members are the national organisations representative of the above interests in its 24 member-countries, themselves representative of some 90% of the wool textile activity around the world. In New Zealand the representative body is the National Council of New Zealand Wool Interests.

Whilst the majority of our testing is carried out at the Wellington central laboratory, condition tests are also carried out in some of our branch offices that cover the major raw wool sales and scouring centres throughout New Zealand. The Wellington laboratory is centrally located for the country. It is in Kilbirnie, 5 minutes from the airport, and whilst there is no other wool-related activity in this particular suburb of Wellington, there was a local scour here back in 1916 (photo, courtesy the Bourke family), and during much of the 20th century there were scouring facilities and a large woollen mill at the northern end of the harbour.



The Wellington laboratory was moved to purpose-built premises in 1990, with laboratory accreditation to ISO Guide 25 (now ISO 17025) achieved in the same year. The first commercial Length After Carding test line, together with certification of the management system to ISO 9002 accomplished in 1993; and Length and Strength testing, together with an intensive programme of laboratory systems streamlining carried out through 1995. In 1996 the Timaru laboratory became the first in the world to be accredited to ISO Guide 25 (now ISO 17025) for fleece testing. Improvement processes continued through the second half of the 1990's with upgrading and streamlining of

laboratory systems and computer and communications systems.

At the turn of the millennium we became more heavily involved in on-farm sampling and testing. In 2000, we brought online a new generation of computer systems that improved the services and communication options, and in 2nd decade of the 21st century the systems were moved onto a cloud-based platform, which allowed integration with online sales and client-facing facilities [WTS Online Store](#). By 2020 we were undertaking testing for clients in over 20 countries, and also took over the principal business streams of Yocom-McColl Laboratories in USA.



#### FOR INQUIRIES

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