Farm
Australia produces some of the highest quality wool in the world. The EU requires that wool is produced in a way that ensures adequate risk control i.e. sheep are free from disease such as foot and mouth disease.

Shearing
Wool is shorn by a professional shearer and is classed by a professional wool classer. Wool is then put into bales of similar types and quality, ensuring integrity through the supply chain. These are commercial requirements.

Wool sales
At the warehouse wool bales are grouped into lots of a similar quality and sold via an auction system, private sale, or electronic sales. This process is tracked so that product origin can be traced back if required. These are commercial requirements.

Transport
Prior to shipment to the EU, a pre-sale certificate is issued which contains information regarding quality and testing. This certificate is a commercial requirement for most EU markets.

Processing and cleaning
Early stage processing of wool can occur at a stopover, when wool is on its way to the EU. The EU has number of requirements that must be met to prevent disease spread.

Inspection in country
All wool is accompanied by an importer’s declaration. This is an EU regulation. Specific countries may request an export health certificate which is issued by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Retailer
Premium wool is processed into yarn and transformed into a number of products. Some retailers may have private standards such as welfare and handling requirements of sheep before wool is shorn.

Consumer
A warm Australian woolly jumper can be proudly sold and worn in the EU.

*Note NTMs are indicated in bold