# Elk & Wapiti Velvet Grading Guidelines

**ELK / WAPITI SUPREME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EW1</th>
<th>EW1S</th>
<th>EW1M</th>
<th>EW1LT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Long Top</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outgrown</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Weight</td>
<td>3 kg</td>
<td>2.5 kg</td>
<td>2 kg</td>
<td>3.5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Circumference</td>
<td>21 cm</td>
<td>21 cm</td>
<td>21 cm</td>
<td>21 - 31 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Length</td>
<td>21 cm</td>
<td>21 cm</td>
<td>21 cm</td>
<td>21 - 31 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Length</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
<td>3.5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**New Zealand Industry Agreed**

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**Notes on Measurements**

- **Circumference**
  - Circumference is taken as the lesser measurement of the circumference of the beam measured on the clear beam:
    - immediately above the trez tyne,
    - midway point between the top of the bez tyne and the top of the trez tyne.
  - *Clear* means that the measurement is not to be taken where webbing from a tyne or other growth on the antler would interfere with the measurement.
  - The objective is to get a measurement representative of the average circumference of the beam.

- **Top Length**
  - Top length is measured between the top of the stick and the bottom of the fork where the trez meets the beam.

- **Overall Length**
  - Overall length is measured from the top of the stick to the top of the inside cut.

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**Animal Welfare**

Velvet removal is a Controlled Surgical Procedure and may only be performed by a Vet, or an approved person under the National Velvetting Standards Body programme. Phone 04 473 4500 for more information.

Illegal velvet removal is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

**Hygiene**

Remember - velvet is a health food and should be handled and stored in a clean and hygienic manner.

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**Damage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Long Top</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outgrown</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairable skin damage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken bottom tynes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non repairable skin damage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broken beam or trez</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Notes**

- EW velvet may be downgraded for poor conformation including excessive overall length regardless of time of cutting.
  - (1) Indentation of Elk & Wapiti Supreme antlers must not be excessive so as to retain the overall quality and balance throughout the whole antler.
  - (2) Recommended Minimum Weight only.

- Top length for EW1 increases in proportion with circumference. Examples:
  - Circumference of 19 cm = Top Length of 21 cm.
  - Circumference of 19.5 cm = Top Length of 21.5 cm.

- Slight indenting in EW Short, Medium and Long Top may not necessarily be downgraded, but must be in balance and not overgrown.

- Elk/Wapiti Outgrown contains EW grade velvet which exceeds desired indentation or maximum top lengths.
  - This grade may be divided when offered for sale to account for different styles of EWOG velvet within the grade.
  - Other damaged velvet downgraded at grader discretion.

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**Measurement Points**

- Circumference
- Top length
- Overall length

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