



I.S. 256 : 1983

IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION

SHEEP FENCING WIRE AND  
SHEEP FENCING MADE THEREFROM

INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL  
RESEARCH & STANDARDS  
DUBLIN 9  
IRELAND



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**SHEEP FENCING WIRE  
AND SHEEP FENCING MADE THEREFROM**

**I.S. 256 : 1983**

**Price Code E**

**INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND STANDARDS**

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DECLARATION  
OF  
SPECIFICATION  
ENTITLED  
SHEEP FENCING WIRE  
AND SHEEP FENCING MADE THEREFROM

AS

THE IRISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR

SHEEP FENCING WIRE  
AND SHEEP FENCING MADE THEREFROM

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The Institute for Industrial Research and Standards in exercise of the power conferred by Section 20 of the Industrial Research and Standards Act, 1961 (No. 20 of 1961), and with the consent of the Minister for Industry and Energy, hereby declares as follows:

1. This instrument may be cited as the Standard Specification (Sheep Fencing Wire and Sheep Fencing made therefrom) Declaration, 1983.
2. (1) The Specification set forth in the Schedule to this declaration is hereby declared to be the standard specification for Sheep Fencing Wire and Sheep Fencing made therefrom.  
(2) The said standard specification may be cited as Irish Standard 256 : 1983 or as I.S. 256 : 1983.

## SCHEDULE

### SHEEP FENCING WIRE AND SHEEP FENCING MADE THEREFROM

#### 1. SCOPE

This specification covers requirements for woven sheep fencing wire and for fencing made therefrom. The wire shall be manufactured from plain galvanized mild or high tensile steel.

#### 2. SHEEP FENCING WIRE

##### 2.1 General

The wire used in the manufacture of the fencing shall be galvanized high tensile steel or galvanized mild steel in the annealed condition, of good uniform quality, circular in cross-section and free from surface irregularities. Where welds are formed in the wire before the final galvanizing operation, all relevant provisions of this specification shall apply to such welds. It shall not contain welds made after the galvanizing treatment.

##### 2.2 Dimensions

The nominal diameters of the finished galvanized wires and the allowable diameter tolerances are shown in Table 1. The diameter shall be determined by taking two measurements at right angles to each other at each of three positions along a length of not less than 250 mm and the average of these 6 measurements shall be taken as the diameter of the wire.

##### 2.3 Mechanical properties

The tensile strength of galvanized wire when tested by the method prescribed in ISO 89 : 1974\* shall be as detailed in Table 1. In addition galvanized wire shall be capable of withstanding close wrapping for at least six turns around a wire of its own diameter and subsequent unwrapping, without fracture of the steel.

##### 2.4 Galvanized quality

A continuous even coating of zinc shall be applied either by the electrolytic process or by the hot dip process using spelter with a zinc content of at least 98.5% by weight. The weight of zinc coating when determined in accordance with ISO 1460 : 1973\* shall nowhere be less than the values shown in Table 1. The zinc coating shall be able to withstand the number of dips in standard Preece test solution detailed in Table 1. The Preece test shall be performed and assessed in accordance with the method specified in British Standard 443 : 1969\*. The zinc coating shall remain firmly adherent to the steel after the wire has been close wound at least six times around a wire of its own diameter and shall not crack or flake to such an extent that flakes of zinc may be removed from it by light rubbing.

\* See Appendix A, "Reference Standards".

4.

## 2.5 Manufacturer's tests

The manufacturer shall satisfy himself by regular tests and inspections that the wire complies with the requirements set out in the above clauses and shall keep proper records for examination by the purchaser of any fencing made therefrom. If required by the purchaser, he shall furnish a certificate that the wire complies with the requirements of this specification.

## 3. SHEEP FENCING

### 3.1 Material

The fencing shall be fabricated from galvanized wire complying with Clause 2 of this specification. When all the horizontal wires are of high-tensile steel the fencing may be designated 'high-tensile' wire fencing.

### 3.2 Classification

Two classes of sheep fencing are provided for in this specification, as follows:

(a) Medium duty fencing: In medium-duty fencing the top and bottom horizontal wire shall be of diameters  $\geq 3.15$  mm and the intermediate horizontal wires and vertical wires shall be  $\geq 2.5$  mm in diameter.

(b) Light duty fencing: In light-duty fencing the top and bottom horizontal wires shall be of diameters not less than 2.8 mm and the intermediate horizontal and vertical wires shall not be less than 2.00 mm in diameter.

Further particulars of sheep wire fencing normally available in Ireland are given in the NOTES TO USERS.

### 3.3 Dimensions and construction

Each roll of fencing shall have a minimum width of 60 cm and a minimum length of 50 m. It shall be constructed of line (horizontal) wires and vertical wires firmly and securely jointed together in an approved manner at each intersection such that dislocation or lateral shifting of the joints is resisted. One acceptable method of jointing is the hinged joint with a crimp on either side to restrict movement of the joint. The distance between these crimps shall not exceed 55 mm. Some alternative methods are illustrated in 'NOTES TO USERS'. Fencing shall contain a minimum of six line wires. Vertical wires shall be spaced not more than 15 cm apart and a minimum of 4 line wires shall be contained in the bottom 35 cm. The maximum allowable spacing between any two adjacent line wires shall be 20 cm.

### 3.4 Securing

When securing the fencing to supporting stakes, etc., good quality durable staples or other fasteners shall be employed. The wire shall not be damaged in the securing process. Advice on the straining and securing procedures for wire fencing is presented in 'NOTES TO USERS'.

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