

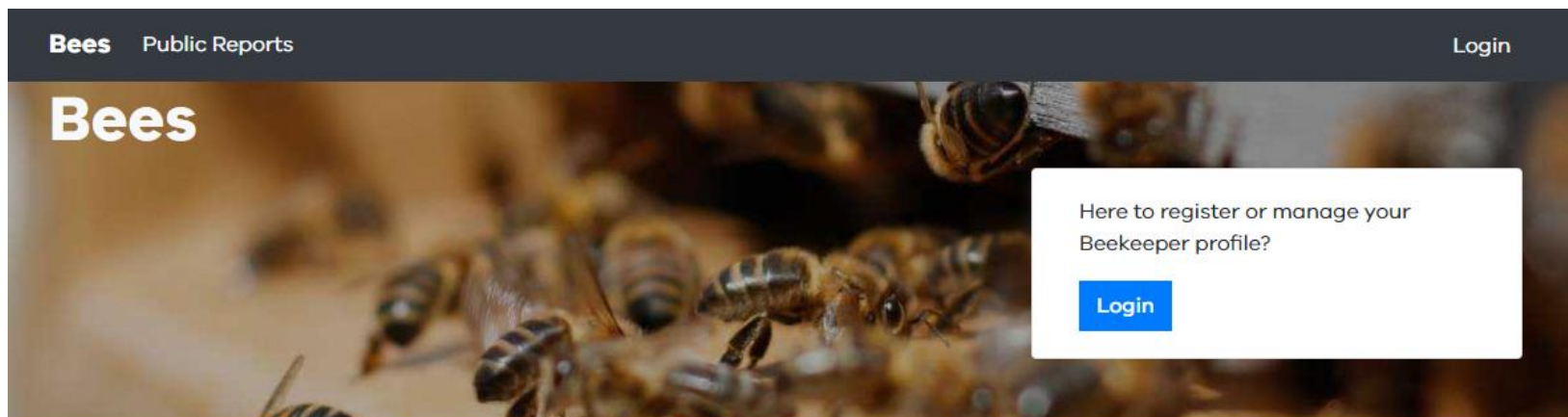


Honey Bee Biosecurity Code of Practice

Mornington Peninsula Beekeepers Association – Zoom Meeting – Sept 2020

New online platform - BeeMax

Victoria's new beekeeper registration and surveillance system



For assistance call the Bee Registration Helpline on 1800 356 761 between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday

Renewing your registration?

Already have a Victorian Beekeeping Brand?

If you have received notification that your beekeeping registration is due for renewal, please click on the link below for instructions on how to complete the renewal process.

[Instructions on how to renew](#)

Registering as a new Beekeeper?

Haven't yet got a Victorian Registration. Start here!

Whether you are a new beekeeper wanting to register or have moved here from interstate, the link below will help guide you through the process of registering to be a Victorian beekeeper.

[Instructions on how to register](#)



New online portal - BeeMax

- Sharing information faster and easier
- Improves reporting and analysis
- Together we can protect our industry
- Diary functionality - one stop shop to record all your biosecurity activities and observations

Creating an account is free, quick and easy to use visit

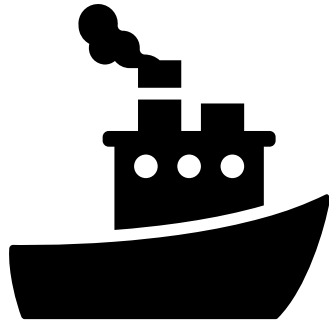
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bees

or log in:

<https://bees.agriculture.vic.gov.au/>



Apiary Inspectors



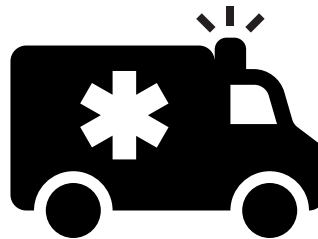
Surveillance at
ports



Reduce the spread
of pests & diseases



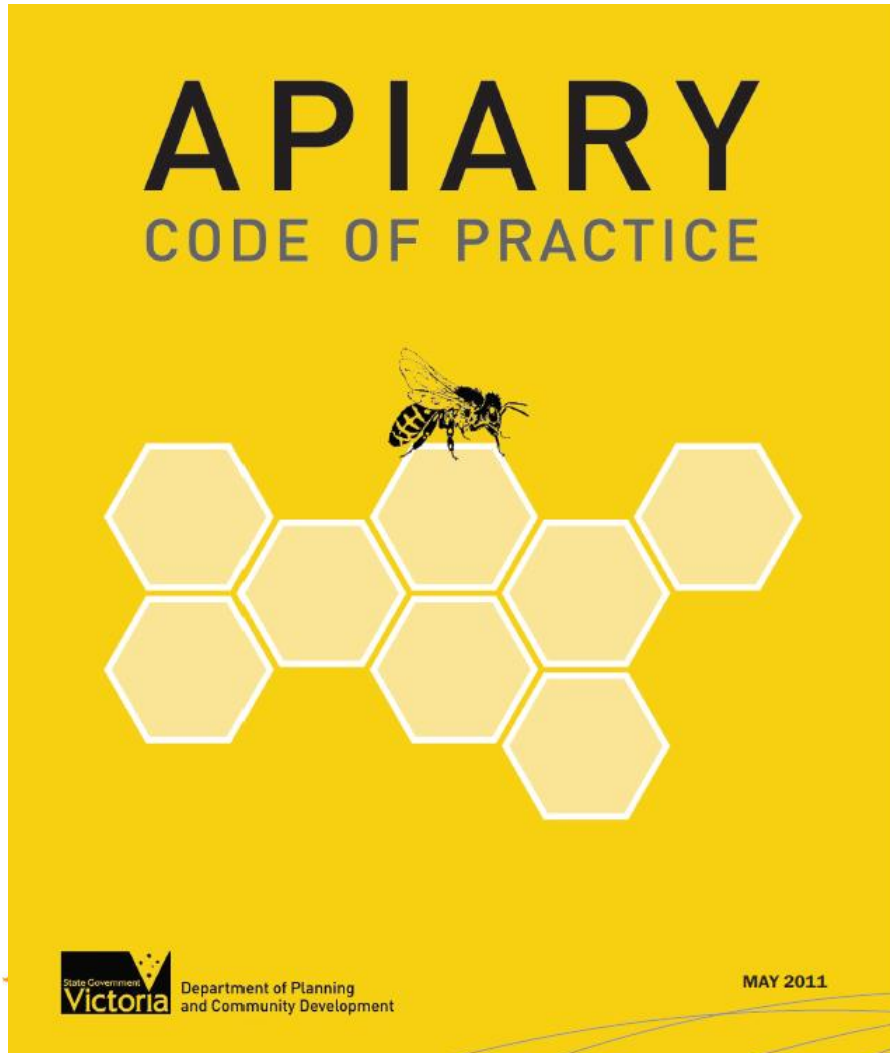
Ensuring
compliance



Emergency
preparedness
and response



Apiary Code of Practice

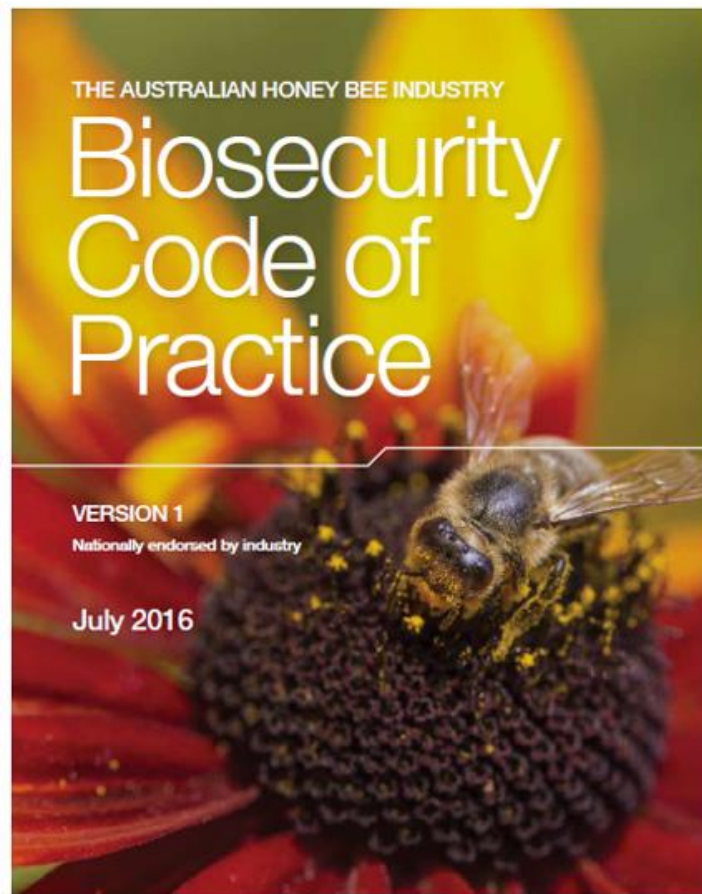


- Registration
- Swarm prevention
- Water
- # hives?
- Distance from boundary

National Bee Biosecurity Program

Bee Biosecurity Officer

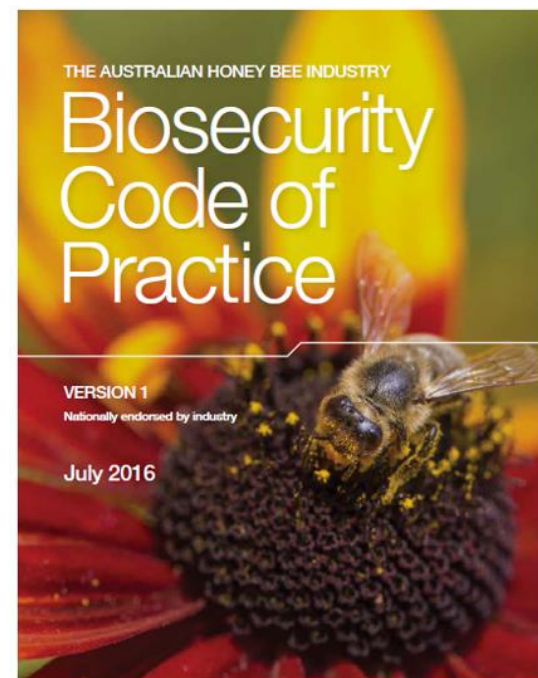
#BBOsince2016



Australian Honeybee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice

The honeybee industry developed the code of practice for three main reasons:

1. To assist beekeepers manage biosecurity more effectively
2. Improve the ability of beekeepers to manage endemic disease, such as AFB
3. Provide beekeepers with the skills to conduct surveillance for exotic bee pests and disease, such as Varroa



beeaware.org.au

Livestock Disease Control Act (LDCA) 1994 & Regulations

LDCA

Division 5--Bees

- [48.](#) Registration of beekeepers
- [49.](#) Biennial fees
- [49A.](#) [Secretary](#) may cancel registration if fee not paid
- [50.](#) [Hives](#) to be marked with registered brand
- [51.](#) Disposal and acquisition of [hives](#)
- [52.](#) Exposure of bees to infected articles etc.
- [53.](#) Access of bees to honey etc.

LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL REGULATIONS 2017

Division 5—Bees

- [73.](#) Hives to be marked with registered brand
- [74.](#) Disposal and acquisition of hives
- [74A.](#) Visual examination of hives for disease
- [74B.](#) Testing of hives for arthropod bee disease
- [74C.](#) Testing for the presence of American foulbrood disease
- [74D.](#) Action taken to control disease in a hive
- [74E.](#) Hives that no longer contain a colony of bees
- [74F.](#) Action taken to strengthen a weak hive
- [74G.](#) Abandonment of hives
- [74H.](#) Bees, hives and beekeeping fittings no longer required for beekeeping
- [74I.](#) Offence to sterilise or destroy hives or beekeeping fittings infected with American foulbrood disease before notifying an inspector
- [74J.](#) Sale or use of hives or beekeeping fittings that have been infected with American foulbrood disease
- [74K.](#) Offence to wax dip certain items that have been infected with American foulbrood disease
- [74L.](#) Offence to use antibiotics to treat hives infected with American foulbrood disease
- [74M.](#) Construction of hives
- [74N.](#) Swarm catch boxes
- [74O.](#) Bees to have access to water
- [74P.](#) Records to be kept in relation to beekeeping



Ally's Top 8



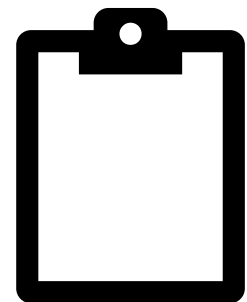
Bee registered

1 or more hives must be registered.

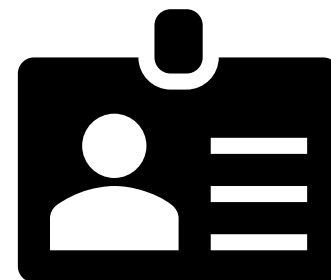
Registration is free for 0 – 5 hives

6 - 50 hives is \$30

51+ hives is \$0.60 per hive.



Constructed and branded



Burn, stencil, paint, endorse, stamp, carve or etch the letters / figures of the brand, not less than 19 millimetres in height.



Report notifiable diseases

AgVic website: notifiable-bee-pests-and-diseases

Immediately

All the exotics, like Varroa, Africanised bees,
Tracheal mite, Deformed wing virus etc

Notify Exotic Plant Pest Hotline: 1800 084 881



Within 12 hours

AFB & Braula fly

Notify Apiary Officers

Within 7 days

Chalk brood, EFB & Nosema

Notify Apiary Officers



Inspect for pests and diseases



A beekeeper must test one hive per apiary, kept by the beekeeper, for the presence of arthropod bee disease 2 or more times in any 12-month period, with a minimum of 4 months between 2 tests.

(2) A beekeeper must test for arthropod bee disease under sub regulation (1) by using the drone uncapping method and —

- (a) the sugar shake method; or
- (b) the alcohol wash method.



Create a habit now – start looking



Varroa Surveillance - Sugar Shake



Photo 2. Shake some bees from 3 combs on to newspaper



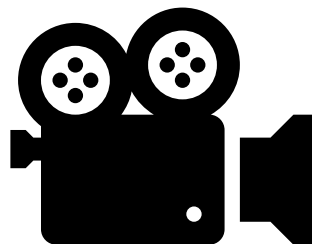
Photo 4. Gently shake the sugar into the bucket containing water



Photo 3. Pour about half a cup of bees into the jar



Keep records



1. Date of inspections
2. Strength of hive
3. Any pests or disease found and action taken to manage
4. Hive movement
5. Introduce any additional bees or used hives/components into your apiary
6. Biosecurity related training

**Keep
records
=
3 years**



**FOR ALL
BEEKEEPERS**

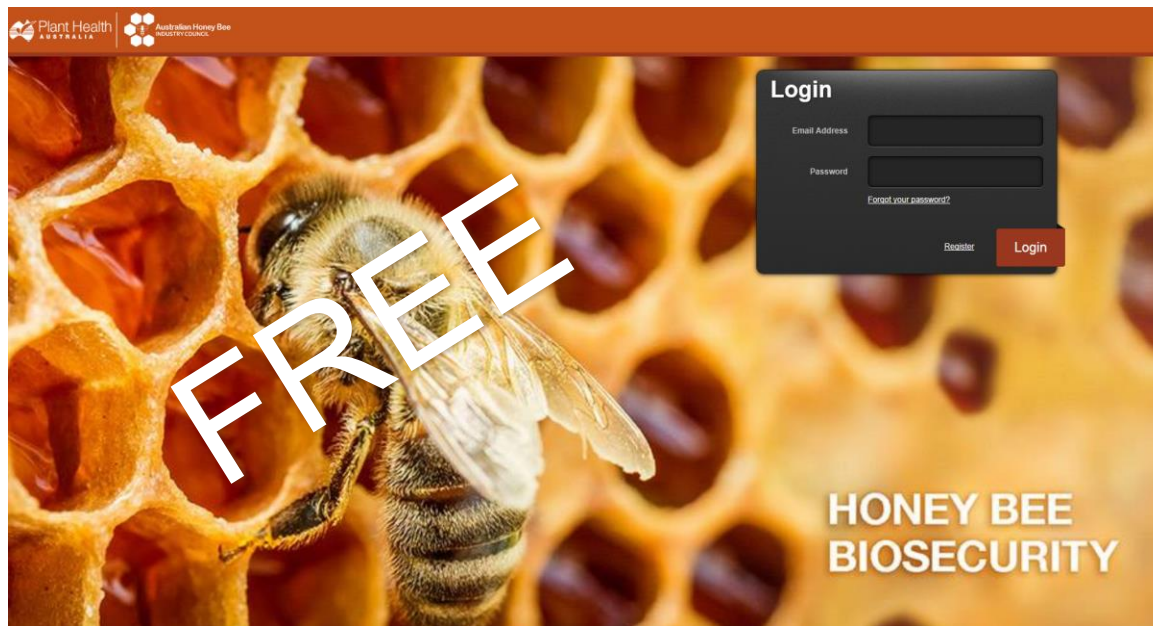




Knowledge of pest and disease



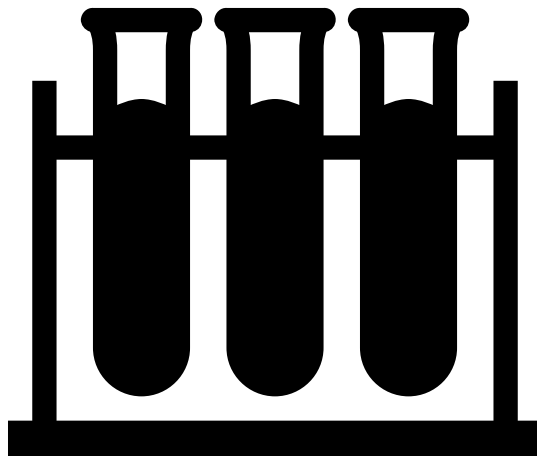
Biosecurity for Beekeepers Course (BOLT)



Visit Plant Health Australia website



Honey test annually for American Foulbrood



Honey testing

1. Honey Culture Tests (100ml) can detect AFB spores in honey
2. Gribbles Veterinary Pathology – Phone: **1300 307 190**
3. Cost is approx. \$50 + GST
4. Lab results are sent to the Department and recorded
5. + AFB results can alert beekeepers to disease issues
6. Early warning of disease issues



AFB larval smears

Gribbles Pathology – Phone: **1300 307 190**



Recommended

Maintain a barrier system

Reduce the risk of spreading pests and diseases within and between apiaries.

Steps to take:

1. Create sub-division of hives – site/numbers/colours
2. Minimise the misplacement of components between sub-divisions
3. Train your buddy/family/employees
4. Record-keeping and documentation
5. Procedure for introducing swarms



Barrier management systems alone are not a replacement for good beekeeping and good pest monitoring and management.

Almond pollination preparation



Almond pollination preparation

- Is your registration current?
- Is your brand clearly marked on all your hives?
- Ensure all hives are structurally sound, have intact external surfaces, and only have openings that are designed specifically for bee access.
- Inspect your brood regularly to check for pests and diseases. Remove any diseased or substandard hives from your load.
- Test for exotic parasites (such as varroa mite) via drone uncapping and either the sugar shake or alcohol wash methods.
- Maintain records of your inspections, tests, observations and actions (such as movement) as they relate to your hives.
- Complete your annual 2020 honey culture test.
- To demonstrate to your broker or grower that you are compliant with the Code, provide them with a copy of your completed and signed '[Certification of Compliance](#)' document.



honeybee.biosecurity@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Joe Riordan

Senior Apiary Inspector

M: 0417 348 457

Paige McDonald

Leading Apiary Inspector

M: 0437 798 148

Nikki Jones

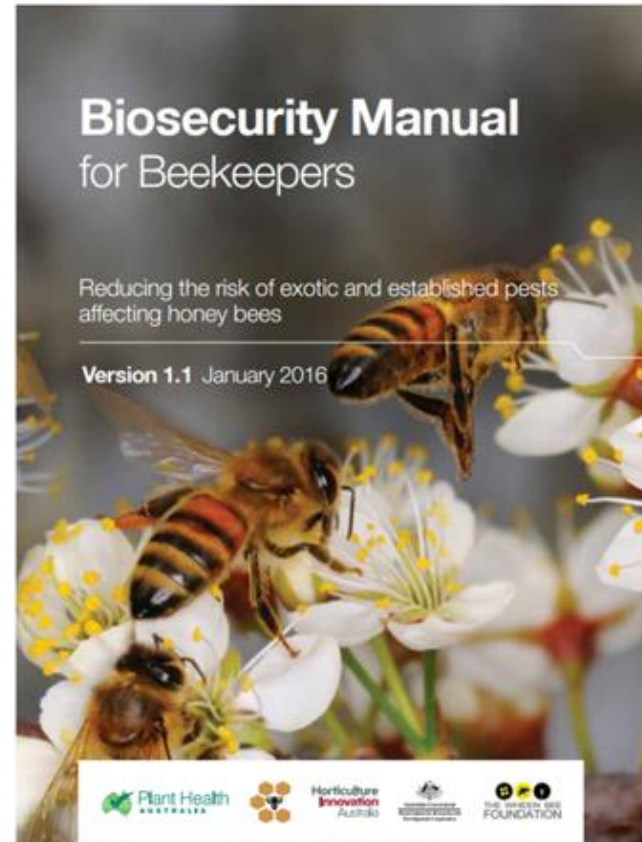
Apiary Inspector

M: 0428 617 071

Ally Driessen

Bee Biosecurity Officer

M: 0436 819 350



**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

1800 084 881

What is honey bee biosecurity?

Watch this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ylg4qjJ8cH4&feature=youtu.be>

Top 10 - Good Biosecurity Quick Tips

1. Early detection = faster control and minimal spread
2. Wear clean clothes
3. Disinfect hive tool between each hive – remove comb, wax, honey
4. Be aware of where you purchase equipment, frames, queens, bees
5. Irradiate second-hand equipment
6. Implement a barrier system
7. Wash down honey extraction equipment
8. Do not leave boxes, frames, honey exposed in sheds
9. Keep records
10. Regular Honey Testing

