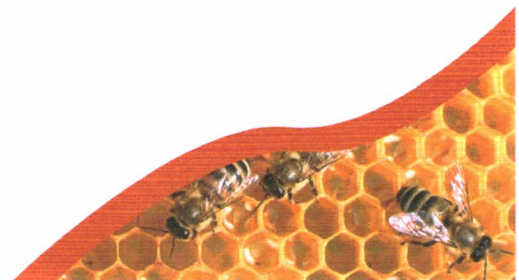


THE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
AMERICAN FOULBROOD NATIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Policy Document

- Policy Number:** AFB/22/0/11 – 007
- Policy Title:** **Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA)**
- Legislation:** Clauses 37 and 38 of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) 1998 as amended by clause 17 of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Amendment Order 2013 (SR 2013/311)
- Scope:** The Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement is a formal agreement between the beekeeper and the Management Agency. The agreement sets out a “code of beekeeping practice” to ensure the incidence of AFB in hives will reduce to the lowest possible level.
- The Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement is tailored to meet each beekeeper’s particular circumstances and can be reviewed as changes take place.
- It is the Management Agency’s goal to ensure as many beekeepers as possible hold a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement.
- Policy:** The registered beekeeper must have kept bees for a period of no less than 12 months before applying for a Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement. The registered beekeeper in that 12 month period is encouraged to attend local beekeeping club open days, and also sit and pass AFB Recognition Course/ Exam during that time
- The Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement status will allow the beekeeper to inspect his/her hives only.
- At the completion of 2 years of practical beekeeping the registered beekeeper will be encouraged to sit a refresher course, thus enabling him/her to undertake COI inspections for other beekeepers hives.



**Exemption:** An exemption to these requirements may be granted by the AFB PMP Management Board upon application under certain circumstances.

**Effective Date:** This policy will become effective from 20 January 2017

**Review Date:** 20 January 2018

  
John Hartnell  
Chairman AFB PMP Board of Management

20.1.17

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### Explanation

The AFB PMP plan rules state:

'the management agency is **satisfied**—

- (i) that the practices and procedures set out in the agreement are, if carried out, sufficient to reduce or maintain at zero the overall annual rate of American foulbrood cases in beehives owned by the beekeeper; and
- (ii) the beekeeper is likely to implement the practices and procedures set out in the agreement; and
- (iii) the persons named in the agreement as responsible for disease management are sufficiently familiar with and are suitable persons to supervise or carry out the practices and procedures specified in the agreement.
- The Management Agency (MA) has enough evidence to support the fact that many new entrant beekeepers despite passing the disease recognition exam are not actually that confident in correct American foulbrood diagnosis. The Management Agency is also not confident that they have sufficient experience/skill to carry out their obligations until they have some actual field experience. Having a years practical experience managing their own hives plus having another person do the Certificate of Inspection on their behalf in that first year should ensure the person has the required skill.
- Signing a Certificate of Inspection on behalf of another beekeeper puts the onus of ethical and statutory responsibility onto that person. The Management Agency requires that the certifying beekeeper must be sufficiently experienced to undertake this role. This is why the Management Agency has instigated a two year stand down period and a refresher course to ensure that the person has sufficient knowledge and skills to sign a statutory declaration on behalf of others with integrity.
- This would be analogous to the graduated drivers licence process.