

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **How long do I have to be registered before I can complete the AFB Recognition Course and test?**

There are no set timeframes for when beekeepers must be registered prior to attending the Recognition Course however, you are unable to apply for a DECA until you have been registered for at least 12 months as well as meeting the other criteria set out in the process sheet. It is not essential for every person attending a course to eventually become a DECA holder.

### **I have completed the AFB Recognition Course and test, am I DECA holder?**

Sitting the course and passing the test is just one part of the process in becoming a DECA holder. You must also be registered for at least 12 months and must be fully compliant with AFB rules during this time. Please refer to our [process chart](#) for further clarification.

### **I have failed the test, what happens now?**

There is no cost to sit the AFB Recognition Test a second time. You will have a stand down period of ten days before an email will be sent to you inviting you to sit the test again.

### **I am studying Apiculture and need to attend an AFB Recognition Course as part of my course work.**

Please contact [training@afb.org.nz](mailto:training@afb.org.nz) with your student ID, full name, and postal address.

### **I am pretty confident in my knowledge of AFB, can I sit the test without a course?**

Yes you can, you can either sit the test online or find a proctor to supervise you taking the test. If you take the proctor option, a paper test will be posted to the proctor you have selected, and they send this back to us on the completion of the test. You must allow at least a week for the paper test to arrive in the mail to your proctor. You must contact [training@afb.org.nz](mailto:training@afb.org.nz) to provide contact information on who your proctor will be.

### **Now that I'm a DECA holder, how long do I have to wait before I can inspect hives for other beekeepers to sign their COI forms?**

You must have at least 12 months experience of being a DECA holder before you are eligible to sign off COI forms for other beekeepers

### **I have been a DECA holder for several years, how often should I attend a refresher?**

DECA holders are encouraged to attend an AFB Recognition Refresher every two years in order to remain up to date with the signs and symptoms of AFB.

### **Everyone talks about the "yellow book", what is this and do I have to buy it?**

We encourage every beekeeper to have a copy of the yellow book which can be [purchased online](#) via Apiculture New Zealand. It is an essential tool for beekeepers in learning to recognise AFB. It is strongly recommended you purchase and study this book prior to attending an AFB Recognition Course.

### **Classroom based AFB Recognition course vs an Online Recognition course**

Being able to attend the course and complete the test online will provide great convenience and accessibility to those that are unable to, or find it difficult to, attend our in-classroom courses. Being online means you can work through the online components at a time that is best for you and your lifestyle. If you are familiar with a computer and enjoy online learning, this is a good option for you. The test is online at the completion of the course material so you will know immediately if you have passed or not.

Classroom based courses will (where possible) have an AFB infected frame available so you can see first hand what AFB looks and smells like. Being in a classroom setting means you will meet beekeepers from your region and can share experiences. Our knowledgeable trainers can answer any questions you may have and help you in the areas of AFB which you may not fully understand. The test is a paper copy which is posted away for marking so there is a delay in knowing if you passed. However, anyone with language, learning and reading concerns can bring a support person with them to the course.