

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the AP2 role.

What is the average apiary size I would be inspecting (in terms of hive numbers)?

For hobbyist apiaries is 2 hives for commercial apiaries it depends on the part of the country you are based. It could be 15 hives or up to 50 hives. If apiaries are larger than 20 hives we usually sent two AP2s to work together or ask the beekeeper to help the inspector to carry out the inspection. Depending on AP2 physical location the commercial: Hobbyists apiaries ratio would range from 70:30 to 30:70

What is the likely return journey time to reach the typical apiary locations that I may have to inspect within my region?

You will typically work within 50km of your home.

We expect you to carry out full day of inspections whenever possible (weather permitting) rather than half days.

For how many months during the year are the inspections required? Do you have specific windows?

The inspection season is different depending on your physical location in New Zealand.

We don't usually carry out inspections in the middle of the honey season (when supers are on) or in the middle of the winter (when the temperature drops below 10 degrees Celsius)

As a reference: in Canterbury the inspection season goes typically from late February to end of May and From August to the end of November.

What weather conditions we need to have to carry out AFB inspections?

We don't inspect colonies if the temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius. As a rule of thumb if the bees are flying, we can carry out the inspections.

Will the apiary locations be advised in advance to allow for planning and scheduling of inspections? What is the notice period?

Typically, you will be issued inspections with a 30-day timeframe to complete.

On special occasions you will have to complete inspections at shorter notice, for instance if addressing an AFB outbreak.

Your allocated inspections come with a map showing all the apiaries you need to visit within the month. Then you can choose the most efficient way to deliver the job for us.

Is AP2 training to be scheduled to cover any standard operating procedures that are required as a representative of the agency?

We will provide a one-day theory training on the Biosecurity Act and inspection etiquette. Then you will be trained on the job while completing some inspections with an experienced Senior AP2 in your area.

Also, we carry out annual refresher and Calibration training during the winter months, usually somewhere with easy access in the North Island (Auckland or Wellington).

Finally, the Operations Manager will also spend time in the field with each of the AP2 at least once a year to ensure calibration among AP2s throughout the country to ensure everyone is following the agreed inspection protocol.

Is the Management Agency going to supply me with any safety gear?

No, as a contractor you are responsible for supplying your own safety gear.

When I am expected to get paid?

Your invoices must be submitted to the Agency together with all supporting documents as soon as the inspections are completed. Invoices are usually approved for payment within a week and paid on the 20th of the month. Invoices submitted for approval after the 15th of the Month will be paid on the following month.

What would I do if conditions change, and I am not being able to deliver the allocated inspections?

You will notify the Operations Manager immediately, so that all or part of these inspections are re-allocated to another AP2.

Can I use any information gained through carrying out AP2 activities for any other purpose than for completing the job assigned to me?

As an Authorised Person you will have access to privileged confidential information about beekeepers and their hive locations, and this must not be used for your own financial gain or disclosed to any other party except us and the Agency's approved contractors.