

16 September 2024

Below are some Frequently asked questions (FAQs) we receive occasionally.

**FAQ 1: “How does the Management Agency define a neglected apiary?”**

A: The Management Agency’s definition of a neglected apiary is not necessarily related to the length of overgrown grass. Signs of multiple dead outs being accessible to bees, frames glued to boxes or breaking apart during inspection strongly suggests there has been no beekeeping activity at that site for an extended period. The Management Agency follows the Apiary Condition Assessment Key when defining a good, poor, or neglected apiary (below).

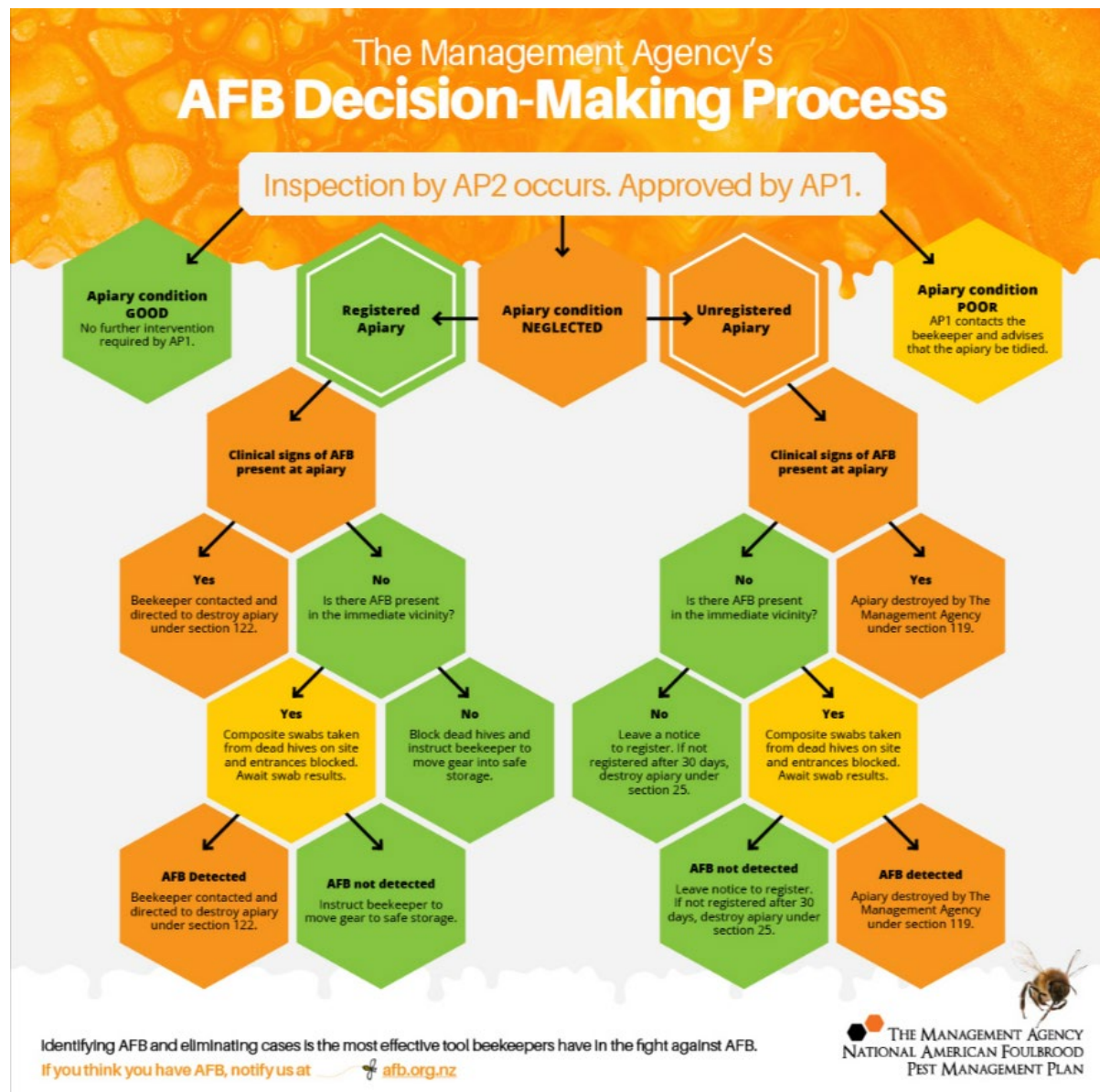
## Apiary Condition Assessment Key

Apiary Condition	All hives populated	Dead outs present	Hive ware	Frame condition
Good	Yes / No	If present, dead outs are properly blocked.	Tidy and well maintained.	Frames easy to remove.
Poor	No	Multiple dead outs on site, some accessible to bees.	Some hives well maintained, others in state of disrepair.	Frames not easy to inspect.
Neglected	No	Multiple dead outs, no evidence of beekeeping activity for extended period. Dead outs accessible to bees.	Grass overgrown, hives in state of disrepair.	Visual inspection is difficult or impossible to complete due to frames glued to boxes or frame deterioration.

Identifying AFB and eliminating cases is the most effective tool beekeepers have in the fight against AFB.  
If you think you have AFB, notify us at [afb.org.nz](mailto:afb.org.nz)

## FAQ 2: “What does the Management Agency do when it comes across a neglected apiary?”

A: There are a few steps within our decision-making process for neglected apiaries. Please see the flowchart below for further information. If in doubt, please give us our Operations Managers a ring on 0800 232 767.



### **FAQ 3: “Other countries use vaccines and antibiotics for AFB. Why can’t we do the same here in New Zealand?”**

A: The use of antibiotics and vaccines is not what the industry has said it wants to do. There are a few reasons why we don’t use vaccines or antibiotics in New Zealand:

- 1 Clause 14 of the AFB NPMP prohibits the use of any drugs or substance that could mask or obscure the symptoms of AFB. The use of vaccines would require the amendment of TWO pieces of legislation: the AFB NPMP and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (ACVM).
- 2 Our honey exports are considered high value due to the fact New Zealand does not use vaccines or antibiotics. Use of drugs to control AFB will compromise access into high-value international markets, compromise quality, and exports and prices would drop.
- 3 The use of vaccines only provides a 30 – 50% efficacy and merely extends the period that a hive would not show symptoms. It does not mean that the entire hive is AFB-free which could lead to further disease spread by beekeepers, if they are unable to see clinical signs. These hives would still need to be burnt. Similarly, antibiotics mask the symptoms, and AFB will spread across most hives over time.

We acknowledge it is a tough thing to do, however, the burning of AFB-infected hives and associated contaminated gear continues to be the only effective and approved method of control for AFB.

### **FAQ 4: “During my walk, I have come across hives that look like they haven’t been tended to for a while. Does the Management Agency have a way of determining if it belongs to anyone?”**

A: Beekeepers are the Management Agency’s eyes & ears on the ground. We strongly recommend beekeepers to report all apiaries and hives that appear abandoned or neglected, through the ‘Report Non-Compliance’ button on HiveHub or by giving us a call. We can check the GPS location against our records to advise if it is a registered site and contact the owner accordingly.

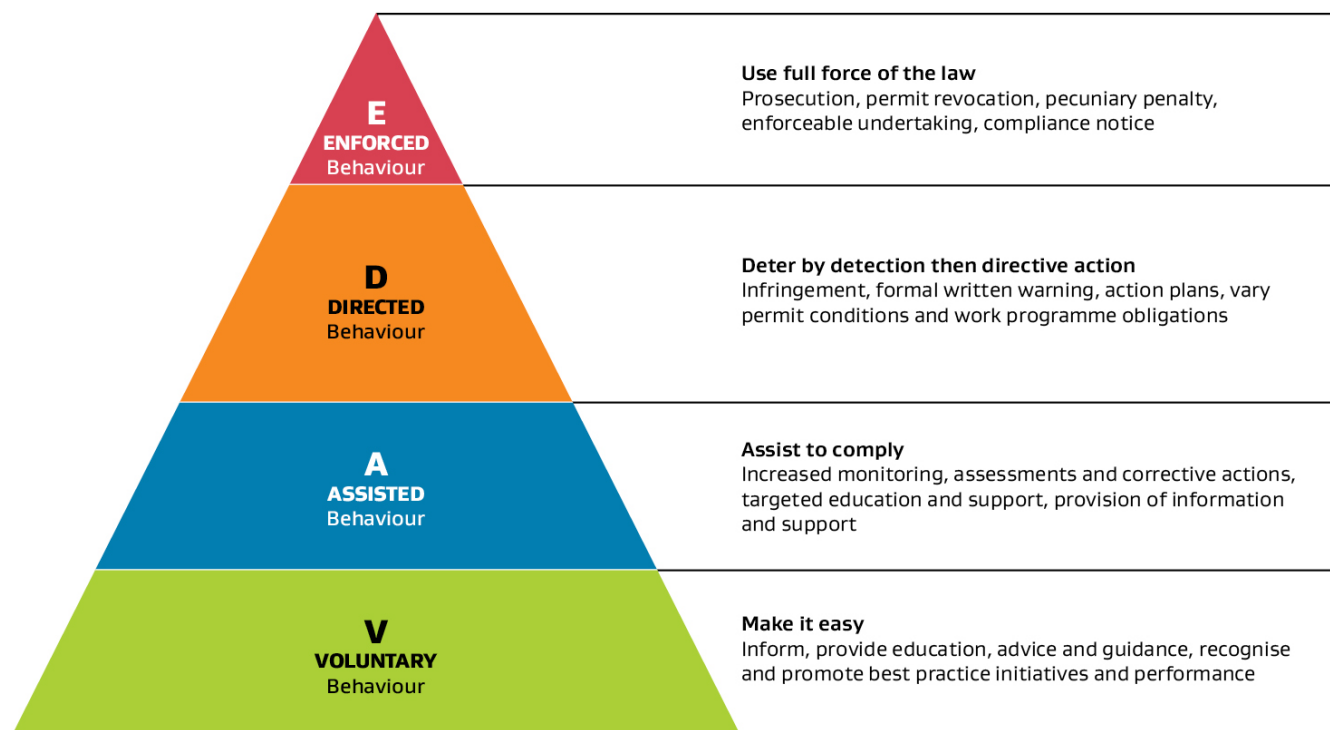
### **FAQ 5: What are the reasons an Authorised Person (AP2) would want to inspect my apiaries? Below are some of the reasons why we would deploy an AP2:**

When AFB was reported in the immediate vicinity of your apiary

- When incidences of AFB are increasing within your operation and we suspect this is due to AFB mismanagement.
- When we received a report of a potential breach to the AFB NPMP.
- When you had AFB in your apiary within the last three years and we want to confirm that AFB has been successfully eliminated.
- When we found three or more AFB cases of AFB in one of your apiaries.
- For witnessing compliance with a Notice of Destruction issued by an AP1.

## FAQ 6: Does the Management Agency always use compliance actions on all beekeepers?

A: The Management Agency follows the VADE compliance model which helps us decide what the best tool is to use for achieving positive behavioural change and compliance with the NPMP rules. This is based on a beekeeper's compliance history and the level of engagement with us. Please refer to the diagram below:



### What this look likes:

#### V - Voluntary behaviour tools (making it easy to comply)

Providing targeted information:

- Website
- Presentations
- Newsletters

Simplifying systems

- Making systems & processes easier for complying with NPMP rules
- HiveHub guidance, flowcharts

Active monitoring and detection of non-compliance, prior to a breach occurring

#### A – Assisted behaviour tools (helping to comply)

- Encouraging early reporting and early disclosure.
- Request for information
- Inspections (announced/unannounced)
- Auditing compliance with NPMP rules or DECA

**D - Directed behaviour tools (warning and direct action to fix non-compliance)**

- Use of Powers (Notices of Direction, s122)
- Formal written warnings identifying non-compliance
- Infringement fines (post-Ministerial approval in 2025)

**E - Enforced behaviour tools (using the full force of the law)**

- Least preferred.
- Prosecution
- Penalties