

DECA – Frequently Asked Questions

Why is my DECA being revoked/cancelled?

By entering into a DECA, a beekeeper makes a legal commitment with the Management Agency to eliminate AFB from their beehives by not only following all the rules of the AFB NPMP but by also carrying out the AFB elimination procedures/practices that are specified in the Agreement. This means that DECA holders need to put in more effort into being deliberate about AFB elimination from their operations.

The Management Agency regularly monitors beekeepers compliance with their DECAs. If a beekeeping operation has been classed as ‘high risk’ and multiple non-compliances are identified, then the Management Agency will revoke the DECA. A beekeeping operation is classified as high risk if inspection of their beehives by an authorised person confirms clinical AFB in greater than or equal to 10% of a beekeeper’s hives and at least three AFB cases are detected. Such operations pose a high risk of AFB to the hives owned by neighbouring beekeepers.

Other reasons for revoking DECAs include:

1. Failure to comply with a s122 Notice of Direction issued by an Authorised Person.
2. Reasonable suspicion of a DECA holder making a false statement on another beekeeper’s Certificate of Inspection.
3. Three or more separate breaches of the DECA within a 12 month period. This includes non-compliance with the AFB NPMP rules.

What does it mean for me if my DECA is revoked?

Before a beekeeper’s DECA is removed, they are offered a chance to respond to the findings.

Once a DECA has been revoked, the Management Agency will:

- revoke the beekeeper’s Certificate of Inspection Exemption,
- act on default of the beekeeper’s Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement under section 128 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. This means they are subject to three 6-monthly AFB inspections by AP2s which are cost-recoverable.
- inspect all hives owned by the beekeeper and either destroy or supervise the destruction of all beehives and associated materials found to be infected with clinical AFB
- assign the beekeeper’s compliance status to ‘Non-Compliant’.

The Management Agency will assess the risk that beekeeping appliances and bee products in storage are associated with cases of AFB and will follow Policy 3.3 ('Destruction of beehives and material associated with AFB') of the Operational Plan.

For more information, please refer to sections 3.4 and 3.11.3 of the Operational Plan:
[https://afb.org.nz/.../11/AFB Operational-Plan Nov2021.pdf](https://afb.org.nz/.../11/AFB%20Operational-Plan%20Nov2021.pdf)

Can I re-apply for a DECA after it has been revoked?

Revocation of a DECA is an opportunity for a beekeeper to unlearn and re-learn. We are here to support you with training and advice. Beekeepers who have their DECAs removed are offered a pathway back to obtaining the DECA, which can take a minimum of 18 months.

