

Beekeeper Registration

Conditions of Registration

Version 0.1 (December 2022)

NOTE – this document is current at the time of download or printing. Updates to this document may occur from time to time therefore beekeepers are advised to ensure they are referring to the latest version which can be accessed from the Biosecurity Tasmania website.

Background

Under the [Biosecurity Act 2019](#) (the Act), beekeeping is now considered a ‘regulated dealing’.

Under the Act a person must not engage in a regulated dealing unless they are ‘registered’.

This requirement was formalised in new [Biosecurity Regulations 2022](#) which came into effect on 2 November 2022.

Therefore, registration of beekeeping activities is now compulsory – for all Tasmanian commercial and recreational beekeepers.

Benefits of Compulsory Registration:

Improved biosecurity outcomes due to:

- Improved standards of beekeeping in Tasmania by helping to ensure that all Tasmanian beekeepers engage in best-practice biosecurity
- Improved knowledge of the locations and numbers of active hives (commercial and recreational) and key contacts of beekeepers
- Enhanced communications and engagement with beekeepers leading to increased awareness and knowledge in terms of managing endemic pests and diseases, preparedness to respond to exotic pest incursions and biosecurity emergency responses

Tasmania has some of the healthiest bees in the world and an appropriately operated registration system, for all beekeepers, will help protect this valuable biosecurity status.

Finalising the Conditions of Registration:

Biosecurity Tasmania (BT) completed both direct stakeholder engagement and public consultation in finalising the conditions of registration which underpin compulsory registration.

BT has considered the conditions of registration that currently exist in other jurisdictions. BT has also given consideration to the high value and importance of Tasmania’s apiary industry, the importance of beekeeping as a recreational pastime and the current health status of Tasmania’s bee populations.

In finalising the conditions of registration BT was acutely aware of the differing views expressed during stakeholder engagement and during the public consultation process.

The finalised conditions attempt to reflect an appropriate balance between best practice biosecurity and ensuring that the conditions are reasonable and practical for all beekeepers– including recreational beekeepers with small numbers of hives.

The primary condition to be met by registered beekeepers is adherence to the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (<https://beeaware.org.au/code-of-practice/>). This is also a condition of Tasmania’s previous voluntary registration arrangements, and has been supported by Tasmania’s peak beekeeping organisations since it was introduced in 2016.

Adherence with the Code of Practice, is a key component of Tasmania’s compulsory registration and will bring Tasmania into alignment with other jurisdictions.

There are also some Tasmanian specific conditions in relation to the Code of Practice which are outlined in the table below.

Review of the Compulsory Registration Conditions:

BT has committed to reviewing the conditions of registration with registered beekeepers every 3 years. BT will also communicate any change which may take place to the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice or the Tasmanian Foulbrood Best Management Practice Guidelines, in between the review period.

BT is also committed to further consultation before any future registration fee decisions are made.

There will be no fees for the first 2 years (from 31 March 2023).

Future Proofing of the Registration Process:

BT is currently considering several software application solutions to improve traceability and data management. Therefore, the initial online beekeeper registration form will meet basic registration requirements and may evolve over time or transition into a new system into the future.

Compulsory Registration – Conditions of Registration (finalised following public consultation):

Scope	Registration is compulsory for <u>all Tasmanian beekeepers with one or more hives</u> (commercial and recreational)
Registration period	24 months
Categories of Registration	<p>Beekeepers are able to select all applicable categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational • Recreational – concession • Honey producer • Queen bee breeder • Venom producer • Equipment supplier • Pollinator • Packer • Research • Biosecurity surveillance • Junior beekeeper (<18 yrs old) • Other (insert details) • Registering as an individual or on behalf of a business/organisation <p>Data collected under these categories is for information only and will assist with coordination of any emergency response requirements.</p>
Prescribed fees for Registration	<p>Biosecurity Tasmania is currently unable to charge statutory (prescribed fees) under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2019</i> until separate Fees and Levies Regulations are developed.</p> <p>Therefore, registration for the first 24 months will be <u>free</u>.</p> <p>It is important to note that no decision on a preferred fee structure has been made. Any future fees are likely to be broadly in-line with what is charged in other states for registration.</p> <p>Further consultation will take place before any future fee decisions are made.</p>

Use of fees and or potential levies	<p>There is no preferred model on how fees and/or levies may be used in the future.</p> <p>Use of any future fees will be determined in consultation with registered beekeepers once the Fees and Levies Regulations have been developed.</p>
Spatial and other data to be collected at initial registration or updated during re-registration	<p>A number of options are provided on the online form for beekeepers to register their contact details, primary physical address, postal address and known apiary sites for the 24-month registration period.</p> <p>If a comprehensive list of all apiary site locations cannot be provided during registration – please note the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice requirements 5.1d, 5.2 and 5.3 (pertaining to record keeping).</p> <p>Nucleus colony information is for emergency response purposes only.</p>
Conditions of Registration	<p>Beekeepers agree to adhere to the following conditions of registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement to re-register and update details every 24 months. If your situation changes significantly in terms of hive locations or hive numbers within the registration period, beekeepers are strongly encouraged to update their registration details using the online form provided. • A requirement to adhere to the Australian Honey Bee Industry Biosecurity Code of Practice (https://beeaware.org.au/code-of-practice/) which includes a <u>Certification of Compliance</u> form. • A requirement to comply with current import requirements for bees, apiary products and used apiary equipment including the General Biosecurity Direction (Emergency) • A requirement to use best efforts to ensure that any apiary products fed to bees are free from pests, diseases, or chemical contaminants. • Tasmanian specific requirements in relation to the Code (i.e. variations from the Code) that must also be noted and followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Code Requirement 2.0</u> (Reporting of Notifiable Disease) – prompt reporting on all suspect notifiable diseases however specific maximum reporting timeframes in Tasmania for American Foul Brood (AFB) and European Foul Brood (EFB), are 24 hours and 7 days, respectively.

- Code Requirement 4.0 (Disease Management) – The Tasmanian Foulbrood Best Management Practice Guideline takes precedence over this section for apiaries located in Tasmania
- Code Requirement 6.4 (Labelling of all hives):
 - In applying this Code requirement, the following transition period is proposed (applicable to all beekeepers):
 - Within 12 months from the commencement date of the compulsory registration - a requirement to have a minimum of 50% of hives clearly and legibly marked with at least the beekeeper’s allocated hive identification code (registration number). If a keeper owns just one hive, then that hive must be clearly and legibly marked with at least the hive identification code (registration number).
 - Within 24 months from the commencement date of the compulsory registration - a requirement to have 100% of hives clearly and legibly marked with at least the beekeeper’s allocated hive identification code (registration number).
 - All new hives (purchased or constructed – including second-hand hives purchased by a new owner), must be clearly and legibly marked with at least the beekeeper’s allocated hive identification code (registration number) as per Code Requirement 6.4.
 - Appropriate labelling means – at least the hive identification code displayed on an external vertical face of the hive in lettering that is:
 - Indelible; and
 - at least 25 mm high; and
 - of a contrasting colour to that face of the hive
- Code Requirement 6.5 (Swarm catch boxes) – labelling with at least the allocated hive identification code (registration number) will also be required on catch boxes for all beekeepers – this requirement will attract a 12-month transition/grace period
 - Appropriate labelling requirements – see above
- Code Requirement 9.2 (BOLT “Honey Bee Biosecurity” Training) – applies to all Tasmanian beekeepers (see training details here: <https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Biosecurity-for-beekeepers-July2020.pdf>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AFB testing in line with <u>Code Requirement 10.2</u>, however testing by all beekeepers is encouraged. ○ <u>Code Requirement 12</u> (Apiary sites should be identified) – Please note that Code Requirement 12 applies to all beekeepers and should be considered alongside current site signage requirements on land managed by Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timber Tasmania and Hydro Tasmania.
Supporting Information to be provided / uploaded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOLT online training certificate • Annual AFB microbiology (lab) reports in-line with the Code (for beekeepers who manage 50 or more hives) • Certificate of compliance with the code (50+hives) see Appendix I of Code