

B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd and B-TRACE Australia

ABN: 37 096 945 694

Manager of the Australian Honey Industry QA and Food Handling programs.

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B-QUAL Australia Pty Ltd and B-TRACE Australia
are owned by AHBIC.

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.



Congratulations to Lindsay Bourke AM.

It was announced on the Kings Birthday Honours list that Lindsay Bourke was awarded the AM for services to the apiculture industry.



Lindsay has for many years been a strong advocate of biosecurity and industry improvements. While engaged in successfully building his own business in Tasmania, Lindsay has served as AHBIC President, a B-QUAL Director and on many industry committees and task forces.

While Chairman of AHBIC he instigated an alliance with Plant Health Australia that resulted in all pollination dependent industries sharing the costs of rapid responses to and the control and eradication of, Emergency Plant Pests (EPPs). This means a more effective biosecurity response is possible across the sector, such as with the current risk from the Varroa mite's potential to damage our bee populations.

Lindsay has been a tireless supporter and promoter of the Australian honey industry to both State and Federal Governments and markets domestically and overseas for many years.

The Board in consultation with our auditors have agreed to instigate remote audits in an effort to assist members to reduce audit costs. Remote audits will apply to members who have successfully completed their previous audits.

REMOTE AUDITS.....How do they work?

The remote audit, using ICT (information and communication technologies), consists of a real-time off-site assessment of the members systems and processes, and effectively covers the following.

During the audit objective evidence is gathered, which includes the:

Review of quality management system documents - the producer provides access to all relevant documents digitally. The auditor checks and evaluates the documents with the auditee's participation, asking for clarification or further information if necessary.

Interviewing of the process owners, relevant to specific processes being audited - the auditor conducts a series of remote interviews with relevant personnel as per the audit plan. During these interviews, s/he investigates and assesses the effectiveness of the systems implemented for the production and supply of honey and honey products.



Remote audits may be appropriate in certain circumstances if approved by B-Qual and the audit company. These are conducted off site of the extraction facility through the use of technology such as mobile phones and video conferencing.

Prior to your audit, the auditor will ring you and then will forward through the B-Qual remote audit checklist for the member to complete. The checklist lists the documentation required to be sighted by the auditor.

The auditor will contact the member and discuss how the audit will be conducted. It may be utilising a video conferencing call such as Zoom, a phone call or facetime call.

The documentation can be uploaded through a link sent by the auditor or simply just sent via email.

The audit begins with a chat about the members business, what they do, how and where the honey is sold and whether they have any workers at the facility.

The auditor will ask to view their samples and discuss traceability requirements, members who are selling in bulk IBCs will be required to list and be able to sight their details.

Photos or a walk around of the facility will be required.



Ideally the documentation should be forwarded prior to the audit. If corrective actions are raised, they must be closed out within 30 days of the audit, this applies to all audits not just remotes.

NEWS:

AHBIC is coordinating with the NSW DPI to provide another Industry Briefing via Webinar for Wednesday 28th June at 7pm. There will be another situational response update from DPI and AHBIC followed by a Q & A Session. Please register by visiting [Varroa mite Emergency Response - Industry Briefing Tickets, Wed 28/06/2023 at 7:00 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Queensland:

American foulbrood is a notifiable disease.

Under Queensland legislation, if you suspect the presence of this disease in any species of animal, you must report it to either: Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Oxytetracycline (OTC):

Oxytetracycline (OTC) is an antibiotic prescription animal remedy. It is the only treatment approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to control European foulbrood (EFB) – the bacterial honey bee brood disease. OTC may only be legally supplied by a vet. A current certificate of registration as a beekeeper is required so that the vet has a guide as to the number of hives you keep. Enter any use of the chemical into your B-QUAL or B-TRACE records for audit purposes.

Labels:

All members are encouraged to use B-QUAL and B-TRACE labels on their packaging. Jar labels are available by contacting the office. If you are printing labels and wish to incorporate the certification label into your own design, high-resolution artwork is available on request.

Organic audits:

B-QUAL is now able to undertake organic audits. If you wish to conduct your organic and B-QUAL audits at the same time, contact the office for further information.

Honey testing:

B-QUAL is now able to offer a full range of honey testing services including codex, sugars, and antibacterial activity test. For further information and pricing contact admin@bqual.com.au. This service is also available to B-TRACE members.

Melbourne Polytechnic will be launching their new Certificate III in Beekeeping course at the Victorian Apiarists Association conference on 6-7 July in Bendigo. This course will have the advantage of being conducted in a mobile situation and Melbourne Polytechnic have fitted out a complete classroom in a new semi and Pantech unit. For further enquiries contact 1300 635 276 or courses@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au