

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.

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B-QUAL and B-TRACE

We extend our sincere wishes to all of our members, supporters, sponsors and families.

We trust all will have a safe happy festive season and a successful and rewarding new year.



Melbourne Polytechnic is now offering the nationally accredited, one-year part-time Certificate III in Beekeeping AHC31818.

The course is designed for commercial and recreational beekeepers looking to acquire comprehensive skills and knowledge necessary for maintaining healthy bee colonies.

Melbourne Polytechnic's Certificate III in Beekeeping AHC31818 is the only accredited beekeeping course in Victoria, and participants will have access to the latest apiculture equipment in the industry, including new apiaries, waxing stations and honey bee colonies. The equipment has been installed in a purpose-built, self-sufficient and off-grid mobile training unit that can travel throughout Victoria for greater flexibility and accessibility.

Developed in close collaboration with representatives from the beekeeping industry and subject matter experts, the course covers the following essential beekeeping aspects:

- Establishing beehives and apiaries
- Effectively managing pathogens that impact bees
- Safely transporting live bees to various locations
- Managing honey production
- Biosecurity measures
- Regulatory requirements
- Providing crucial pollination services for agriculture and the ecosystem

The Certificate III course includes immersive and practical learning, with hands-on training in locations where the bees are working, while other selected components of the course are delivered online, allowing for flexible and accessible learning.

The first group of budding apiarists commenced the course in July 2023 at Melbourne Polytechnic's Eden Park training centre near Whittlesea, north of Melbourne. Melbourne Polytechnic is working

together with the Victorian Apiarists' Association Branches and beekeeping clubs to identify regional requests for training and to schedule the course at in-demand locations.

Enrol in the Certificate III in Beekeeping AHC31818 for their 2024 intake and become part of the new generation of skilled workers that are necessary to maintain Australia's ever-growing beekeeping industry.

For more information visit <https://melbpo.ly/959>

The development of the Certificate III in Beekeeping AHC31818 and the Mobile Training Unit is supported by the Victorian Government.

Text and photos Melbourne Polytechnic



Due to requests to re consider B-TRACE membership criteria, the decision was made to amend the maximum number of hives and/or production output allowed. From September 2023 the maximum number of hives allowed by any one operator will be 350 or a production output of 15,000 kgs.

Membership and audit fees combined remain unchanged at \$ 175 per annum plus GST. Payment of joining and annual subscriptions are encouraged to be done on website via PayPal. www.btrace.com.au

B-QUAL Quality Assured

B-TRACE Food Safety



NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We have a number of B-QUAL applicants who have applied, paid subscriptions but as yet not completed their 2 x self-assessments. The assessments are in the first section of the B-QUAL



Approved Supplier Manual, and necessary to achieve the first level of accreditation; if you are in this category, we suggest that to get full benefit of membership and accreditation complete the assessments and return to admin@bqual.com.au. If you have paid a membership subscription but not yet purchased the Approved Supplier Manual you will need to purchase to advance to certification stage

Should you require any assistance do not hesitate to contact our office.



Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due, if it has fallen to the bottom of the payments tray, please dig it out and action payment. We are working on a number of projects and offers for members, so we assure you your subscriptions are being put to good use.

Honey testing is still underway for our Australian honey database, we are still seeking samples of particularly Iron Bark, Yellow Box. However, we will take samples of any variety as long as you have identified it. email the office for collection data sheets, jars and prepaid envelopes. We invite B-QUAL and B-TRACE members to contribute. Testing for the library is free of charge.

Important.....Informative.....Interesting

We are pleased to announce that we have conducted an interview with Dr Randy Oliver in the last couple of weeks and produced 2 videos on Varroa Detection and Managing Varroa. These videos hold a wealth of good information and we invite all to view these informative videos and refer them to colleagues and any other interested parties. They can be accessed by following these links

BQual Detection

<https://youtu.be/QXw8xU5xb14>

BQual Managing Varroa

<https://youtu.be/etUn07iEW-U>

These and all other videos produced by B-QUAL also appear on the B-QUAL and B-TRACE websites.

HONEY TESTING.

B-QUAL offers a range of honey analysis testing to members.

Contact admin@bqual.com.au or 0404 38 1942 to request a test submission order form and test arrangements.

A quotation for your specified test can be supplied prior to order. A sample of approximately 300ml will be required.

More detail is on page 10 of this newsletter.

B-QUAL & Agriculture Victoria

working towards an Orchards app Integration scheme with the B-QUAL app.

We are pleased to advise our Victorian members that discussions and planning is advancing well with the proposal to implement the app integration scheme. A major consideration has been to ensure privacy of data remains solely with our members.

An outline of the scheme and our intentions for use are:

Objective

This integration aims to address critical issues in Australia's apiculture and horticulture industries, specifically concerning beehive health post-pollination.

The project will facilitate seamless data sharing between our beekeeper members both B-QUAL and B-TRACE and orchardists, enhancing the traceability of hive movements and health status. This is crucial given the emerging challenges like pesticide impacts on bees and biosecurity threats, such as the Varroa mite infestation.

Our focus is to implement a user-friendly system that supports beekeepers in efficiently managing hive loads, potentially through the use of NFC tags or QR codes. Beekeepers will have control over data sharing, enabling them to selectively share hive health and movement data with orchardists. The system will also be designed to automatically capture comprehensive hive health data, including metrics like temperature, humidity, and weight.

The project aligns with global trends towards complete supply chain transparency, akin to the European Union's digital product passport. By enhancing B-QUAL to become an exemplar in operational deployment of an integration-based traceability system, we aim to contribute significantly to the sustainable and secure food production in Victoria and across Australia.

Beekeepers will be able to update hive health information in real-time, ensuring timely and accurate tracking of hive conditions and treatments.

They can view nearby orchards within a 5km radius, allowing them to make informed decisions about potential pollination sites and risks associated with them. Record the temperature, humidity, and weight of the hives over time to monitor its health.

Access historical data of their hives, enabling the tracking and progress and health trends of each hive over time, and importantly, retrieve chemical spray data from nearby orchards, allowing to assess potential risks to hives and take necessary precautions.

Share specific hive health data with Agriculture Victoria Research (AVR) for research purposes, contributing to broader industry knowledge and improvement strategies. You can choose to share or withhold specific hive data with orchardists, maintaining control over the privacy and use of your data.

Track the last access and sharing times with each orchard, ensuring you have up-to-date information on when your data was last reviewed or shared, reinforcing the data's relevance and timeliness.

Orchardist can request data from beekeepers regarding hive health and movements to ensure

effective pollination and monitor potential pesticide impact on bees. He may automatically, if agreed with the beekeeper, receive data from the beekeeper, reducing manual entry and ensuring up-to-date information about hives contributing to pollination in the orchard.

This project is underway and updates will be made available as software and development continues.

B-QUAL can now combine your program audit with your organic audit.

Where organic audits are requested, we can now complete both the Organic and B-QUAL audits together by our auditors Organic Food Chain Pty Ltd.

Organic Food Chain Pty Ltd (OFC) is an approved organic certifying body recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries under the *Export Control (Organic Goods) Rules 2021*. OFC is accredited with IOAS to ISO/IEC 17065:2013 *Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*.

Our auditors Safe Food Australia are also qualified to conduct HACCP audits.

Contact the office for more information.

B-TRACE Audits.

The B-TRACE on line audit form is in the members section of the website. To access this section, you are required to have an account. When you click “member only” you will be asked to either log in or sign up...if you do not have an account already then click sign up; you will receive a message sometime thereafter saying account established and asking you to change your interim password.

All members are required to complete the audit annually to receive the accreditation certificate.

If your records are up to date the audit should take between 1 to 1 1/2 hours to complete. The current audit is based mainly on HACCP and Biosecurity areas along with general food handling methods. It is not difficult but will require a degree of commonsense and food handling knowledge. When doing the audit you can stop, review or research and re start as many times as you wish, no time limits apply.

Once you have completed and reviewed your audit send it to admin@btrace.com.au the audit is generally reviewed and certificate issued within 5 days of receipt.

Remember the audit cost is included in your annual membership so you have paid for it, so please use it.

If you are selling at farmers markets it is great to have an Industry accreditation certificate that really means something on your stand display.

NEXDOC. Enhancing Australia's reputation as a provider of high-quality agricultural commodities.

The department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has designed a modern and streamlined enhanced exports traceability system to support overseas market access for exports of agricultural product.

The program will include developing a new export documentation system (NEXDOC), and modernising the existing IT system platforms of EXDOC (Export Documentation System), and other export registration systems.

The modernisation activities will strengthen Australia's reputation as a provider of high-quality agricultural commodities, underpinned by robust, digitally enhanced services and regulatory practices. This will allow industry to be more competitive in international markets by reducing regulatory costs, while maintaining our strong regulatory reputation.

Australian export industries will benefit from upgraded systems that will provide modern and updated platforms capable of integrating with supporting systems and new technologies. Export documentation supported within the systems include:

- export permits as required by the Export Control Act
- export certificates as required by importing country authorities
- extra certificates that support the export (such as transit certificates).

Additional markets for honey and apiculture products will be onboarded to NEXDOC on Monday 4 December 2023.

Honey and apiculture exporters

The next markets to move onto NEXDOC for edible honey and apicultures products will be **Indonesia and Saudi Arabia on Monday 4 December 2023**, please note that this does not include live bees.

If you export honey or apiculture products to any of the below countries, you will now be required to use NEXDOC.

Austria	Bahrain	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia
Republic of Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	England	Estonia
Finland	France	French Polynesia	Germany	Greece
Republic of Ireland	Hong Kong	Hungary	Iceland	India
Italy	Jordan	Kenya	Kuwait	Latvia
Libya	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Macau
Malaysia	Maldives	Malta	Mauritius	Netherlands
Norway	Oman	Pakistan	Papua New Guinea	Philippines
Poland	Portugal	Qatar	Romania	Scotland
Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
Thailand	United Arab Emirates	Vanuatu	Wales	

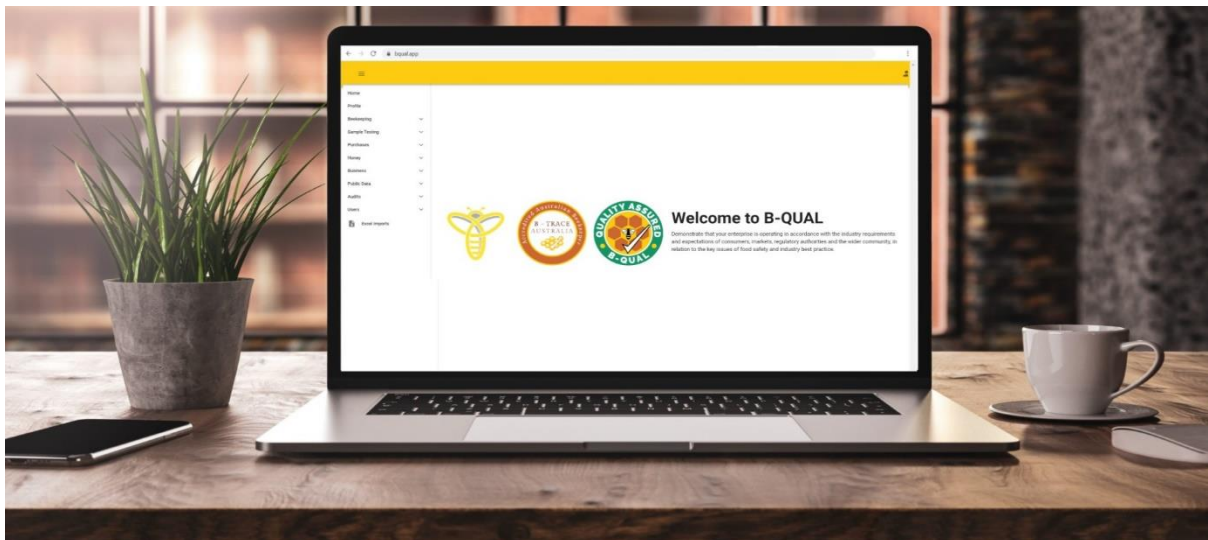
If you export to Northern Ireland, or markets other than listed in the table above you will need to continue the current manual application process to obtain export certification.

More markets and export certificates for honey and apiculture products will transition to NEXDOC in the future.

For <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/contact/online-enquiry> or more information you can contact the department on 1800 900 090.

Or contact online at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/contact/online-enquiry>.

AN EASY WAY TO KEEP YOUR RECORDS



BQUAL App video.

With the Varroa mite in Australia, record keeping is now more important than ever before. We know many beekeepers do not keep readily available records of hive movements, treatments and inspections.

B-QUAL and B-TRACE have a specially developed app which conforms to the National Biosecurity Code of Practice requirements for record keeping. If you are already a B-QUAL B-TRACE member the app fulfills all the program requirements.

We invite you to view the demonstration video on both B-QUAL and B-TRACE websites simply go to News or Video tabs, see how easy it is to install, and operate and keep your hive records in one easy to access application.

The app is free of charge and has no ongoing costs if you are a member of either B-QUAL or B-TRACE.

We acknowledge and thank Steritech and the CMV Group for their valuable ongoing support of B-QUAL and B-TRACE which assists us to continue to take the lead in research and the development works which we see as important to our industry.



Please continue to support these companies who support us.

Honey Testing.

Contact admin@bqual.com.au to request a test submission order form and confirmation of test arrangements.

Prices shown are correct at time of newsletter publication. However, it is advisable to reconfirm prices prior to ordering a test. Below is a list of some of the more common tests requested.

Other tests are available on request.

Assay	cost per sample
Moisture	\$45.00
Ash	\$55.00
Foreign matter (Insolubles)	\$55.00
Free acidity	\$60.00
Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF)	\$70.00
Diastase (amylase)	\$140.00
Conductivity	\$50.00
pH	\$50.00
Invertase (beta-fructofuranosidase)	\$140.00
Pollen analysis	\$240.00
Adulteration test (C4 sugar content by EA-IRMS)	\$260.00
Total activity (Antibacterial Activity against S. aureus)	\$198.00
Non-peroxide activity (only with the above test)	\$40.00
Antioxidant activity (DPPH)	\$250.00
Antioxidant activity (FRAP)	\$250.00
Antioxidant activity (ORAC)	\$250.00
Colour (Absorbance @ 450nm)	\$50.00
Total phenolic content (Folin)	\$70.00

The above pricing is based upon 1-10 samples.

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