

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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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.



CMV
TRUCK CENTRE



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B-QUAL

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, 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 at all do not hesitate to contact our office.

For direct audit enquires or audit bookings members can use admin@safefoodaustralia.com.au as a more direct contact method.

While not the ideal circumstance, the Varroa outbreak in NSW has seen a significant increase in membership to both B-QUAL and B-TRACE from NSW. There is an acceptance that benefits from the programs is seen by operators particularly through the record keeping and traceability aspects. We welcome those new members into our program, and offer our assistance while they set up their records and app management systems.

B-TRACE

We have some B-TRACE members who are due to submit their audit form, if you have not completed an audit, please contact admin@btrace.com.au and request an audit form. You need to complete your audit for access to use logo labels which are a great marketing tool. You may also download the online audit form from the member section of B-TRACE web site.

Honey testing is still underway for our Australian honey database, we are seeking samples of particularly Iron Bark and Yellow Box. However, we will take samples of any variety as long as you have identified it, and can supply the scientific name. 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.

For further information contact admin@bqual.com.au

Victoria Agriculture B-QUAL app integration project has officially commenced with the signing of a supply service contract by both parties. Code forge have commenced software development. This new app link retains the B-QUAL privacy, but will allow our app users access for Victorian members to access Victorian orchard and other pollination sources which in turn will enable our members to see who requires pollination, when they expect a start, gain access to property details, spray programs and other data. We already have some interest through other States and Vic Ag are hoping to take the program national.

B-Trace members will also be able to access this information.

Before we introduce our new directors. We record our thanks and appreciation of the input Rodney Ruge has contributed while on the B-QUAL board. Rodney, took great interest in the biosecurity aspects of B-QUAL and contributed wise counsel to the audit program. Rodney has retired on health advice and we wish him well for the future.

We are pleased to announce that Professor Sharon Purchase and Dr Liz Barbour have agreed to join the B-QUAL board. We are excited that Sharon and Liz have agreed to join us, and bring the wealth of industry and commerce knowledge they have. Current directors know that B-QUAL has grown over the last few years and progressed its reputation and industry importance and we are now entering a new stage which we believe Sharon and Liz can assist and guide us through.

New Directors

Professor Sharon Purchase



Professor Sharon Purchase:

Sharon is currently Head of Department, UWA Business School Marketing, she had worked for 13 years within the engineering sector for both private and public organizations. During this time Sharon worked in marketing, sales and consulting while completing her MBA part-time. Sharon began working in academia on a part-time basis as she was studying for her PhD from 1996-1999. Her PhD research investigated the internationalization process of Australian Engineering consultants through their business networks and relationships. On completing her PhD, she has worked in academia on a full-time basis.

Sharon has published academic papers in international journal and leading conferences in the area of business networks and relationships. She has been invited to join 4 editorial boards and has been voted onto the membership committee for the Australian and New Zealand Marketing Academy (2007 - 2013)

Sharon was the driving force behind our grant application for the Australian Honey database and traceability program, and oversaw the delivery of the project and associated database and app introduction and integrations.

Sharon has a good understanding of B-QUAL and is well known to many of our members, in addition Sharon was instrumental in assisting us to introduce B-TRACE

B-QUAL and B-TRACE labels are available. Show your commitment to quality assurance and the industry by promoting the program labels on your containers.



Actual size is 13mm diam.



Actual size is 30mm diam.

For members printing their own labels High Res' art work is available free of charge.

Dr Liz Barbour

Dr Barbour is the past CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products, a federally and industry funded research program with the aim of adding value to the Honey bee product industry.

She is now the CEO of Y-TRACE a new Honey research organisation created to authenticate the beekeeper source, extraction process and quality of their honey bee products. The service is designed to support growing beekeeping and packing enterprises to establish themselves in new markets or create new products.



Y-Trace Pty Ltd has been created from the science developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products. The mission now is to streamline the science.

Her research background is in tree crops, domesticating them for product development through tree breeding, trial assessment and asexual and sexual propagation. She has worked in industry, State Government and within the University system and in Australia has been awarded RIRDC, NHT, ARC Linkage and ACIAR funding as well as under taken consultancies.

Liz, has developed an intimate knowledge of B-QUAL over the last 3 years in supporting B-QUAL and Sharon in the delivery of our Honey Database and Traceability project which was federally funded. Liz brings a wealth of Honeybee science and industry knowledge to the B-QUAL board.

Remote Audits.

We are receiving good feedback on our remote audits and it appears most members are happy with the system and seeing significant cost savings by the deletion of travel and other miscellaneous costs. It should be noted that the actual audit cost is the same price, this is due to the fact that the auditors have the same amount of documentation and administration costs as a site audit. It should also be noted that B-QUAL audits based on a survey of various agricultural and food industry audit programs, are amongst the lowest cost available.

To apply for your next audit to be remote email admin@bqual.com.au

The auditor will contact you to arrange, and will also advise you what documentation will be needed.

You will be required to:

- Send documentation that needs to be reviewed a couple of days before. Minimum at least a full day.
- Review your Risk Management Plan before an audit.
- Have a competent person in attendance to do the audit and answer the questions.
- Ensure all records are up to date.
- Have a list of any questions you may have.


The table below is a Regulatory Progress Update, it is not a treatment schedule and it is updated on a regular basis. It is suggested that readers should check the AHBIC web site for update progress.

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Varroa Chemical Treatment Table

Current on 19th February 2024 – check www.honeybee.org.au for the most up to date details

|  Australian Honey Bee Industry Council - Varroa Chemical Treatment Table Current on 19 th February 2024 – check www.honeybee.org.au for the most up to date details | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Product name Current 19/02/24 | Bayvarol® PER94055v2 | Apistan® PER94055v2 | FormicPro® PER94055v2 | Apivar PER94153 | Apitraz PER94153 | Apiguard® 65570 | Api-bioxal™ Unregistered | AUSO CAP® Unregistered |
| Registration Status | Emergency use permit active Full Registration submitted | Emergency use permit active | Emergency use permit active (Formerly Mite Away Quick Strips) | Registered | Emergency use permit active | Registered | Full Registration progressing | Full Registration Application Submitted |
| Active ingredient | Flumethrin | Tau-fluvalinate | Formic acid | Amitraz | Amitraz | Thymol | Oxalic acid | Oxalic acid |
| Chemical Type | Synthetic pyrethroid | Synthetic pyrethroid | Organic acid | Synthetic formamidine | Synthetic formamidine | Organic extract | Organic acid | Organic acid |
| Product Type and dose for full size hive | plastic strips 4 strips per brood chamber | plastic strips 2 strips per brood chamber | gel strips 2 strips per brood chamber | plastic strips 2 strips per brood chamber | plastic strips 2 strips per brood chamber | gel product 50g per hive | dribbling, fogging TBA | Cellulose strips 4 strips per brood chamber (pending full registration) |
| Temperature/hive type limitations for treatment | Not critical | Not critical | Only treat when ambient daytime temps are between 10 °C – 29.5°C | Not critical | Not critical | Only treat when ambient daytime temps are between 15°C – 40°C | No | No |
| Treat with supers on hives | Yes But comb honey cannot be collected and sold if treated when supers present | No | Yes | No | No | No | TBA | Yes (pending full registration) |
| Treatment time | 6-8 weeks | 6-8 weeks | 7 days | 6 to 10 weeks | 6 to 10 weeks | 2 weeks then additional tray for 4 weeks (Total of 6 week) | No details - not an approved product | 42 days (pending full registration) |
| Can nuclei colonies be treated | Yes – (2 strips per nuc) | Yes – (1 strip per nuc) | Colonies need to be a minimum of 6 frames of bees | Yes - (1 strip per nuc) | Yes - (1 strip per nuc) | Yes (25g per nuc) | No details - not an approved product | Yes - 2 strips per nuc (pending full registration) |
| Withholding period | Not required when used as directed | Do not harvest honey when strips are in. | 2 weeks from the end of treatment | 0 days after removal of strips Do not harvest honey when strips are in. | 2 weeks from the end of treatment | 0 days but honey tainting may occur | No details - not an approved product | None (pending full registration) |

Varroa Coordinator

Bianca Giggins - bianca@honeybee.org.au - 0402 467 780

The following extract was published by AHBIC and we reprint with permission of AHBIC for our members who may be affected by these restrictions.

Apis cerana Nest Located

As of 12th March 2024, Biosecurity Queensland have confirmed a single nest of Asian Honey Bee; *Apis cerana* has been located within the Port of Brisbane. The nest has been destroyed, and bee samples have been sent for testing for parasitic mites and exotic bee viruses (slow bee paralysis virus, deformed wing virus, acute bee paralysis virus and *Apis mellifera* rhabdovirus). The test results will be communicated when completed.

Biosecurity Queensland in conjunction with the Queensland bee industry and the Australian Government, are continuing surveillance in the Port of Brisbane and surrounding area for Asian honey bee and varroa mite. At this time, only one mite and one nest has been found.

Be on the lookout for Asian Honey bees and report any suspect sightings to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.



Movement restrictions in place: QLD

A 10km radius [Movement Control Order](#) is in place to assist in preventing the risk of spread of *Varroa jacobsoni*, beekeepers are not permitted to move any bee(living or dead), a swarm, nest or hive of bees, apiary equipment, or apiary products within the Control Area. For detailed information beekeepers should refer to the Movement Control Order: [varroa-mite-carriers-movement-control-order.pdf \(publications.qld.gov.au\)](#)

In short beekeepers in the movement control area must notify Biosecurity Queensland without delay about:

1. the presence of varroa mite
2. if you suspect the presence of varroa mite
3. any hive movements into or out of the localities in the previous 90 days
4. any bees bought or sold in the last 90 days.

AHBIC encourages QLD beekeepers to be registered and stay up to date through Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website: [Varroa mite alert | Business Queensland](#) or <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/animal/industries/bees/varroa-mite>

AHBIC reminds beekeepers that in Queensland, varroa mite (both *V. destructor* and *V. jacobsoni*) is listed as prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014. Queensland beekeepers should continue

monitoring hives for varroa mite, report their hive check results on the [Bee 123](#) form and immediately report any unexpected hive deaths, deformed bees, bees with parasites, poor brood patterns and dead brood to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Beekeepers: All States & Territories

Importantly, all beekeepers should remember that the state of Queensland remains a biosecurity zone and any movements of Varroa mite carriers into Queensland require an approved permit through: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-instrument-permit>

Continue exotic mite monitoring regularly in your hives, to learn more about alcohol washing check out the nationally agreed resource Bee Pest

Blitz: <https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/beepestblitz/>

Traceability is the ability to track a product from its origin to its final destination, including all the steps in between. This is important for many reasons, including food safety, quality control, and sustainability. In the honey industry, traceability means being able to trace honey back to the hive it came from, as well as knowing the location and management practices of that hive.

Provenance is an important aspect of the honey industry. Provenance refers to the origin and history of a product, including the environmental and social conditions under which it was produced. Consumers are increasingly interested in knowing where their food comes from and how it was produced, and this trend is only going to continue. So why is traceability and provenance important for the Australian honey industry? For one thing, it can help prevent fraud and adulteration. Honey is one of the most commonly adulterated food products in the world, with many unscrupulous producers adding sugar and other substances to increase volume and profits. With traceability and provenance, it is easier to detect and prevent these fraudulent imports.

By adopting traceability and provenance, the Australian honey industry can differentiate itself from competitors, and overseas imports, and secure a loyal customer base. So how can the Australian honey industry adopt traceability and provenance? One way is through the use of technology such as the B-QUAL hive management app, and add on tools such as B-SPATIAL. There are a number of other tools and platforms available that can help track honey from hive to consumer, including blockchain, RFID, and GPS. These technologies can provide real-time tracking and monitoring, as well as data analytics that can help improve production practices. Another way to adopt traceability and provenance is through industry standards and certifications such as B-QUAL and B-TRACE. These industry certifications will also help build consumer trust and loyalty, as they provide a clear and transparent way to verify the quality and origin of honey. Traceability and provenance are becoming increasingly important for the Australian honey industry.

By being a part of the industry programs and adopting best practices, the industry can improve food safety, quality, and sustainability, as well as build consumer trust and loyalty. As a beekeeper, you have an important role to play in promoting these practices and helping to build a stronger, more sustainable honey industry. So, when you visit conferences, workshops etc, and talking to associates and other industry participants if they are not in B-QUAL or B-TRACE encourage them to go to our websites and consider joining.

Why is an audited internationally recognised QA and food handling program such as B-QUAL important to the Australian honey industry?

For beekeepers, ensuring the quality and safety of their honey is of utmost importance. With the increasing demand for honey both domestically and internationally, it is crucial to have a robust quality assurance (QA) and food handling program in place. This is where B-QUAL, an audited internationally recognised program, plays a significant role in supporting the Australian honey industry. B-QUAL is a comprehensive program that focuses on maintaining high standards of quality and safety throughout the honey production process. It provides a framework for beekeepers to follow, ensuring that their practices align with industry best practices and meet international standards. By adhering to B-QUAL guidelines, beekeepers can demonstrate their commitment to producing safe and high-quality honey. One of the primary benefits of B-QUAL is its international recognition. In today's global marketplace, consumers are increasingly conscious about the origin and quality of the products they consume. By having an audited program like B-QUAL in place, Australian beekeepers can showcase their honey as meeting international standards, giving them a competitive edge in both domestic and international markets. This recognition also builds trust among consumers, enhancing the reputation of the Australian honey industry as a whole.

The B-QUAL program covers various aspects of honey production, including hive management, honey extraction, processing, packaging and specialised categories such as pollination, queen bee breeding and honeycomb production. It ensures that beekeepers implement good food handling practices, maintain hygienic conditions, and prevent contamination throughout the production chain. By following these guidelines, beekeepers can minimize the risk of microbial or chemical contamination, ensuring that their honey is safe for consumption. Furthermore, B-QUAL emphasizes traceability, which is becoming increasingly important in the food industry. Through proper documentation and record-keeping, beekeepers can track the journey of their honey from the hive to the consumer. This not only enables them to identify and address any quality or safety issues promptly but also provides transparency to consumers who are interested in knowing the origin and production process of the honey they purchase.

Another crucial aspect of B-QUAL is its auditing process. Regular audits are conducted to ensure that beekeepers are complying with the program's requirements. These audits are conducted by accredited third-party certification bodies, adding credibility to the program. By undergoing audits, beekeepers can continuously improve their practices, identify areas for enhancement, and stay up-to-date with the latest industry standards.

An audited internationally recognised QA and food handling program such as B-QUAL is essential for the Australian honey industry. It provides beekeepers with a comprehensive framework to maintain high standards of quality and safety throughout the honey production process. By adhering to B-QUAL guidelines, beekeepers can demonstrate their commitment to producing safe and high-quality honey, gain international recognition, and build consumer trust. Moreover, the emphasis on traceability and the auditing process, further enhance the program's effectiveness. Through membership to programs like B-QUAL, the Australian honey industry can continue to thrive and meet the growing demand for honey both domestically and globally.



Not sure this chap would have had a valid hive moment order. If moving hives please ensure you have all documentation/records in place.