

## Identifying beehives

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The NSW *Apiaries Act 1985* requires every person keeping bees in New South Wales to be registered as a beekeeper with NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

When a beekeeper applies for registration, NSW DPI allocates them a unique registration number, consisting of a combination of letters and numerals.

Within 60 days of being allocated a registered number, or purchasing new or second-hand material, the beekeeper is required to display their registration number on one of the external walls of the brood box of each hive kept. The brood box is the bottom box of an active beehive.

The registration number can be any size as long as the registration number is clearly legible.

If hives are sold or disposed of, NSW DPI is to be notified and the new owner is to display their registration number on the brood box.

The previous owner's registration number is to be struck out but not obliterated.

Good identification allows departmental Regulatory Officers (Apiary Inspectors) to locate owners of beehive material and to trace disease outbreaks. In cases of emergencies such as fire or when aerial spraying may occur, good identification of beehive material will help the authorities to contact the owner without delay.

Beekeepers are encouraged to display their registration number on all hive components and not just the brood box. This is common practice within the industry and helps to deter theft of beehive materials and assists in the recovery of stolen materials.

A beekeeper who, without reasonable excuse, fails to display their registration number on each brood box is in breach of the *Apiaries Act* and is liable to a Penalty Infringement Notice of \$275, or a maximum penalty of \$1,100 if convicted in a court of law.

For further information, contact Mick Rankmore on (02) 6741 8374.

For information on registration, contact NSW Department of Primary Industries, Gloucester, on (02) 6558 1707 between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm.

Registration application forms are available from the NSW DPI website at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/honeybees>

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Check for updates of this Primefact at:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts)

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2007). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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