

Beekeepers and registration – NSW Apiaries Act 1985

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Introduction

The New South Wales (NSW) *Apiaries Act 1985* was established to:

- Regulate the keeping of bees in NSW
- Provide for the registration of beekeepers
- Control, eradicate and prevent the introduction of certain diseases and pests which afflict bees and apiaries in NSW
- Provide for the payment of compensation to registered beekeepers in certain cases

Registration

If you keep one or more hives of honey bees in NSW you are required to be registered as a beekeeper with NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) even if you are registered in another state or territory.

Registration is for a period of two years. The registration fee is divided into an administrative fee of \$40 paid by all beekeepers, and a further charge (levy) of \$3 for every ten hives (or part thereof). Funds are used to pay beekeepers compensation for the destruction or irradiation of beehives infected with American Foulbrood disease when directed in writing to do so by an apiary inspector (conditions apply).

Nucleus hives are included in the hive count. Four nucleus hives consisting of not more than six standard full depth Langstroth frames are counted as one hive for the purpose of calculating the payment for the compensation levy.

When applying for registration, beekeepers are required to sign an application form stating that they should check all hives for diseases and pests, and that any sign of a notifiable disease or

pest must be immediately reported to an inspector or by telephoning (02) 6741 8374. If you are not familiar with notifiable diseases or pests, contact your local apiary officer or inspector for further guidance and instruction.

How to register

Registration is made by completing and returning an Application for Registration as a Beekeeper form with the required payment. Application forms can be obtained from:

NSW Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 108, Gloucester, NSW 2422, phone (02) 6558 1707 or from NSW DPI's honey bee web site: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/honey-bees

Further reading

The following Primefacts are also available

Beekeeping code of practice

Responsible beekeeping

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www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts

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