

Compulsory labelling of bee hives

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Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Registration

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* beekeeping in New South Wales requires all people that own a hive, or several, to register with the Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI). The registration system allows owners of beehives to be contacted about:

- emergency situations
- surrounding threats
- beekeeping biosecurity
- training services

Your registration number

When you register your hive(s) with NSW DPI you are issued with a unique registration number (hive brand number) to identify you as a beekeeper and hives that belong to you.

New registration numbers, or 'hive brand numbers', will generally be in the format of an N followed by the first letter of your surname and a series of numbers (e.g. NM888). This is the number you must place on your hives.

NOTE: Your registration number is NOT the number provided in the format of 'BK' followed by a long (6+) string of numbers. This is a receipt number. If you are unsure call the biosecurity helpline to confirm your registration number.

Display

Beekeepers are required to display their registration number (also known as a hive brand number) on each hive so that it is clearly legible at all times. **NSW DPI** do not prescribe the method of labelling, however it is important the number can withstand all weather conditions. Some methods include painting, routing, or branding with a hot iron.

Things to take into consideration:

- Is material of the hive going to adhere with my application choice?
- Will my choice of application withstand rain, dust and direct sunlight?



Figure 1 Clearly visible registration number displayed on hives

Position

The positioning of the registration number needs to be easily accessible, visible and easy to read. The registration number is to be placed on the hive body. The best location for the registration number is on the front of the brood box so that even when supers are removed, the hive remains clearly marked.

Importance

Visible registration numbers are significant for the health and safety of your bees.

Registration numbers allow Authorised Officers to:

- Alert you of pests and diseases that threaten your hives
- Contact you in the case of a bushfire threat
- Keep you up to date with biosecurity training
- Inform you of biosecurity issues



Figure 2 Example of best practice registration number positioning

More information

For further information call the NSW Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244 or email biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

To access to the DPI Beekeeping registration form follow this link <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/bees/beekeeper-registration>

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Figure 1 courtesy of Rod Bourke, NSW DPI

Figure 2 courtesy of Mark Page, NSW DPI

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