



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for AHCBEK409 Rear queen bees

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 3.0.

Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit. There must be evidence that on at least one occasion the individual has demonstrated that they have reared queen bees including:

- obtained queen bee breeding stock according to breeding program
- assessed safety hazards, risks and implemented controls
- obtained tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) required for breeding manipulations and ensured serviceable for use
- conducted all bee manipulations and activity according to biosecurity and quarantine protocols
- ensured hives used for queen rearing are clean and healthy
- prepared queen using desired method and assessed, selected and grafted larvae into queen cells according to workplace procedures
- assessed and maintained nurse bee population to support developing queens
- monitored and maintained hive nutrition and health
- transferred ripe queen cells into nucleus
- monitored the queen mating process and provided drones according to workplace procedures
- maintained records according to workplace and industry procedures
- selected queen bee cage type and packaging requirements and ensured adequate food and escort bees for transport
- prepared package for transport according to workplace procedures and transport company requirements.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- principles and practices of rearing queen bees
- basic genetics, breeding and evaluation for selecting queen bee stock

- techniques and timing for queen cell production including queenright and queen less starter and finishers
- grafting techniques including the use of kits
- making, placement and use of nucleus hives (nucs) for queen rearing
- capturing and handling techniques for queen bees
- holding and securing queen bees, including:
 - queen cages
 - queen banks
- transport, postage and handling queen bees
- labelling and identifying queens including international colour codes
- monitoring and recognising brood and adult bee health, diseases, pests and other disorders and required action
- optimum conditions and timing for queen rearing activities
- required number of mature, healthy and genetically suitable drones
- standards and protocols for selecting and manipulating bees and larvae for queen bee production.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in an active apiary
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live bees and queen bee stock
 - hive manipulation and larvae grafting tools
 - PPE
- specifications:
 - workplace procedures and specifications for rearing queen bees
 - access to legislation and codes of practice for biosecurity and queen bee breeding.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>