

# DOC's Standard Operating Conditions for beekeepers

These standard operating conditions apply to all beehive concessions granted by the Department of Conservation (DOC), unless there are exceptional circumstances. Additional operating conditions not listed here may also be required of beekeepers if DOC considers additional measures are needed to protect conservation values.

For more information on beehive concessions visit [Beekeeping on public conservation land: Apply for permits](#).

## Concession activity

1. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees are authorised to:
  - (a) Transport, place, and remove hives on the Land.
  - (b) Access, service, and maintain hives on the Land.
2. Hives must be placed at the sites listed in the concession document.

*If the beehives, staff and/or other beekeeping equipment are exclusively being transported, placed and/or removed by vehicle the following applies:*

3. The transporting, placing and removing of hives, apiary equipment and/or staff will exclusively be by vehicle.

*If the beehives, staff and/or other beekeeping equipment is being transported, placed and/or removed by aircraft as well as vehicle, the following applies:*

4. The transporting, placing and/or removing of hives, apiary equipment and/or staff will be a combination of aircraft and vehicle.
5. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must comply with the maximum number of aircraft landings listed in the concession document.
6. For the purposes of this concession, 'aircraft landing' refers to both:
  - (a) The aircraft physically touching down on the land; and
  - (b) The aircraft hovering over the land for the purposes of deploying and/or collecting people and/or goods.
7. The Concessionaire and/or its agents/employees who pilot the aircraft authorised under this concession must:
  - (a) Hold the applicable aviation documents and privileges as required under the Civil Aviation Rules for operating such an aircraft; and
  - (b) Comply with Civil Aviation law requirements for operating such an aircraft.

## Placement and access of hives

8. Hives must be placed:
  - (a) 50 metres or more away from any road or track.
  - (b) 100 meters or more away from facilities and utilities such as carparks, campsites, huts, toilets.
9. Hives must not be placed on, or obstruct, any road or track.

10. The concession document does not:
  - (a) Authorise the Concessionaire to carry out the concession activity on private land adjacent to the Land.
  - (b) Authorise the Concessionaire to clear new hive sites. Only naturally cleared or open sites are allowed for hive placement unless DOC has given approval.
  - (c) Authorise the Concessionaire to construct or cut new tracks and/or roads to place, remove, or access their hives unless DOC has given approval.

## Hive registration and management

11. All hives must be registered with the [American Foulbrood Pest Management Agency](#)<sup>1</sup>, per the [Biosecurity Act 1993](#).
12. All hives must clearly display:
  - (a) The hives registration number; and
  - (b) The Concessionaires name/business name.
13. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must be able to identify hives infected with American Foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*).
14. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must report any American Foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*) to the [American Foulbrood Pest Management Agency](#).<sup>2</sup>
15. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must report any exotic bee pest or disease, or any large-scale hive losses, to the [Ministry of Primary Industry - Report a pest or disease](#).<sup>3</sup>
16. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must treat hives for varroa mites prior to transporting and placing hives on the Land.

## Conservation values

17. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must check and clean gear and equipment (including footwear, clothing, and tyres) are free of pest species before entering the Land.
18. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must carry fire extinguishers in all vehicles used to service hives.
19. When using hive smokers ('smokers') the Concessionaire and its agents/employees must ensure smokers are not left unattended. Any smokers should be safely extinguished after use.
20. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must ensure that all rubbish and/or equipment is removed from the Land.

## Kauri Dieback

*The 'Kauri Dieback' conditions only apply to beehives placed in kauri areas which are Northland, Auckland, Waikato, and the Bay of Plenty.*

21. When the Concessionaire and its agents/employees undertake the concession activity in a kauri hygiene zone, the Concessionaire and its agents/employees must comply with:
  - (a) The [National PA Pest Management Plan 2022](#)<sup>4</sup>
  - (b) All guidelines and notices issued by Tiakina Kauri, the national management agency for kauri.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://afb.org.nz>

<sup>2</sup> <https://afb.org.nz>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/how-to-find-and-report-and-prevent-pests-and-diseases/report-a-pest-or-disease>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kauriprotection.co.nz/national-plan>

(c) All guidelines, management plans and notes issued by the Department of Conservation for kauri.

'Kauri hygiene zone' or KHZ refers to undertaking an activity that is within 3 times the maximum radius of the canopy dripline of a kauri tree.

22. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees must ensure that clients correctly use all kauri hygiene stations they encounter on the Land.
23. All risk items must be thoroughly cleaned of all visible soil and organic matter and then sprayed with a 2% SteriGENE solution:

- (a) Before entering the area where kauri is present
- (b) After entering the area where kauri is present

A 'risk item' is any item that may come in contact with the forest floor, including vehicles, bikes, tools, shoes, gloves, long pants and bare skin (e.g. hands and knees).

### Risk and liability

24. The Concessionaire and its agents/employees undertake the concession activity at their own risk. DOC accepts no responsibility for any damage or loss whatsoever, including vandalism of the Concessionaire's hives.

### Monitoring

25. DOC may send any officer of the Department of Conservation to the hive sites authorised in this concession for the purpose of assessing the impact of the concession activity on conservation values and/or the Concessionaire's compliance with the terms and conditions of this concession.
26. The Concessionaire is responsible for the full payment of these monitoring costs. These monitoring costs will include the Department of Conservation's standard charge-out rates for staff time, and the mileage time for vehicle use associated with the monitoring programme.

*The conditions below only apply to beekeepers who are authorised to use aircraft for their beekeeping operations.*

27. During the term of the concession, where DOC believes that the effects of aircraft noise should be further reduced, DOC may, by notice, require the Concessionaire to either undertake measures to minimise the effects of noise on conservation values or become accredited to a recognised noise abatement and disputes resolution programme. If such notice is given by DOC, the Concessionaire must:
- (a) If required, under measures to minimise the effects of noise on conservation values within 3 months from receiving the notice undertake those measures to the satisfaction of the Grantor until the Final Expiry Date of the concession
  - (b) If required, become accredited to a recognised noise abatement and disputes resolution programme within 3 months from receiving the notice, and provide proof to the Grantor that such accreditation has been completed; and
  - (c) The Concessionaire must keep their participation in the noise abatement and disputes resolution programme current until the Final Expiry Date of the concession.

### Activity Returns

28. DOC must provide the Concessionaire with an Activity Return form. The Concessionaire must complete the Activity Return form per the instructions provided by DOC