

DAFM Beekeeper's Inspections - Common Issues *and their Solutions*

When not in use equipment / honey buckets not stored in a clean secure location.

Store clean honey buckets and equipment in a secure clean location to prevent risk of contamination of the buckets / equipment.

Water used in connection with honey production sourced from a private well that has not been tested to verify it is potable (drinking quality).

Well water should be tested regularly by a reputable laboratory to verify that it is potable.

Beekeeper doesn't wear a white coat or hat / hairnet when extracting or bottling honey.

Beekeeper and any other people dealing with honey need to wear clean protective clothing including a hat / hair net.

No records available regarding source and administration of feed or feed additive given to bees.

Records should be maintained regarding nature and origin of feed and any feed additive given to bees. These records should include the date and quantity fed.

Purchase records for animal remedies for bees not available for inspection.

Documentation including invoices / receipts for all veterinary medicine purchases must be retained for a 5 year period. Only purchase veterinary medicines from an appropriately authorised supplier.

Animal Remedies not stored securely.

Animal Remedies must be stored in an appropriate secure location e.g. lockable cabinet / shed.

No / inadequate records maintained regarding use of animal remedies on bees.

People administering veterinary medicines must keep detailed written records of their activities. Complete the Animal Remedies Record template to fulfil your current record keeping requirements under the legislation.

No records being maintained regarding sales of honey to Retailers.

Unless the honey purchaser is the final consumer, sales records must be maintained. Sales records should include product description, date, quantity and lot number for honey supplied as well as name and address of purchaser.

Larger producers that don't have traceability records to link honey from Apiary / Apiaries of production to Jar / Retail outlet.

To allow full traceability, link Apiary / Apiaries of production, to honey bucket / buckets to Lot Numbers on jars and then to outlet for honey. This will limit beekeeper's exposure / loss in the event of a problem being identified with their honey.

Also:

- 1. Keep honey extraction, storage and bottling area clean and maintain in a manner that will prevent pest entry / contamination of honey.*
- 2. Follow the four simple steps to minimise the risk of lead contamination of honey – see "DAFM Notice – Lead contamination of honey" available at the following link on DAFM's website:*

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/beekeepinghoney/>

Any queries please contact:

Horticulture & Plant Health Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Backweston.

Phone: 01 5058755