Understanding the competencies

Responsible honey bee husbandry means supporting colony health and welfare, helping honey bees thrive and maintaining knowledge as evidence, threats and guidance change. BeeEducated recognises the learning, judgement and commitment behind that work.

The Practical Beekeeper Standard describes the knowledge and practical skills required for competent beekeeping. Candidates demonstrate these through authentic activity, decisions, records and reflection across 16 competency areas. Certification recognises assessed achievement; attendance or payment alone does not establish competence.

This public guide presents the website requirements and evidence expectations. The authoritative Standard and Assessment Plan govern formal assessment. The internal beginner practical framework is not included.

Knowledge and Skills

Knowledge describes what you understand and explain. Skills describe what you demonstrate in practice.

C1 | Colony inspection, records and management decisions

Perform proportionate colony inspections, maintain accurate records, assess colony condition and health, analyse findings and colony history, and determine appropriate follow-up management, manipulation, monitoring or non-intervention.

Knowledge

K1.1 Colony organisation, castes and seasonal colony state.

K1.2 Brood development, lifecycle and interpretation.

K1.3 Interpreting queen status and colony viability.

K1.4 Purpose, timing and proportionality of inspection.

K1.5 Indicators of colony condition and management need.

K1.6 Environmental and local influences on colony behaviour and management.

K1.7 Using colony history and trends.

K1.8 Accurate and useful hive records.

Skills

S1.1 Plan and conduct a purposeful colony inspection.

S1.2 Confident, controlled and bee-safe colony handling, including controlled shaking where required for brood-health assessment.

S1.3 Systematically assess adult bees, brood, queen status, stores, space and other relevant colony indicators across a range of colony sizes and production states.

S1.4 Identify significant normal and abnormal findings and distinguish observation from assumption, including practical evidence of an NBU-recognised brood condition.

S1.5 Produce accurate, contemporaneous inspection records sufficient to support future management decisions.

S1.6 Compare current findings with previous records to identify trends or changes.

S1.7 Determine and justify appropriate next steps, including intervention, further monitoring or non-intervention.

S1.8 Review management outcomes and adapt future management.

Evidence expectations

Longitudinal inspection evidence across different colony sizes, production states and points in the season. Practical evidence, images, dated hive records and spoken explanation should show observation → interpretation → decision → action → record → review.

C2 | Biosecurity

Apply effective and proportionate biosecurity practices at hive and apiary level throughout routine and higher-risk beekeeping activities to minimise avoidable transmission of pests and disease.

Knowledge

K2.1 Understand major routes by which pests and diseases may spread between bees, colonies and apiaries.

K2.2 Understand equipment-related transmission risks, including tools, gloves, clothing, feeders, frames, comb and other equipment.

K2.3 Understand cleaning, disinfection, sterilisation, isolation, quarantine and controlled movement, including their limitations.

K2.4 Understand how drifting, robbing, feeding practices and movement of bees, brood, comb or stores can affect biosecurity risk.

K2.5 Recognise when routine biosecurity must be strengthened, including local disease alerts and suspected or confirmed statutory concerns.

K2.6 Understand when equipment or comb should not be moved, reused or shared, including uncertain health status and planned removal of excessively old/dark brood comb.

K2.7 Understand why biosecurity decisions must be proportionate and based on actual risk rather than ritual alone.

Skills

S2.1 Apply routine biosecurity consistently between colonies and after apiary work, including disinfectable gloves, tools, equipment/contact points such as smoker bellows, footwear and appropriate laundering of protective clothing.

S2.2 Clean and sterilise hives and reusable hive components using methods appropriate to material and disease risk.

S2.3 Assess and manage the risk of moving pests, parasites and diseases when bees, brood, comb, stores or equipment are moved between colonies or apiaries.

S2.4 Risk assess the apiary before opening colonies and plan the working order accordingly, adapting the plan as new observations arise.

S2.5 Isolate and quarantine bees, colonies and suspect material where health status is unknown, uncertain or potentially infectious, including caught swarms where appropriate.

S2.6 Explain and justify biosecurity measures in relation to the actual hazard and route of transmission.

Evidence expectations

Routine biosecurity must be evidenced repeatedly in genuine apiary activity, including at least one higher-risk decision. Knowledge may be shown through short activity-based write-ups, photographs or video linked to work the candidate has actually carried out.

C3 | Seasonal colony management and overwintering

Manage colonies throughout their seasonal cycle, adapting space, resources, interventions and management objectives to colony condition and environmental circumstances.

Knowledge

K3.1 Seasonal changes in colony population, brood production, drone production, food demand and storage.

K3.2 Spring build-up, expansion, nectar flows, dearth, autumn contraction and winter clustering.

K3.3 How local weather, forage and atypical seasons alter expected colony development.

K3.4 Principles of providing and removing brood and storage space without creating avoidable congestion or excessive unused space.

K3.5 Factors affecting winter readiness, including colony strength, queen status, stores, disease burden, Varroa and equipment condition.

K3.6 Risks associated with poor timing of seasonal manipulations.

K3.7 Why calendar-based management must be adapted to observed colony condition.

Skills

S3.1 Assess whether colony development is appropriate for the season and local conditions.

S3.2 Provide or remove brood/storage space at an appropriate time and justify the manipulation.

S3.3 Prepare colonies for periods of high growth, forage shortage, autumn and winter.

S3.4 Assess winter readiness and address identified deficits within an appropriate timeframe.

S3.5 Assess colonies after winter and formulate an evidence-based spring management plan.

S3.6 Adapt planned management when colony development or weather differs from expectation.

Evidence expectations

Evidence should span spring, active season, autumn preparation, winter and post-winter review, showing continuity of judgement rather than calendar-led routine.

C4 | Nutrition, feeding and stores management

Assess colony nutritional status and stores and make appropriate decisions concerning feeding and forage-related management while avoiding unnecessary or harmful intervention.

Knowledge

K4.1 Colony requirements for carbohydrate, pollen/protein, water and micronutrients across seasons and brood states.

K4.2 Indicators of adequate, declining and critically low stores.

K4.3 How forage availability, weather, colony size and brood rearing affect consumption.

K4.4 Common feed types, their appropriate uses and limitations.

K4.5 Risks associated with feeding, including robbing, spoilage/fermentation, contamination and inappropriate timing.

K4.6 Interactions between feeding, honey for human consumption, treatments and food hygiene.

K4.7 Why poor colony development may have causes other than lack of feed.

Skills

S4.1 Assess colony stores using appropriate observations and records.

S4.2 Identify nutritional risk before it becomes an emergency where reasonably possible.

S4.3 Select and provide an appropriate feed where required.

S4.4 Feed in a way that minimises robbing, drowning, contamination and avoidable disturbance.

S4.5 Monitor the colony response and stop or alter feeding where circumstances change.

S4.6 Recognise when feeding is unnecessary, inappropriate or likely to mask another problem.

Evidence expectations

At least two different nutritional/store-management situations should be evidenced, including one reasoned decision rather than a routine scheduled feed.

C5 | Swarm prevention, control and colony reproduction

Recognise swarm preparation and apply appropriate swarm prevention and control techniques according to colony condition and management objectives, including honey production and controlled increase.

Knowledge

K5.1 Biological drivers and colony conditions associated with reproductive swarming.

K5.2 Differences between play cups and queen cells of different functional significance, and limitations of inferring intent from cells alone.

K5.3 Relationship between colony demography, congestion, queen status, genetics, forage and seasonal timing in swarm risk.

K5.4 Difference between swarm prevention and swarm control.

K5.5 Principles, advantages, limitations and risks of several accepted swarm-control methods.

K5.6 Consequences of inappropriate destruction of queen cells or poorly timed manipulations.

K5.7 How swarm-control methods can be aligned with honey production, queen replacement or controlled increase.

Skills

S5.1 Assess swarm risk using colony evidence rather than relying on one sign.

S5.2 Recognise circumstances requiring preventive management before queen cells are developed.

S5.3 Select and perform an appropriate swarm-control manipulation.

S5.4 Manage resulting colony units, queen cells and space appropriately after the manipulation.

S5.5 Use controlled increase as an intentional management objective where colony strength and season make it appropriate.

S5.6 Review the outcome of swarm-management decisions and respond to unexpected queen or colony status.

Evidence expectations

Genuine seasonal swarm-risk evidence is expected. Practical swarm control should be evidenced when a suitable natural opportunity occurs, with robust scenario/professional discussion used only where necessary.

C6 | Queen status, queen failure and colony recovery

Assess queen status and reproductive performance and respond appropriately to queenlessness, poor performance, unsuccessful mating, drone laying, laying workers and other queen-related colony problems.

Knowledge

K6.1 Queen biology, mating, sperm storage, egg laying and normal seasonal variation in laying.

K6.2 Evidence of queenright and queenless states when the queen is not directly observed.

K6.3 Normal and abnormal brood patterns and plausible causes.

K6.4 Supersedure, emergency queen rearing and post-swarm queen replacement timescales.

K6.5 Drone-laying queens, laying workers and causes of apparent brood failure.

K6.6 Risks and benefits of requeening, uniting, adding brood, waiting, reducing space or allowing natural replacement.

K6.7 Why premature intervention after queen loss or emergence may create further problems.

Skills

S6.1 Assess likely queen status using eggs, brood, behaviour, queen cells, timing and colony history.

S6.2 Recognise evidence consistent with failing or abnormal reproductive performance.

S6.3 Construct a realistic timeline after queen loss, swarming, cell capping or emergence.

S6.4 Select an appropriate recovery strategy based on colony viability, season and available resources.

S6.5 Requeen, unite or add brood/resources appropriately where justified.

S6.6 Monitor the colony after intervention and confirm or revise the diagnosis/management plan.

Evidence expectations

Real queen-status assessments are expected, including at least one case where status is inferred from evidence rather than simply seeing a marked queen.

C7 | Selective breeding, queen rearing and queen introduction

Assess colonies for useful and undesirable characteristics, identify suitable breeding candidates, perform appropriate queen-rearing techniques, produce spare mated queens and introduce queens successfully.

Knowledge

K7.1 Difference between phenotype, environmental influence and heritable characteristics.

K7.2 Useful selection traits such as health, temperament, productivity, overwintering, swarming tendency and colony viability.

K7.3 Limitations of drawing breeding conclusions from small numbers or short observation periods.

K7.4 Queen and drone development, mating biology and timing.

K7.5 Principles of cell production, queenless/queenright cell building and mating-unit management.

K7.6 Common queen-rearing methods and their advantages and limitations at small scale.

K7.7 Risks in queen introduction and factors affecting acceptance.

K7.8 Importance of pedigree/performance records and honest recording of failures.

Skills

S7.1 Maintain records that allow colonies to be compared for selection purposes.

S7.2 Identify and justify suitable and unsuitable breeding candidates.

S7.3 Carry out at least one appropriate practical queen-rearing method.

S7.4 Manage developing queen cells and mating units appropriately.

S7.5 Assess mating success and early laying performance.

S7.6 Maintain spare mated queens or replacement queens appropriately.

S7.7 Introduce a queen using an appropriate method and verify acceptance and subsequent performance.

Evidence expectations

Genuine queen-rearing activity is expected, including production/management of queen cells and at least one mating or queen-introduction outcome. Unsuccessful attempts may still provide valid evidence where competently analysed.

C8 | Varroa and parasitic mite management

Monitor, interpret and manage parasitic mite infestation using appropriate monitoring methods, interventions, authorised treatments where applicable and integrated pest management principles.

Knowledge

K8.1 Varroa biology, phoretic and reproductive stages and interaction with brood cycles.

K8.2 Effects of Varroa and associated viruses on individual bees and colony health.

K8.3 Common monitoring methods, sampling error and limitations of each method.

K8.4 Seasonal mite dynamics and how brood presence affects monitoring and treatment effectiveness.

K8.5 Integrated pest management principles including biotechnical and chemical options.

K8.6 Authorised-treatment principles, label compliance, timing, residues, resistance and food-production considerations.

K8.7 Why fixed thresholds or treatment calendars must be interpreted in context and current guidance checked.

K8.8 Importance of evaluating treatment effectiveness rather than assuming success.

Skills

S8.1 Use at least two appropriate Varroa monitoring approaches across the programme or explain why one method is unsuitable in a specific context.

S8.2 Record and interpret monitoring results, acknowledging uncertainty where relevant.

S8.3 Develop an IPM plan appropriate to colony, season and management objectives.

S8.4 Select and apply an authorised treatment correctly where treatment is required.

S8.5 Use non-chemical/biotechnical measures appropriately where suitable.

S8.6 Evaluate post-intervention results and alter the plan if control is inadequate.

S8.7 Maintain treatment and monitoring records sufficient for responsible management and food-safety traceability.

Evidence expectations

Actual mite monitoring data over time plus at least one evidenced management decision/intervention and subsequent review.

C9 | Adult bee and brood health

Assess adult bees and brood for signs of disease, disorder or abnormal development; interpret potential causes; investigate appropriately; take measures to control and prevent spread; and obtain specialist, laboratory or statutory assistance where required.

Knowledge

K9.1 Normal appearance and development of healthy eggs, larvae, pupae and adult bees.

K9.2 Signs associated with important brood diseases and disorders.

K9.3 Signs associated with important adult-bee diseases, nutritional problems, poisoning, viruses and other disorders.

K9.4 How Varroa, queen failure, starvation/chilling and other non-infectious factors may mimic or contribute to disease signs.

K9.5 Principles of differential diagnosis and why visual signs alone may be insufficient for definitive diagnosis.

K9.6 Routes of disease spread and immediate containment actions.

K9.7 When laboratory confirmation, specialist advice or statutory notification is required.

K9.8 Appropriate beekeeper-level control, treatment, destruction or equipment-management principles within legal and competence limits.

Skills

S9.1 Systematically assess brood and adult bees for normal and abnormal signs.

S9.2 Document abnormal findings accurately using records and images where appropriate.

S9.3 Develop a reasoned differential assessment rather than jump to unsupported diagnosis.

S9.4 Take immediate biosecurity/containment measures appropriate to the suspected risk.

S9.5 Obtain or facilitate appropriate samples, confirmation or expert inspection where required.

S9.6 Apply appropriate control/treatment within the beekeeper role and current rules.

S9.7 Review colony response and modify management as further evidence becomes available.

Evidence expectations

Routine health assessment should be embedded throughout the portfolio, with real abnormal findings used where encountered. Rare or notifiable conditions may be assessed through high-quality scenarios and professional discussion.

C10 | Establishing, increasing, uniting and moving colonies

Establish viable colonies and nucs, make controlled increase, unite colonies appropriately and move colonies or bees while managing biological, practical and biosecurity risks.

Knowledge

K10.1 Requirements for viable nucs/colonies including adequate adult bees, brood, stores, queen status and seasonal timing.

K10.2 Risks of making increase from colonies that are weak, unhealthy, poorly provisioned or unsuitable.

K10.3 Principles of balancing brood, adult bee population, stores and space when making up nucs/splits.

K10.4 Methods and risks of uniting colonies, including queen considerations and disease/biosecurity assessment.

K10.5 Effects of moving colonies on orientation, drifting and foraging.

K10.6 Transport considerations including closure, ventilation, secure loading, temperature and public safety.

K10.7 Post-movement or post-unite checks and recovery management.

Skills

S10.1 Assess whether a source colony is suitable for increase.

S10.2 Create and establish a viable nuc or split using a justified method.

S10.3 Monitor development and correct imbalance where reasonably possible.

S10.4 Assess whether colonies should be united and perform an appropriate unite.

S10.5 Prepare and secure a colony/nuc for movement.

S10.6 Move colonies safely and re-establish them appropriately at destination.

S10.7 Apply biosecurity principles to all increase, uniting and movement decisions.

Evidence expectations

Practical increase is mandatory. Unite and movement should be evidenced where available, with scenario-supported evidence only where a natural opportunity does not arise.

C11 | Honey production, harvesting and selling

Manage colonies for responsible honey production, assess when honey is suitable for harvest and carry out hygienic harvesting, extraction, settling or processing, storage, jarring and compliant labelling and selling.

Knowledge

K11.1 Nectar collection, ripening, capping, moisture and factors affecting fermentation risk.

K11.2 Super management and the relationship between colony needs, nectar flow and harvest decisions.

K11.3 Food-hygiene risks during removal, transport, extraction, settling, storage and jarring.

K11.4 Use and limitations of refractometers or other approaches to assessing honey moisture where relevant.

K11.5 Crystallisation, granulation, temperature effects and appropriate processing/storage.

K11.6 Traceability, batch/lot control and record keeping appropriate to small-scale honey production.

K11.7 Current legal requirements for selling/supplying honey, including composition, descriptions, weights/measures, origin and mandatory label information as applicable.

K11.8 Circumstances in which honey should not be harvested, sold or represented in a particular way.

Skills

S11.1 Assess whether a crop is sufficiently mature and suitable for removal.

S11.2 Remove and transport supers/honey hygienically while minimising contamination and robbing.

S11.3 Extract honey using clean equipment and appropriate food-hygiene controls.

S11.4 Settle, filter/process where appropriate and store honey without unnecessary deterioration.

S11.5 Assess moisture/condition where appropriate and make a reasoned decision about suitability for jarring/sale.

S11.6 Jar honey hygienically and apply compliant labels for the applicable UK jurisdiction/market.

S11.7 Maintain basic production and traceability records.

S11.8 Identify misleading or non-compliant claims/labels and correct them.

Evidence expectations

Genuine extraction/processing evidence is expected where the learner has access to a crop. A compliant label and traceability record are mandatory; a simulated label may be accepted where the learner does not sell commercially.

C12 | Hive, comb and equipment management

Select, use, inspect, maintain, clean, store and replace hive equipment and comb appropriately, including planned comb replacement and manipulation in response to colony health, disease risk, brood-nest condition and management objectives.

Knowledge

K12.1 Functions of common hive components and implications of incompatible or poorly maintained equipment.

K12.2 How comb ages, becomes damaged or contaminated and why brood-comb renewal may be beneficial.

K12.3 Health and biosecurity implications of moving drawn comb between colonies.

K12.4 Principles, indications and limitations of planned comb-change methods including staged replacement, Bailey-type change and shook-swarm approaches where appropriate.

K12.5 How comb manipulation can support brood-nest condition, colony growth and management objectives, and when rearrangement may be harmful.

K12.6 Storage risks including wax moth, rodents, moisture, mould and chemical contamination.

K12.7 Cleaning/disinfection limits for different materials and circumstances.

K12.8 Criteria for repair, reuse, quarantine, replacement or disposal of equipment/comb.

Skills

S12.1 Inspect hive equipment and comb and identify deterioration, damage, contamination or health-related concerns.

S12.2 Plan and carry out appropriate comb renewal/change based on colony and health needs.

S12.3 Manipulate comb appropriately to support colony management without creating avoidable brood or temperature risks.

S12.4 Decide whether drawn comb/equipment can be safely transferred and justify the biosecurity decision.

S12.5 Clean, maintain and store equipment appropriately.

S12.6 Prevent or manage avoidable storage damage including wax-moth damage.

S12.7 Repair, replace or dispose of unsuitable equipment/comb appropriately.

Evidence expectations

Practical evidence should include equipment assessment and at least one planned comb-management or renewal action linked to a health or colony-management rationale.

C13 | Apiary management and safe working

Establish and operate within an apiary in a manner that supports effective colony management while protecting the beekeeper, other people, animals and the surrounding environment.

Knowledge

K13.1 Apiary siting factors including access, aspect, water, forage, drainage, prevailing conditions and security.

K13.2 Risks to neighbours, public, livestock and other site users.

K13.3 Personal protective equipment, smoker/fire safety, tool safety and manual handling.

K13.4 Sting risk, allergic reactions and emergency planning appropriate to the setting.

K13.5 Effects of colony density, drifting, robbing and entrance orientation.

K13.6 Safe access, vehicle use, lifting aids and working-alone considerations.

K13.7 When weather, colony behaviour or environmental conditions make inspection unsafe or inappropriate.

Skills

S13.1 Assess an apiary/site for practical, public, animal and environmental risks.

S13.2 Plan and organise work to minimise avoidable disturbance and danger.

S13.3 Select and use appropriate PPE, smoker and tools safely.

S13.4 Handle equipment using safe manual-handling principles and appropriate assistance/aids.

S13.5 Manage robbing/drifting and nuisance risks where reasonably possible.

S13.6 Respond appropriately to unsafe weather, defensive colony behaviour, sting incidents or other emergent risks.

S13.7 Leave colonies and the apiary secure after work.

Evidence expectations

Routine safe-working evidence is expected across the programme, plus at least one explicit apiary/site risk assessment or structured review.

C14 | Exotic pests, invasive species and statutory responsibilities

Monitor for invasive species, exotic pests, parasites and statutory bee-health threats, recognise suspicious findings and comply with relevant reporting, inspection, monitoring and control arrangements.

Knowledge

K14.1 Purpose of national bee-health surveillance and statutory/regulatory inspection.

K14.2 Recognition features, relevant life stages and possible signs of Tropilaelaps mites, small hive beetle and yellow-legged hornets, including common alternative findings and the limits of visual identification.

K14.3 Difference between routine beekeeper management and situations requiring statutory notification or official direction.

K14.4 Current reporting routes for suspected notifiable/reportable bee pests/diseases and invasive species.

K14.5 Principles of preserving useful evidence safely without increasing spread or personal risk.

K14.6 Potential pathways of introduction and why movement records/biosecurity matter.

K14.7 Beekeeper responsibilities during official inspection, sampling, movement restrictions or control action.

K14.8 Need to verify current statutory lists/guidance rather than rely on outdated memory.

Skills

S14.1 Carry out and record proportionate monitoring for Tropilaelaps mites, small hive beetle and yellow-legged hornets during colony and apiary work, selecting methods appropriate to the target pest and current official guidance.

S14.2 Recognise suspicious signs/specimens that warrant further investigation or reporting.

S14.3 Distinguish plausible target threats from common alternatives at an appropriate beekeeper level.

S14.4 Document and report concerns through the correct current route.

S14.5 Apply immediate biosecurity/containment actions while awaiting official advice where appropriate.

S14.6 Cooperate effectively with statutory inspection and follow lawful official instructions.

S14.7 Locate and use current official guidance/resources when requirements change.

Evidence expectations

Genuine routine surveillance must include planned monitoring for Tropilaelaps mites and small hive beetle, with yellow-legged hornet monitoring as relevant to current official guidance. Identification and judgement for rare/exotic/notifiable threats may be assessed using verified images, questioning and scenarios where permitted by the Assessment Plan. These do not replace required practical monitoring evidence. Natural occurrence of an exotic pest is not required. No new Behaviour requirements are introduced by this scope clarification.

C15 | Reflective, responsible and evidence-led beekeeping practice

Evaluate management outcomes, learn from experience, identify limits of competence and continually adapt practice in response to evidence, colony circumstances and developing knowledge.

Knowledge

K15.1 Why beekeeping rules-of-thumb and calendar dates have limitations.

K15.2 How records and comparison over time support better decisions.

K15.3 Difference between observation, interpretation, correlation and cause.

K15.4 How uncertainty should influence the confidence of a management decision.

K15.5 Sources of reliable, current information and how to evaluate conflicting advice.

K15.6 Role and limits of mentors, associations, inspectors, laboratories, veterinarians/other specialists where relevant.

K15.7 Importance of continuing professional development and updating practice as evidence/guidance changes.

K15.8 Why honest analysis of unsuccessful outcomes is valuable evidence of competence.

Skills

S15.1 Review outcomes against the original management objective.

S15.2 Identify what evidence supported a decision and what information was missing.

S15.3 Acknowledge and analyse mistakes or unsuccessful outcomes without concealing them.

S15.4 Modify subsequent management in response to learning and changing evidence.

S15.5 Seek appropriate advice or specialist help before exceeding personal competence.

S15.6 Evaluate information sources and explain why one source is more reliable/relevant than another.

S15.7 Create and maintain a personal development plan based on evidence from practice.

Evidence expectations

Reflection should be embedded throughout the portfolio, including at least one successful and one unsuccessful or unexpectedly complex management episode. A generic reflective essay alone is insufficient.

C16 | Regulatory, traceability and best-practice record keeping

Maintain accurate, current and traceable records relating to government bee-health registration, apiaries, colony numbers, feeding, treatments, acquisition, movement and sale of bees, and statutory bee-health activity, in accordance with current legal requirements and recognised best practice.

Knowledge

K16.1 Understand the beekeeper's regulatory and best-practice record-keeping responsibilities, including which records are legally required, why they are maintained and applicable retention requirements.

K16.2 Understand the purpose of government or national bee-health registration and accurate apiary/colony information in supporting disease alerts, surveillance and professional inspection during outbreaks.

K16.3 Understand statutory veterinary-medicine record requirements for bees, including acquisition, administration, disposal, traceability and retention.

K16.4 Understand the purpose and content of accurate feeding and treatment records and their relevance to colony management, food safety and traceability.

K16.5 Understand the importance of traceability when bees or queens are acquired, caught, moved, transferred, given away or sold, including provenance and relevant health information.

K16.6 Understand the statutory disease investigation and control process from suspicion/reporting through inspection, standstill/restrictions, sampling/laboratory confirmation, treatment or destruction notices, reinspection and release from restrictions.

K16.7 Understand record integrity, contemporaneous recording, honest correction, secure retention, retrievability and confidentiality of sensitive information.

Skills

S16.1 Maintain current beekeeper, apiary-location and colony information with the relevant government or national bee-health authority.

S16.2 Maintain compliant veterinary-medicine purchase, administration and disposal records.

S16.3 Maintain accurate, contemporaneous feeding and treatment records linked to the relevant colony.

S16.4 Maintain acquisition, movement, transfer and sales records for bees and queens sufficient to support traceability.

S16.5 Retrieve and present an organised, auditable record trail showing relevant registration, feeding, treatment, movement/sale and other applicable records.

Evidence expectations

Real records are central. Evidence should include current government bee-health registration, actual feeding/treatment records and genuine acquisition, movement, transfer or sale records where those activities occur. Statutory disease-process knowledge may be assessed through professional discussion/scenario where no real incident has occurred.