Modification history

| Release | Comments |
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| Release 2 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 3.0. |
| Release 1 | This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0. |

| AHCBEK303 | Re-queen a honey bee colony |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to locate and remove a queen from a hive and introduce a new queen into an existing honey bee colony.  The unit applies to beekeepers who take responsibility for their own work and for the quality of the work of others. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements are known to apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Prerequisite unit | Nil |
| Unit sector | Beekeeping (BEK) |

| Elements | Performance criteria |
| --- | --- |
| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1.Identify requirement to re-queen a colony | 1.1 Assess the performance of the current queen  1.2 Monitor colony for signs that indicate queen replacement is necessary |
| 2.Prepare to re-queen a colony | 2.1 Select and use personal protective equipment (PPE) ensuring its serviceability  2.2 Identify work health and safety hazards and assess risks associated with task and apply controls  2.3 Identify and obtain replacement queen to meet workplace specifications  2.4 Store replacement queen and any escort worker bees in appropriate conditions and monitor until re-queening is undertaken  2.5 Monitor hive condition and environment to ensure re-queening occurs under optimum conditions  2.6 Assess the condition of replacement queen for health |
| 3.Introduce replacement queen bee | 3.1 Locate queen bee to be replaced in the hive and remove  3.2 Introduce queen to hive according to industry best practice and workplace procedures  3.3 Allow time for queen and colony to adjust and stabilise according to workplace procedure |
| 4.Monitor progress of a replacement queen bee | 4.1 Monitor the hive for acceptance of replacement queen bee by colony according to workplace procedure  4.2 Monitor replacement queen bee for evidence of egg laying and adequate levels of hatching |

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| Foundation Skills  This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria. | |
| Skills | Description |
| Navigate the world of work | * Takes responsibility for following explicit and implicit workplace procedures and industry practices |
| Get the work done | * Takes responsibility for planning, sequencing and prioritising tasks required in preparing for and conducting a honey bee queen replacement procedure |

| Unit mapping information | | | |
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| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| AHCBEK303 Re-queen a honey bee colony | AHCBEK303A Re-queen a honey bee colony | Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages  Minor changes to Performance Criteria for clarity | Equivalent unit |

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

| Assessment requirements | |
| --- | --- |
| AHCBEK303 | Re-queen a honey bee colony |
| Performance evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has demonstrated that they have re-queened a hive using at least different two techniques including:   * identified hazards and risks and implement control measures * selected and used suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) * identified the need to re-queen a hive * obtained, assessed the condition and cared for the new queen * assessed suitability of conditions for re-queening * assessed the health and condition of the parent colony * introduced the queen bee according to the method of re-queening employed * monitor queen bee and colony activity for signs of success. | |

| Knowledge evidence |
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| 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 re-queening honey bee hives including common methods and techniques used by apiarists * conditions required for re-queening * factors affecting honey bee brood production * factors to consider when identifying and removing old queen and introducing new queen * queen bee behaviour and brood pattern * selection criteria for queen bees * transport and storage requirements for queen bees prior to introduction * sourcing queen bees from a commercial suppliers, apiary breeding stock or supersedure and their advantages and disadvantages * assessing the health of queen bees. |

| Assessment conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in an active apiary or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * live bees * live queen bees as supplied by commercial supplier or own apiary breeding program * use of specific tools for hive and queen bee manipulation * use of specific items of personal protective equipment * specifications: * use of specific workplace procedures and processes * use of workplace instructions or job specifications * access to industry codes of practice * timeframes: * within a specific time period according to queen bee replacement method.   Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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