Discussion Document on the Review of the Bee Products Code of Practice

Purpose of the Review:

To review the current Code of Practice: Processing of Bee Products.

Background:

The Bee Products Code of Practice has not been reviewed for some time and had become out of date for a number of reasons including legislative changes eg requirements for tutin.

A Working Group was formed in 2016 with members from the APINZ Standards Focus Group, AsureQuality and MPI to review the Code of Practice.

The objectives of the review is to:
- identify any gaps in the current COP;
- bring existing parts up-to-date;
- combine into one document in the MPI Operational Code template; and
- update the RMP template(s).

Summary of changes for the Code

Some detail has been removed (eg relating to registering an RMP) whilst more detail has been included - but those with existing RMPs should already have most of these areas addressed. Therefore the detail is more about formalising those requirements into the Code eg the competency for the day-to-day manager of the RMP has now been included.

Other areas with more detail include:
- Personnel training;
- Operator Verification;
- Ventilation;
- Lighting intensities;
- Allergen management; and
- Storage and Transport.

The order of the code has changed to present a more logical flow, particularly for new operators setting up an RMP operation.

There is a focus on the Harvest Declaration to ensure operators understand the requirements. This was identified as an issue through an analysis of verification reports.
The interfaces with other requirements (e.g. agricultural compounds and the American Foul Brood strategy) has been included.

What is new is the inclusion of the requirements for tutin – this includes tutin as a Critical Control Point in the HACCP analysis. The use of the 5 options has been described in a flowchart.

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Future plans

The existing RMP templates will be reviewed in due course and, based on submissions, there may be more processes and products included in the Code (e.g. mobile extraction, royal jelly).

What happens next

All submissions will be considered after consultation has closed. A summary of submissions and analysis will be sent to all submitters and posted on the MPI website. The new Code could be in place by the end of the year or earlier.

The next phase of the review will include reviewing the RMP templates and developing further processes/products as needed.