

## **WBKA BASIC ASSESSMENT APIARY REQUIREMENTS**

It is the responsibility of the candidate and the apiary manager of the venue where the assessment is taking place to ensure that the colonies and associated equipment meet the specified criteria. Before conducting the examination the Assessor should determine, as far as reasonably practical, that the following equipment is to hand.

- a queen-right colony of bees having brood in all stages, with honey and pollen stores, and covering at least six brood combs; colonies obviously affected by disease are unacceptable
- the component parts of a brood frame and a sheet of wired foundation together with the necessary nails and tools ready for assembly in front of the Assessor;
- a working smoker with spare fuel, hive tool(s) and any other items required to enable colony inspection;
- suitable protective clothing and equipment.
- a strap or other method for demonstrating how to secure and move a colony of bees safely.

Ideally the assessment should be conducted at an apiary not belonging to the candidate because the assessment should not take into account the condition of the colonies presented. Local association apiaries or apiaries belonging to the Assessor are best because the quality of the bees is known before the assessment.

Normally a group of candidates (up to 4 or 5) should be instructed to attend a common venue at about hourly intervals. When there is only one candidate to be assessed then the candidate should travel to the Assessor where possible. This is highly desirable on economic grounds as well as quality of bees.

On occasions that the Assessor travels to the candidate then if the Assessor considers that the colony offered by the Candidate is unfit for inspection for the purposes of the Assessment, then the Assessor is entitled to ask the Candidate to propose a second colony explaining the reasons why.

In the case where the Assessor is offered a substitute colony by the Candidate if this colony is also unsuitable the Assessor cannot pass the Candidate.