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| **OPS12** | **Apiaries Risk Assessment**  |
| **Unit Name:** |  | **Unit Number:** |  |
| **Risk Assessment Completed** | **Date**  | **By** | **Signed** |
| **1st review** | **Date** | **By** | **Signed** |
| **2nd review** | **Date** | **By** | **Signed** |
| **3rd review** | **Date** | **By** | **Signed** |

**Note** - Assessments must be reviewed every 12 months, whenever there is a significant change in the activity, and following any incident involving the activity. Risk assessments must be retained for a period of 6 years.

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| **Part 1 – General Safety Controls** |

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| **What are the hazards?** | **Who might be harmed?** | **How might they be harmed?** | **What are you already doing to control the risks?** |
| Bees flying in areas around apiary and hives | Compass employeesAgency staffClient staffMembers of the public | Bee stings resulting in discomfort, minor injury, potential major injury if multiple bee stings  | * Local Beekeepers’ Association is used for training and advice, including siting of hives.
* Hives sited away from work, rest and public areas, away from high pedestrian areas, footpaths, neighbouring gardens etc.
* Where possible the apiary is enclosed with a 1.8m fence, hedge or dense shrubbery to encourage bees to fly up and over.
* Flight paths are away from footpaths, access routes and adjacent gardens.
* Hives in a stable location to reduce the risk of them being knocked over.
* Appropriate warning signage displayed.
* Everyone working in the apiary, including grounds maintenance staff, trained how to avoid and how to deal with beestings
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| Contact with bees during inspection of and tending of hives | Compass employeesAgency staff | Bee stings resulting in discomfort, minor injury, potential major injury if multiple bee stings | * Only trained staff inspect and tend to hives.
* Lead beekeeper is available when hives are inspected or being tended to.
* First aider must be available when hives are inspected or being tended to.
* Hives are always approached from the side or back, and away from flight paths.
* Staff do not run or rush; but behave in a quiet and orderly manner and take necessary steps to avoid squashing bees.
* Staff do not wear strongly scented deodorant, lotions, perfume etc or sunglasses when working around hives.
* Suitable PPE including hat, veil, suit, sturdy footwear that covers the ankle, and gloves, are worn.
* PPE is maintained and regularly inspected.
* Staff check that they are completely bee-proof before entering the area.
* Hives only inspected when necessary.
* Hives only inspected and tended to when the weather conditions are suitable, i.e., sunny and warm with little wind. Hives not inspected when it is windy, cold, raining, or dark.
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| Bee sting to persons with allergy | Compass employeesAgency staff,Client staff,Members of the public with known allergies, with unknown propensity, or newly developed allergies. | Anaphylactic shock or severe reaction to bee stings | * Staff with known allergy to bee stings are not permitted to tend to hives.
* First aid kits are stocked with hydrocortisone cream and antihistamine tablets.
* When inspecting or tending to hives or completing ground maintenance in the area staff are not permitted to work alone but must be a team of at least two.
* A charged mobile phone with reception must be available at all times.
* Emergency procedures, including location of the closest emergency services, the location (including address, post code and what3words) of the apiary and any specific access information must be displayed in the area.
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| Aggressive bees | Compass employeesAgency staff,Client staff,Members of the public | Increased risk of bee stings | * Gentle bee varieties are selected.
* Aggressive colonies are re-queened.
* Smoke used to keep bees quiet and calm.
* Bees are confined to the hive when weather or other factors are likely to make them aggressive.
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| Swarms | Compass employeesAgency staff,Client staff,Members of the public | Perception of danger, resulting in panic and potentially multiple bee stings.Increased risk of bee stings | * Regular swarm prevention inspections are undertaken.
* Steps taken to prevent congestion/overcrowding of hives and to reduce the risk of swarming.
* If bees swarm the lead beekeeper is notified.
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| Manual handling | Compass employeesAgency staff | Manual handling injuries/sprains/strains from over exertions when lifting hives, hive components, or other items | * Manual handling aids, such as trolleys or wheelbarrows used when appropriate.
* Staff trained in basic manual handling.
* Task specific risk assessments carried out where tasks are identified as high risk.
* Manual handling precautions implemented.
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| Slips, trips, falls caused by uneven surfaces and obstructions | Compass employeesAgency staff | Broken or fractured bones/cuts/bruises/ strains/sprains from slips/trips/falls | * Footpaths and grassed areas are well maintained to eliminate trip hazards.
* High standards of housekeeping maintained.
* Area kept free from debris and clear access and egress routes maintained.
* Tools and equipment put away after use.
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| Use of smokers | Compass employeesAgency staff | Burns or smoke inhalationFire | * Staff do not wear veil while smokers are being lit.
* Care taken when lighting and using a smoker.
* Lit smoker always placed on a hard level surface when not in use.
* Smokers fully extinguished and then emptied after use.
* Waste from smokers is disposed of appropriately.
* A water fire extinguisher must be available.
* If possible, a source or water, such as a tap and hose are available.
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| Use of chemical products (COSHH) | Compass employeesAgency staff | Chemical burns/adverse skin/eye/occupational health conditions | * COSHH training provided.
* Product Safety Data Sheets/Product Assessments/Safety Task Cards made available.
* Suitable PPE provided and worn when using chemicals.
* Chemicals stored and labelled correctly in suitable containers and locations.

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| **Part 2 – Additional Specific Hazards / Controls** |

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| **What are the hazards?** | **Who might be harmed?** | **How might they be harmed?** | **What is required to control the risks?** |
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| **Part 3 – Register of authorised staff** |

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| **Employee name** | **Employee signature** | **Employee role****(e.g. beekeeper, maintenance only)** | **Trainer name** | **Trainer initial** | **Date** |
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