

# Taking Representative Honey Samples

## A Schematic

### Production Apiaries



### Extraction Process



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Batch A

Equal size sample taken from each drum as it is filled

Batch Sample A1-5

2 Kgs

50gm Representative Sample



Product Ready for Sale

## SAMPAL RI .IRM **SCHEDULE II - Taking Representative Samples - 1999**

This is the Airborne standard for preparing, documenting and storing representative samples of honey for the sale of your product.

### **TAKING SAMPLES**

Samples should be prepared for each **BATCH** as follows :

As drums are filled from the extraction holding tank;

- Take a sample from every drum into a 2 kilo container e.g. if the batch is 7 drums in size, each sample should be approx  $\frac{1}{7}$  of 2 kilos.
- At the end of the tank mix this thoroughly to create one total sample of the entire batch of around 2 kilos.

From this several samples of this batch can be supplied, should there be a requirement to do so, while still keeping some in reserve. This remaining sample must be kept for at least 9 months after the honey has been sold.

### **SAMPLE CONTAINERS**

The producer should keep the master sample in an airtight container to eliminate moisture being absorbed by the honey. The sample should also be stored in the dark.

There are a number of good containers for sending samples via the post. Nexus Packaging supply Polyjars of 150gm, 250gm and 500gm sizes with good sealing caps. We supply a 50gm (30 ml) polycarbonate container. These are indestructible. Price of these is approx 45 cents ea.

### **BATCH NUMBERS**

- Batch numbers identify the batch that each sample and drum came from.
- Every sample and drum must have a batch number on it.
- Batch numbers should be made up with two parts. One part should identify the batch and the other should identify the drum in the batch.
- In a batch of 5 drums the first drum could be marked **A1**, the second drum marked **A2**, the third **A3** and so on up to **A5**
- The sample should be marked **A1-5** in this case. This way it is clear from the batch number that the batch represents 5 drums.
- If you like you can add other figures to the first part of the batch number for your own reference e.g. **HDA** to remind you that this is "Honey Dew" batch "A". Do not get too complicated though.

### **MARKING SAMPLES**

- **All sample containers** must be marked with the **batch number and producer's name** on the container, not the lid (lids have a habit of getting swapped from one container to another).
- We can supply a standard label for marking samples with. It should be used if possible.
- Use a **permanent, black felt tipped pen**. E.g. a "**Sanford Sharpie Extra Fine Point Permanent Marker**". These do not fade and will write on most surfaces.

### **TARE WEIGHTS**

- Tare weights are required to be put on **all** drums. All drums coming directly from us have been marked with tare weights. If you are about to fill a drum and a tare weight is not present, weigh it and mark the tare on it.
- The tare weight is to be printed clearly on the drums with a permanent marker. Eg: a "**Sanford Permanent Marker**."
- If the above is not done, we will be evaluating a tare weight of 24 kilos for the drums. This may count against you. Drums received without tare weights will be charged at **\$5.00 per drum**. It is therefore in your interest to mark the tare.

## DRUM LABELLING

- **ALL** drums must be labelled - Using our label or the industry standard label when developed. This must be done at the time the drum is filled to prevent errors.
- Stick the label on a **CLEAN, DRY** part of the drum so it is there to stay. Place the label near to the edge on the top of the drum. Placing it in the middle can lead to the label being damaged should another drum be stacked on top. Use a **permanent, black felt tipped pen** (see above for suggestion) to write on the label. Note : Ballpoint fades and is usually completely unreadable within 6 months. Remember that the label could be needed up to **two years** later.
- Do not put information on the top right corner of the drum label. This area is where we stick our barcode labels. Any information written on the label here will be covered by the barcode label.

## PLACING BARCODES ON DRUMS LABELS

- The barcodes are to be placed on the top right-hand corner of the drum label. If there is a part drum in a batch, this is to be the last drum. This drum is to have the last barcode applied to it. ie: If we take batch A1-5, the barcode put on this drum would read "Batch: A1-5..Drum No: 05".

## WEIGHING DRUMS

- You are required to record whether or not your drums have been weighed on certified scales. Certified means that the scales have been checked and certified in the last 12 months and you have supplied us with a copy of this certification.

## DOCUMENTATION

The producer must keep records of all extractions and samples. The following information must be kept :

- Batch details including
  - \* Date of extraction.
  - \* Apiaries the batch is sourced from.
  - \* Number of drums.
  - \* Approx type of honey
- Details of where and when samples are sent.

## SITE RECORDING AND MARKING

- You are required to know the individual sites that your product has come from and be able to put this information on the schedule (schedule 1) of honey on the back of the contract form. We want your Beekeeper Registration Number, your MAF site number and the site's map reference (260 series 1-50,000 scale) This is not information that we are able to use in any way except to clear your sites with MAF if we need to (for export certification).