

Canadian Apiary Job Definitions

Title: Apiary Technician

NOC Number: 8253 – Skilled livestock worker

Education: None – English or compatible language with apiary owner.

Experience: Minimum of 2 years' experience working on a commercial apiary.

Duties

Apiary Technicians perform tasks such as the following on apiaries:

- Handle, feed and care for honey bee colonies in a manner appropriate for the season.
- Assist in the production of queen cells, nucs, queens &/or replacement hives.
- Recognize, report and monitor hive health issues & apply appropriate cures/controls.
- Move hives.
- Collect and package honey, pollen &/or beeswax.
- May supervise employees.
- May drive & maintain vehicles (including large trucks) & forklifts.
- Bee yard maintenance.
- Manufacture, assemble & maintain hive equipment.
- Operate & maintain other apiary related equipment.
- Keep field and/or production records.
- Interact with external farm personnel (ex. owners of apiary locations, supply companies)

Working Conditions

Apiary Technicians will work long hours at certain times of the year. They may be required to work evenings, nights, weekends and holidays. Many of the tasks are performed outside in all kinds of weather. Although automation and mechanization have helped, the work is often repetitive and physically demanding, requiring some self-motivation. They must follow safety precautions and wear appropriate protective clothing to avoid injury to themselves or others when working with machinery, tools or hives. Appropriate hygiene practices must be followed to prevent or control the spread of diseases from hive to hive or the contamination of the hive products. Apiary Technicians may routinely lift items weighing up to 30 kilograms or more.

Personal Characteristics

Apiary Technicians need the following characteristics:

- Good physical and mental health
- Good co-ordination and manual dexterity
- The ability to follow instructions and work without supervision
- General interest in apiculture and a willingness to learn.
- A responsible attitude when handling equipment
- Ability to work in a team environment in a pleasant and civil manner.
- Flexibility and adaptability

Education Requirements

The education and training requirements for an Apiary Technician is the ability to fluently communicate with the apiary owner and to maintain at least basic written records.

Relevant Skills

The following skills are beneficial, but not required:

- Truck/Forklift/Equipment basic operation and maintenance
- Handyman & hand tool skills
- First Aid / CPR

Employment and Advancement

To advance, Apiary Technicians will require experience in, and be required to demonstrate knowledge of, all aspects of commercial apiary operation.