

## Guideline No. POS3/2013

### Pacific Organic Standard(POS): Conversion Period for Bee Hives

#### 1. Purpose

This guideline provides clarification with regard to the start of the conversion period for bee hives under the Pacific Organic Standard.

#### 2. Scope

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

#### 3. Background

*The POS states:*

*5.9.1 Bee colonies may be converted to organic production. Introduced bees shall come from organic production units when available or otherwise from traditional beekeeping. The conversion period for a colony is at least one year.*

*5.9.2 If the wax is contaminated with pesticides, it shall be replaced by organic wax at the start of the conversion period.*

#### 4. Guidelines

Conversion period commences at the first audit and means the period of continuous organic management from the first audit. Wax can be replaced after the first audit during the conversion period.

#### 5. References

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)