

Food Standards Training Manual Amendment Sheet 2

June 2018

Amendment – Page 177

Update to be added after “**Further Information**”:

Mānuka honey

Definition of mānuka honey

Scope

In December 2017 the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) finalised a scientific definition to authenticate whether or not a particular honey is New Zealand mānuka honey. Since 5 February 2018 new export requirements on mānuka labelling have been in place which means that all mānuka honey for export will have had to be tested and have met the MPI scientific definition before it can be sold overseas.

Mānuka honey is produced by bees collecting nectar from the mānuka plant (*Leptospermum scoparium*) found growing throughout New Zealand. All honey labelled as mānuka for export must be tested by an MPI-recognised laboratory to ensure it meets the new mānuka honey definition.

Mānuka honey definition update

The mānuka honey definition is made up of a combination of 5 attributes (4 chemicals from nectar and 1 DNA marker from mānuka pollen). The level of one of the chemicals (2'-methoxyacetophenone) that has only been found in mānuka plants has been increased making it harder for anyone to attempt blending different types of honey with mānuka honey to meet the definition. The tests for monofloral and multifloral mānuka honey are laid out below.

Test for monofloral mānuka honey

The test for monofloral mānuka honey requires all of the 5 attributes at certain levels. If the honey fails to meet one or more of the attributes at the specified level then it is not monofloral mānuka honey. However, it may still pass the test for multifloral mānuka honey.

Test for multifloral mānuka honey

The test for multifloral mānuka honey requires all of the 5 attributes to monofloral mānuka honey but at different specified levels in 3-phenyllactic acid and 2'-methoxyacetophenone. If the honey fails to meet one or more of the attributes in this test then it is not mānuka honey.

Further information on the updated definition, testing for mānuka honey and export requirements can be found [here](#).