



Field Biologist Course

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What does a Field Biologist do?

Ultimately, the Field Biologist becomes the point of contact between food businesses, pest management service companies and auditors. The Field Biologist is as skilled in meeting legislative requirements as he or she is in developing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programs, which;

- reduces the need and cost for both pest management firms and food businesses to secure the services of multiple pest management specialists for developing IPM Programs, which in turn
- reduces the risk of information falling through the gaps,
- increases client satisfaction & food safety program efficacy
- enhances IPM Program outcomes for pest managers and food businesses alike
- reduces the potential for food to be contaminated by pests and/or pest management efforts
- enhances food business reputation for quality and safe food, free from pest contamination
- contributes to positive audit outcomes for pest managers and food businesses
- contributes to successful food safety standard accreditation and certification renewals

2. What is the scope of the Field Biologist qualification?

The Field Biologist 'Qualification' has been designed and developed with input from specialists in the fields of Pest Management, Food Safety & Quality Systems Auditing, Training & Education, Food Technology and Food Safety Quality Assurance, in consultation with the AEPMA.

This course prepares successful participants for managing the legislative requirements specific to their work sector, and provides tutoring, guidance and knowledge (which are the precursors to developing the necessary skills) in a wide and diverse array of subjects and aspects involved in the effective delivery of 'Food Safe' Pest management, relevant to Food manufacturing, warehousing, import/export, wholesale, retail and traditional food businesses. These include:

- ❖ Appropriate and effective Pest Management Methods & Procedures
- ❖ AUS/NZ Food Standards Code
- ❖ WHS and Food Safety Hazards & Risks
- ❖ AEPMA Codes of Industry Best Practice
- ❖ The Duties & Responsibilities of Stakeholders (Pest Manager & Food Business)
- ❖ Food Safety Standards (HACCP, ISO, BRC, AIB, Coles, Woolies, Yum, etc)
- ❖ Food Safety Certification Requirements
- ❖ IPM Program Development, Implementation & Evaluation
- ❖ Auditing and Continual Improvement



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3. Who should complete the Field Biologist course?

The course is recommended for people who are already licensed and experienced pest management technicians, field supervisors, account managers, food quality assurance professionals, food facility operational managers and food safety auditors. It recaps and builds on the subjects and concepts of entomology, biology, food safety pre-requisite programs and pest management for those who may be cross-training, such as Food Technologists. It is a more technical and prescriptive approach to how an individual can be more effective when dealing with food industry businesses and their pest management needs.

4. Are there any pre-requisites to complete the Field Biologist course?

A genuine interest in safe, effective and appropriate pest management procedures and methodologies and how to integrate this into a quality food production environment, free from pest contamination is a logical starting point. However, there is specific pre-requisite criteria as outlined below.

Minimum Pre-requisites for PEST MANAGEMENT professionals:

- Licensed Pest Management Technician in the relevant state/territory (min. 5 years)
- Minimum 5 years actively involved in Urban Pest Management service delivery
- At least 2 years of the above described 5 years actively involved in the delivery of pest management services in food handling businesses/environments
- **Optional additions:** Any of the Food Industry and/or Food Safety Auditing Pre-requisites listed below

Minimum Pre-requisites for FOOD INDUSTRY professionals:

- Minimum 5 years full time work experience in a food chain related sector, such as food manufacturing industry in the areas of processing, technology, raw materials and /or products
- At least 2 years of the above described 5 years actively involved in full time work in quality assurance or food safety functions in a food manufacturing environment
- **Optional additions:** Any of the Pest Management and/or Food Safety Auditing Pre-requisites

Minimum Pre-requisites for FOOD SAFETY AUDITORS:

- Qualified auditor or Lead Auditor preferably for Food Safety based auditing including HACCP
- Minimum 5 years actively involved in organising and conducting Food Industry Sector or proprietary Food Safety Standard/System compliance and/or certification audits eg: BRC, AIB, SQF, Coles, Woolworths
- **Optional additions:** Any of the above Pest Management and/or Food Industry Pre-requisites





5. How is the Field Biologist course structured?

PHASE 1 – REGISTRATION & ONLINE TRAINING (SESSION 1)

- Enrol via the AEPMA website
- Pay the associated fee
- This payment then triggers the Learning Management System (LMS) to issue the participant with a User name and password
- Participant is then directed to access the 9 Online Training Modules
- Each module must be completed along with each associated online assessment

Overall, the 9 online modules are completed at the participant's own pace and each module has a series of assessment questions which must be answered correctly in order to progress from module to module.

Participants are introduced to, and informed on, relevant concepts, skills and knowledge which are essential requirements for Field Biologist level specialists. Module 9 is the link between the online learning and the 2day face-to-face group training sessions. As part of module 9, the participant is required to access a case study and complete an assignment covering off on some key areas, prepare their findings, recommendations and other considerations (let's call this 'homework').

- The participant is then asked to nominate to attend the 3-Day Face to Face Group Training Phase (this is triggered once Module 9 is accessed). AEPMA will have dates available for selection with a caveat that minimum numbers are required to proceed and although nomination can be received, confirmation cannot occur until minimum numbers are achieved or a date has been reached leading up to the group training sessions.
- AEPMA locks in the date and logistics for the F2F Training to occur
- Participants attend the Face to Face Group Training sessions (3 days)

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PHASE 2 - FACE TO FACE GROUP TRAINING

Day 1 (Session 2)

Field Biologist Online Module Handbook and other training/reference material is handed out to all students (comprising online content, food safety standards, HACCP Australia Standard, Codes of Industry Best Practice + some additional and expanded content)

Group learning sessions are the conducted (with power-point) to support the outcomes required for the FB role

-Face to Face Group Training – Certified Field Biologist Part A (Subjects):

- 1. Introduction & Preamble**
- 2. Food Safety Hierarchy** (Aus. Food Legislation, HACCP, Food Standards)
- 3. The Pest Manager / Food Business Relationship**
- 4. Developing the IPM Program**
- 5. Essential Components of the IPM Program**

-Part B (Subjects) include:

- 6. Compliant Pest Servicing in Food Sites** (IPM - Pesticide Use – howl what and why)
- 7. Organic Certified Sites** (variations to non-organic sites that affect methods & procedures)
- 8. Communication** - Pest Manager & Food Business
- 9. Review, Evaluation & Improvement** of the IPM Program
- 10. Auditing & Inspections**
- 11. Training**

-Separate Module & Written Assessment

Pheromones in Food Safe Premises (separate module)

-Teacher and student two-way Question & Answer session during which all participants may randomly ask questions about any aspect of pest management in food handling environments (or in general), have points of confusion cleared up, and any aspect(s) of the FB Course clarified. Additional subject material (both written and power-point) is presented as additional training support where needed, including subset training modules, power-point and document templates.

-End of Day 1 – Participants given assignments which are reviewed and discussed on Day 2

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Day 2 (Session 3)

-Separate Training Module

Organic Certified Food Companies (separate module)

-Main Theory Written Examination Begins (Summative Assessment on main training modules from Day 1 – Parts A & B)

-Online Mod 9 case study assignments and outcomes reviewed and discussed (open workshop for sharing facilitated discussion and note taking)

-Separate Training Module & Written Assessment

Altered Atmospheres

-Teacher and student two-way Question & Answer session where Teacher and class engage in an open two-way Question & Answer discussion during which all participants may randomly ask questions about any aspect of pest management in food handling environments (or in general), have points of confusion cleared up, and any aspect(s) of the FB Course clarified. Additional subject material (both written and power-point) is presented as additional training support where needed, including subset training modules, power-point visuals, photos and document templates.

Additional subjects and training material includes:

- ❖ Pest Monitoring & Surveillance
- ❖ Incoming Goods Inspection & Quarantine
- ❖ Pheromone Programs – Strategies & Methods
- ❖ Pest Thresh-Hold Breaches & Action Response
- ❖ Stored Product Insect Detection in Stored Food commodities
- ❖ U.V Light and the Attraction to Insects
- ❖ More on Auditing
- ❖ Stored Product Insect Management with Temperature & Altered Atmospheres
- ❖ Bird Control
- ❖ Feral Animal Control

-End of Day 2

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Day 3 (Session 4)

-Separate Training Module with Written Assessment

Stored Product Insects – Biology & Behaviour (separate module)

-Separate Training Module with group discussion

Food Standards comparison and how this effects pest service delivery

-Separate Training Module with group discussion

The Basics of Fumigation & Space Spraying in Food Environments

-Final Teacher and student two-way Question & Answer session where Teacher and class engage in a final two-way Question & Answer discussion during which all participants may ask questions about any aspect of pest management in food handling environments (or in general), have points of confusion cleared up, and any aspect(s) of the FB Course clarified. Additional subject material (both written and power-point) is presented as additional training support where needed, including subset training modules, power-point visuals, photos and document templates.

6. How much does the Field Biologist course cost?

The Field Biologist course is \$3,700 per person (excluding GST) for AEMPA members and \$4,700 per person (excluding GST) for non-members.

Successful certified graduates of the Field Biologist Course are automatically inducted into 'The Institute of Field Biologists'

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