

Importation and Inter-provincial Movement Protocols for Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Colonies from Provinces of Canada to Manitoba

*(Includes excerpts from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's import requirements for honey bee from other countries: http://airs-sari.inspection.gc.ca/airs_external/english/decisions-eng.aspx
The protocols are subject to change – contact the Manitoba Provincial Apiarist to confirm current applicability)*

Inspection reports

Inspection reports must be signed by a provincial apiarist, bee inspector or another individual with the authority under the bee disease act or regulations of the province of origin. Inspection records must be provided to the Manitoba Provincial Apiarist at least one week prior to the imports entering Manitoba.

Permits

An import permit will be provided by the Manitoba Provincial Apiarist upon satisfactory completion of health certifications and will be considered valid for 30 days.

Permission to transport bees through the province of Manitoba will be granted as long as the following conditions have been met:

1. The Provincial Apiarist is provided a copy of the disease inspection results from the Provincial authority in the province of origin and confirmation of permission to move the bees from the Provincial authority in the province of final destination.
2. That the transportation of the bees takes the most direct route through Manitoba and that the expected dates of travel are communicated to the Provincial Apiarist prior to transporting the bees through Manitoba.
3. It is recommended that all transportation of bees inter-provincially is done using an enclosed truck, trailer or the hives are netted with a minimum mesh size of 2mm x 2mm. Transporting bees from regions in Canada known to have established small hive beetle populations will only be granted permission to transport the bees through Manitoba if they comply with the fore mentioned netting or the enclosed transportation recommendation.

Certification

The apiary of origin must be certified free from honey bee diseases as described

Bee colonies will be examined as follows:

Africanized genetics:

The zone of origin must have been designated by Canada as free from reports of the African honey bees (*Apis mellifera* scuttellata), and Africanized honey bees hybrids including European honey bee hybrids with Africanized bees.

Asian genetics:

The zone of origin must have been designated by Canada as free from reports of the Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) and Asian honey bee hybrids.

Honey Bee Diseases:

The apiary must be certified free from honey bee diseases (American Foulbrood (AFB), European Foulbrood (EFB), and Varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*) as follows:

The inspected colonies do not have any visible clinical evidence of American Foulbrood (AFB), European foulbrood (EFB) or Varroa mites when subjected to the following protocol:

In a bee operation that has more than 500 colonies, 60 colonies from a minimum of four (4) apiaries are required to be inspected.

In a bee operation with 100 or more colonies but less than 500 colonies, 40 colonies or 12% of the colonies, whichever is the largest, from a minimum of four (4) apiaries are required to be inspected.

In a bee operation with less than 100 colonies, the number of colonies inspected will be all colonies up to 20 colonies or 40% of the colonies, whichever is the largest.

Inspection for AFB, EFB, Varroa mites and Small Hive Beetle must occur within 30 days prior to export/inter-provincial movement. Bees and equipment will not be eligible for export if disease or pest levels are above the import/inter-provincial movement thresholds.

Bee colonies will be examined as follows:

AFB and EFB:

Visual inspection of brood for symptoms of AFB or EFB and signs of SHB (beetles life stages or feeding damage) is required. Bee colonies used in queen production and mating apiaries must be free from visible clinical evidence of AFB or EFB. If either disease is found, colonies will not be eligible for an inter-provincial permit. At least 3 brood frames per hive must be inspected.

Varroa:

Colonies must be assessed by alcohol washing of bee samples (200-300 bees/colony). The sample of bees must be placed in a basket, immersed in a solution of alcohol and the basket should be shaken for a period of at least 2 minutes. If Varroa is not detected or is under 1% (1 mite per 100 bees tested), honey bee colony shipments will be allowed.

If Varroa is found at levels above 1%, bee colonies must be treated with a product registered in Canada. Treated colonies must be re-tested to confirm that the level of Varroa is below 1%.

Small hive beetle:

The premises must be certified free of small hive beetle (SHB) (*Aethina tumida*) as follows:

Originate from regions recognized by Canada free of SHB or originate from apiaries located in Canada that have been identified by the provincial authority as free of SHB.

SHB inspection protocol involves top bar and bottom board visual inspection of the hive for small hive beetle life stages.

In a bee operation that has more than 5000 colonies, 300 colonies are required to be inspected from a minimum of four (4) apiaries.

In a bee operation less than 5000 colonies but greater than 1000 colonies, 260 colonies or 6% of the colonies, whichever is the largest, from a minimum of four (4) apiaries are required to be inspected.

In a bee operation less than 1000 colonies but greater than 500 colonies, 225 colonies or 26% of the colonies, whichever is the largest, from a minimum of four (4) apiaries are required to be inspected.

In a bee operation less than 500 colonies but greater than 250 colonies, 163 colonies or 45% of the colonies, whichever is the largest, from a minimum of four (4) apiaries are required to be inspected.

In a bee operation less than 250 colonies but greater than 100 colonies, 100 colonies or 65% of the colonies, whichever is the largest, from a minimum of four (4) apiaries are required to be inspected. Less than 100 colonies, 100% of the colonies are to be inspected.

In a bee operation with less than 100 colonies, 100% of the colonies are to be inspected.

Shipment:

The bees described on this permit must be shipped by the most direct and appropriate route from the point of origin to the address of destination in Manitoba.

The shipment may be ordered removed from Manitoba if the manner of shipping is found to be in contravention of transport regulations under the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*. For all forms of transport, suitable arrangements must be made for the feeding, watering and care of the bees during transportation, as far as can be determined.

IMPORTER'S OBLIGATIONS

A physical inspection of the imported bees may be required upon arrival to Manitoba.

Honey bees and associated colonies may be quarantined upon arrival to avoid introduction of diseases, resistant disease and/or pests to areas where they do not exist in Manitoba.

In addition to the requirements of Manitoba, the importer must also comply with any additional requirements imposed by other Canadian provinces that the honey bees transit through en route to their final destination. The provincial apiarist(s) in Manitoba must be contacted prior to inter-provincial movement to obtain the current requirements. The importer is responsible for all costs incurred or associated with any testing or treatment of the bees that may be required under the import or inter-provincial moving permit.

The issuance of this permit does not relieve the owner or the importer of the obligation to comply with any other relevant federal, provincial or municipal legislation or requirement. Failure to comply with the conditions contained in this permit or with the provisions of the *Health of Animals Act and Regulations*, or *The Bee Act and Regulations* may result in the cancellation of this permit and will result in the in the removal of the bees from Manitoba, all without compensation to, and at the expense of the importer.