

Inspection requirements for interprovincial movement of honey bees into and through Alberta

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF), along with British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, has created a honey bee inspection protocol to meet requirements outlined in provincial Bee Acts and Regulations.

Beekeepers must follow these requirements when transporting bee colonies, queens, nuclei, packages, or used bee equipment into or through Alberta. At this time, no permits will be issued for honey bee colonies or nuclei originating from Ontario.

For importation of honey bee colonies into Alberta from other provinces, please contact the Provincial Apiculturist at bee@gov.ab.ca

Requirements for movement of honey bee colonies into or through Alberta

- Must be a registered beekeeper with the province of Alberta if bees or equipment are staying in the province for more than 30 days.
- Must have a permit to move the colonies into the province. A [permit request form](#) to move bees or equipment must be submitted to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Please submit the form five working days before the planned move at bee@gov.ab.ca.
- A provincial inspection report from the exporting province, conducted no earlier than 30 days prior to movement into Alberta, must be included in the permit request submission.
- Movement into another province from Alberta also requires an inspection. You can [submit a service request](#) on the Alberta apiculture website and an AF inspector will contact you to schedule an inspection. Following the inspection, a report will be issued which can be used to request a permit for movement into another province. Please contact us at bee@gov.ab.ca at least five weeks prior to a scheduled move.

Conditions for obtaining a permit to move bees to or through Alberta

- Colonies are free from clinical symptoms of American and European Foulbrood.
- Varroa mite levels are below one per cent or approved control measures are being undertaken to decrease mite levels.
- Small hive beetle (SHB) adults, larvae, or eggs have not been found in the last 12 months in honey bee colonies and/or equipment within 30 km of colonies to be moved, as communicated by the Provincial Apiculturist of the exporting province. If SHB has been found within 30 km in the last 12 months, but no SHB is found in the apiary, colonies will be issued a permit to move into the SHB control zone only. If SHB is found in an Alberta inspection, colonies will not be issued a permit to move without a subsequent clean inspection.
- All bee shipments into or through Alberta should be accompanied by a valid permit as Alberta Transportation or the RCMP may require proof of such a permit.

For more information, contact the Provincial Apiculturist at bee@gov.ab.ca.

Special conditions regarding Small Hive Beetle

- If any life stage of SHB is found during an inspection in the province of origin, the colonies can be treated, managed and re-inspected while still in the province of origin. If upon re-inspection no SHB is found, a permit from Alberta may be issued, but colonies will not be authorized to move onto hybrid canola pollination fields. In this instance, colonies may only be moved into the SHB control zone. A permit will not be issued if upon re-inspection SHB is still found.
- If colonies in the province of origin were within 30 km of a SHB finding in the last 12 months, but receive a clean inspection report, they will be allowed to move into the control zone of Alberta. A subsequent inspection from AF staff will be required.
- If any SHB life stages are found in queen-producing operations, queens will be required to be shipped in 3-hole cages that have been stored in a freezer for 48 hours. After 48 hours, the queen and four attendant workers can be introduced and the queen shipped.

Questions

For more information check our [regulation webpage](#) or contact the Provincial Apiculturist at bee@gov.ab.ca.

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