2026 PROTOCOL REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF HONEY BEES INTO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

The intent of this protocol is to reduce the risk of introducing named diseases as per the *Animal Health Act* Bee Health Regulations and specifies the requirements that must be met to obtain a Bee Health Certificate (Import Permit) to transport western honey bees (*Apis mellifera* L.) into Prince Edward Island.

General restrictions:

1) According to official inspection records from the province-of-origin, colonies situated
   - in **APIARIES** in which small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida* Murray) has been detected in **any of the last three years** (i.e. 2024, 2025, and 2026); and
   - in **APIARIES** that have not been inspected in **each of the last three consecutive years** (i.e. 2024, 2025, and 2026) are **not permitted entry into Prince Edward Island**, unless said apiaries did not exist in any of these years.

2) If any life stage of small hive beetle (SHB) is detected during an inspection of an individual **APIARY**, then:
   - **ALL colonies from that APIARY must be labelled as being SHB positive to prevent exportation** and **NO colonies from that APIARY will be permitted to enter Prince Edward Island.** Furthermore, the PEI Provincial Apiarist reserves the right to deny entry of colonies in **APIARIES** in close proximity to **APIARIES** of the same operation infested with SHB to Prince Edward Island according to a risk-based approach. In the event that an inspection is occurring in a **STAGING YARD** in which hives from several **APIARIES** are marshalled prior to being loaded for interprovincial transport, the **STAGING YARD** shall be considered one **APIARY**; and
   - 100% of **APIARIES** from that **OPERATION** must be inspected.

3) If any stage of SHB has been detected in at least one **APIARY** operated by any beekeeping operation in **EACH OF the last three consecutive years** (i.e. 2024, 2025, and 2026), **then NO colonies from that OPERATION will be permitted to entry into PEI**; and

4) Colonies and used bee equipment must be inspected no greater than **30 days** prior to importation.

Regarding the importation of honey bee colonies or used honey bee equipment from out-of-province regions within Canada with the intent to reside either temporarily or permanently in Prince Edward Island

5) **Ten percent (10%)** of colonies from each apiary (or a minimum of 10, whichever is greater) must be inspected for the presence of any SHB life stage with a **brood inspection**. This includes three (3) brood frames in addition to an inspection of the underside of the top cover (or inner cover) plus the top of all frames under the cover. The bottom board should be inspected, when possible. **These colonies must be clearly marked by the Provincial Inspector: every pallet of colonies and every individual colony not on a pallet must have a visible inspection label.** An additional portion of colonies will be inspected with a **top-bar inspection** according to a risk-based approach, as determined appropriate by the Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist. This includes the underside of the top cover (or inner cover) plus the top of all frames under the cover.
    - The colonies receiving the brood inspection for SHB will simultaneously be inspected for presence of **American foulbrood** disease (caused by *Paenibacillus larvae*);
    - Colonies displaying visual symptoms of American Foulbrood (AFB) **will not be permitted entry into PEI**;
    - Apiaries in which AFB was detected will have all colonies inspected for AFB;
    - If an **APIARY** was found to have **two (2) percent or more** of colonies with visible signs of AFB from any inspection made up to six months before the importation date, **its colonies will not be permitted entry into PEI**; and
    - If an **APIARY** was found to have colonies containing an **oxytetracycline-resistant strain** of AFB in 2025 or 2026, then **NO colonies from this APIARY will be permitted entry into PEI**; and
    - If **two (2) percent or more** of AFB is detected during an inspection of an individual apiary, then **ALL colonies from that APIARY must be labelled as being AFB positive to prevent exportation**.

6) If an **OPERATION** was found to have colonies containing an **amitraz-resistant strain** of *Varroa* mites (*Varroa destructor,* Anderson & Trueman) in 2025 or 2026, then **NO colonies from this OPERATION will be permitted entry into PEI**. *Varroa* mites are considered amitraz-resistant when amitraz effectiveness is established as being less than 80% by means of a "modified" Pettis Test; and

7) Each colony to be exported must have a **SHB trap or a microfibre cloth** cut into approximately 12 X 15 cm pieces and placed on the top bars in 100% of the colonies a minimum of two weeks (14 days) prior to inspection. The SHB trap must be the type of trap that inserts between the top bars of the frames (e.g. Beetle Blaster™) and the microfiber cloth must be one labelled for sale for SHB monitoring (e.g. Beetle-Bee Gone ® or a Brawny Dine-A-Max ®). When possible, the colonies should have a pollen patty placed on the top bars of the frames as well. Colonies must be reported to include at least one of either a SHB trap, a microfibre cloth, or a pollen patty during inspection **to be permitted entry to PEI.**

Transport requirements for bees entering Prince Edward Island:

8) The importer and the owners of the colonies acknowledge:

- That the imported bees must be accompanied by a Bee Health Certificate (Import Permit) issued by the PEI Provincial Apiarist;
- That colonies must be covered with small-screen netting (≤ 2x2 mm) during transport to prevent bees from escaping;
- That the exporting beekeeper must obtain the appropriate permits from provinces travelled between the exporting province and PEI; and
- That all trucks must stop at the weigh scales at Borden-Carleton (PEI) and present the approved Import Permit (Bee Health Certificate) to weigh scale staff. Failure to present the Import Permit may result in the load being rejected for entry into Prince Edward Island.

Treatment of colonies while in Prince Edward Island:

9) The importer and the owners of the colonies acknowledge:

   - That colonies will be inspected in Prince Edward Island;
   - That if a colony contains any suspected life stage of the SHB during the PEI inspection, the importer of said colony will be responsible for removing the colony and all other accompanying colonies on a pallet within 48 hours, after which time the pallet of colonies will be quarantined and destroyed if SHB is confirmed through laboratory DNA analysis;
   - That a list will be provided to the PEI Provincial Apiarist detailing all locations / fields and numbers of colonies in each location once colonies have been placed into PEI blueberry fields; and
   - That the broker (or in most cases the blueberry processor) is responsible for strapping / securing the colonies after the colonies are inspected by the PEI Department of Agriculture (PEIDA) and/or its representatives.

10) Imported bees will be required to leave PEI immediately after pollination; and

11) Imported bees must be removed from PEI no later than July 15th, 2026.

Declarations to be submitted to the Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist:

12) A declaration signed by the exporting beekeeper indicating the following (Schedule 1):

   - the exporting beekeeper gives the PEIDA permission to access provincial inspection records from 2024, 2025, and 2026, if applicable;
   - that no colonies are to be exported to Prince Edward Island from apiaries in which SHB was detected in any of the last three years (i.e. 2024, 2025, and 2026);
   - that SHB has not been detected in any apiary in their operation in each of the last three consecutive years (i.e. 2024, 2025, and 2026);
   - that a full treatment for tracheal mites through the application of formic acid has been applied to all colonies or source bees (queens) being exported to PEI no greater than 300 days prior to the proposed date of importation; and
   - that the exporting beekeeper acknowledges how their bees will be treated while in PEI, as outlined under Section 9 of this protocol.

13) A declaration is to be signed by the **broker / blueberry processor** and submitted to the PEI Provincial Apiarist acknowledging that bees under their control will be treated in a manner described in Section 9 of this protocol (Schedule 2);

14) A declaration is to be signed by the **blueberry grower** and submitted to the PEI Provincial Apiarist acknowledging that bees located on their property will be inspected in a manner described in Section 9 of this protocol (Schedule 3); and

15) A listing of all specific locations must be submitted by the **broker** (in most cases the blueberry processor) to the PEI Provincial Apiarist describing where imported colonies will be placed while in PEI (Schedule 4).

Orders:

16) The exporting beekeeper must request that their **Provincial Apiarist** forward copies of all current **orders** which have been placed on the exporting beekeeper to the Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist. All inspection reports associated with those orders must also be provided to the PEI Provincial Apiarist from the exporting province's Provincial Apiarist in advance of the PEIDA issuing permission for colonies to enter the province.

Regarding the purchase of nucleus colonies (nucs) from out-of province regions within Canada with the intent to reside permanently in Prince Edward Island:

17) Importing nucs into Prince Edward Island with the intent of keeping them to reside permanently within the province will be subjected to the following restrictions and inspections:

- One hundred percent (100%) of nucs from each apiary must be inspected for the presence of any SHB life stage with a full brood inspection. This includes the brood frames and an inspection of the underside of the top cover (or inner cover) plus the top of all frames under the cover;
- If any life stage of SHB is found during an inspection of an individual apiary, then **NO colonies, nucs, or used honey bee equipment from that apiary will be permitted entry into PEI**;
- If any stage of SHB has been detected in at least one **APIARY** operated by any beekeeping operation in **EACH OF the last three consecutive years** (i.e. 2024, 2025, and 2026), then **NO colonies from that OPERATION will be permitted entry into PEI**.
- The colonies receiving the brood inspection for SHB will simultaneously be inspected for presence of American foulbrood disease (AFB);
- Colonies displaying visual symptoms of AFB will not be permitted entry into PEI;
- Apiaries in which AFB was detected will have all colonies inspected for AFB;
- If an **APIARY** was found to have two (2) percent or more of colonies with visible signs of AFB from any inspection made up to six months before the importation date**, its colonies will not be permitted entry into PEI**; and
- If an apiary was found to have colonies containing oxytetracycline-resistant strain of AFB in 2025 or 2026, then **NO colonies from this apiary** will **be permitted entry into PEI**.

18) If an **OPERATION** was found to have nucs containing an **amitraz-resistant strain** of *Varroa* mites (*Varroa destructor,* Anderson & Trueman) in 2025 or 2026, then **NO colonies from this OPERATION will be permitted entry to PEI**.

Regarding the purchase of honey bees from outside of Canada with the intent to reside permanently in Prince Edward Island:

19) Honey bee packages and queens are permitted entry into Canada from a selected list of countries by The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA);

20) The attendant bees accompanying queens in cages must be destroyed prior to the introduction of new queens into PEI colonies; and

21) No full honey bee colonies, nucs, or used equipment are permitted entry into Prince Edward Island from outside of Canada.

Change without notice:

22) The Department reserves the right to reassess the risk at any time. As a result, this protocol may be amended without notice.

For more information, please contact:

Provincial Apiarist
PEI Department of Agriculture
PO Box 2000, 11 Kent St.
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

phone: (902) 314-0816
email: crmenzies@gov.pe.ca