

## 2020 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; and
  - in apiaries that have not been inspected in **2019 and 2020** are **not permitted entry into Prince Edward Island**.
- 2) Colonies and used bee equipment must be inspected no greater than **50 days** prior to importation.
- 3) If any life stage of the small hive beetle (SHB) is found during an inspection of an individual apiary, then **ALL colonies from that apiary must be labeled as being SHB positive to prevent exportation** and **NO colonies from that apiary will be permitted to enter Prince Edward Island**.

### Regarding the temporary importation of honey bee colonies, nucleus colonies (nucs), or used honey bee equipment from out-of-province regions within Canada:

- 4) 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 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 (*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; and

- 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 to enter PEI.
- 5) Each colony to be exported must have a SHB trap **or** a microfiber cloth placed on the top bars of the hives 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™). When possible, the colonies should have a pollen patty placed on the top bars of the frames as well.

**Transport requirements for bees entering Prince Edward Island:**

- 6) Ensure that the bees are accompanied by a Bee Health Certificate (Import Permit) issued by the Provincial Apiarist in PEI;
- 7) Colonies must be covered with small-screen netting ( $\leq 2 \times 2$  mm) during transport which prevents bees and small hive beetles from escaping;
- 8) The exporting beekeeper must obtain the appropriate permits from provinces travelled between the exporting province and Prince Edward Island; and
- 9) 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:**

- 10) The importer and the owners of the colonies acknowledges:
  - that colonies will be inspected in Prince Edward Island;
  - that if any life stage of the SHB is suspected during the PEI inspection, those colonies will be quarantined and destroyed;
  - that a list will be provided to the 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 & Land (PEIDAL) and/or its representatives.
- 11) Imported bees will be required to leave PEI immediately after pollination.
- 12) Imported bees must be removed from PEI no later than July 1, 2020.

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

- 13) A declaration signed by the exporting beekeeper indicating the following (Schedule 1):
  - that no SHB life stages have been detected in apiaries in 2019 and 2020 from which bees are to be exported into Prince Edward Island and the exporting beekeeper gives the PEIDAL permission to access provincial inspection records from 2019 and 2020;
  - 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 Prince

- Edward Island 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 Prince Edward Island, as outlined under Section 10 of this protocol.
- 14) A declaration is to be signed by the **broker / blueberry processor** and submitted to the Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist acknowledging that bees under their control will be treated in a manner described in Section 10 of this protocol (Schedule 2);
  - 15) A declaration is to be signed by the **blueberry grower** and submitted to the Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist acknowledging that bees located on their property will be inspected in a manner described in Section 10 of this protocol (Schedule 3); and
  - 16) A listing of all specific locations must be submitted by the **broker** (in most cases the blueberry processor) to the Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist describing where imported colonies will be placed while in Prince Edward Island (Schedule 4).

#### **Orders:**

- 17) 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 Prince Edward Island Provincial Apiarist from the exporting province's Provincial Apiarist in advance of Prince Edward Island issuing permission for colonies to enter the province.

#### **Regarding the purchase of honey bee colonies or used honey bee equipment from out-of province regions within Canada with the intent to reside permanently in Prince Edward Island:**

- 18) Importing colonies and used honey bee equipment into Prince Edward Island with the intent of keeping those colonies and/ or equipment to reside permanently within the province will be subjected to the following restrictions and inspections:
  - Ten percent (10%) of colonies from each apiary (or a minimum of ten colonies per apiary, whichever is greater) 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. The bottom board must be inspected;
  - An additional portion of colonies from each apiary must be inspected for the presence of the SHB with a **top bar inspection** on a risk-based approach, as deemed appropriate by the Provincial Apiarist. This includes the underside of the top cover (or inner cover) plus the top of all frames under the cover;

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

- 19) 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 to enter Prince Edward Island;
- The colonies receiving the brood inspection for SHB will simultaneously be inspected for presence of American foulbrood (AFB);
- Colonies displaying visual symptoms of AFB will not be permitted for entry into PEI;
- Apiaries in which AFB was detected will have all colonies inspected for AFB; and
- 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 to enter PEI.

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

- 20) Honey bee packages and queens are permitted entry into Canada from a selected list of countries by The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA);
  - 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 & Land  
PO Box 2000, 11 Kent St.  
Charlottetown, PE  
C1A 7N8

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