

## **2017 Nova Scotia Honey Bee Importation Protocol**

The Bee Import Protocol is established annually under the *Bee Industry Regulations* made under Section 17 of the *Bee Industry Act* and sets out the conditions in which bees can be imported into Nova Scotia from outside Canada or from another province or territory.

Changes to these protocols and associated permit requirements could be made at any time to accommodate new conditions that could affect the bee industry in Nova Scotia. Applicants will be given the most up to date protocol upon permit approval or annually.

To obtain an Import Permit or for more information please contact:

**Provincial Apiculturist**  
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 890 Harlow Institute  
Truro, NS, B2N 5G6  
[jason.sproule@novascotia.ca](mailto:jason.sproule@novascotia.ca)  
(902) 890-1565

### **Requirements for importing honey bees from outside Canada**

Hives or nucleus colonies may not be imported from outside Canada. Honey bee queens and package bees may be imported only from a list of countries approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

A copy of the CFIA import document must be provided before a permit to import bees into Nova Scotia can be issued.

### **Requirements for importing honey bee queens**

- For queens imported from outside Canada from a region where SHB has become established, an inspection of queen cages may be required before the release of queens to the importer.
- For queens from a Canadian province where SHB has become established, an inspection of queen cages may be required before release of queens to the importer.
- For instances where queen inspections are required, inspections must be performed upon entry to Nova Scotia either at Halifax airport or Harlow Institute in Truro. Airport arrival times must be communicated to the Provincial Apiculturist 48 h in advance. Queens may also be shipped directly to Harlow Institute to the attention of the Provincial Apiculturist.

- All queens imported from Canadian provinces or California must have the attendants destroyed before queens are introduced to a colony.

#### **Requirements for importing used beekeeping equipment from another Province**

- Equipment that is new and has never been used for beekeeping may be imported without a Provincial Import Permit.
- Used honey extraction and processing equipment may be imported from other Canadian Provinces without permit so long as equipment has been thoroughly cleaned and does not contain honey, or bees wax.
- The importation into Canada of used beehives or bee equipment is prohibited under the [Health of Animals Regulations](#), paragraph 57(a) administered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- Importation of used hiveware such as supers, brood chambers, frames, feeders, covers and bottoms from other Canadian Provinces requires a Nova Scotia Import Permit. A certificate of inspection from either the exporting province or NS inspectors, that meets the inspection requirements of this Import Protocol must be provided in order to obtain an Import Permit.
  - Used equipment must not be imported from Provinces with established Small Hive Beetle populations.
  - All pieces of equipment must be thoroughly inspected and be visibly free of: Small Hive Beetle, Wax moth, live honey bees, American foulbrood, Chalkbrood and dysentery,
- Once inspected, used equipment shall not be used for beekeeping until arrival in Nova Scotia, and must be stored and transported so that live bees cannot access the equipment.

#### **Requirements for importing honey bee colonies from another province:**

- Importation of honey bee colonies including full hives and nucleus colonies, from other Canadian Provinces requires a Nova Scotia Import Permit. Permits may be issued to importing beekeepers to import hives for temporary pollination service or to keep permanently in NS provided the requirements of this protocol are met.
- Permit requests to bring colonies in for a temporary period such as pollination service must be communicated to the Provincial Apiculturist, no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and must be for a minimum of 350 colonies.
- A Certificate of Inspection must be provided from either the exporting province, or NS inspectors, that meets the inspection requirements for pests and diseases as indicated below.
  - For provinces without established SHB populations, inspections must be conducted within 45 days prior to export.
  - For provinces where SHB is established, export of hives should occur within 8 days following inspection for SHBs. A buffer of 2 days will be permissible to account for unforeseen delays.

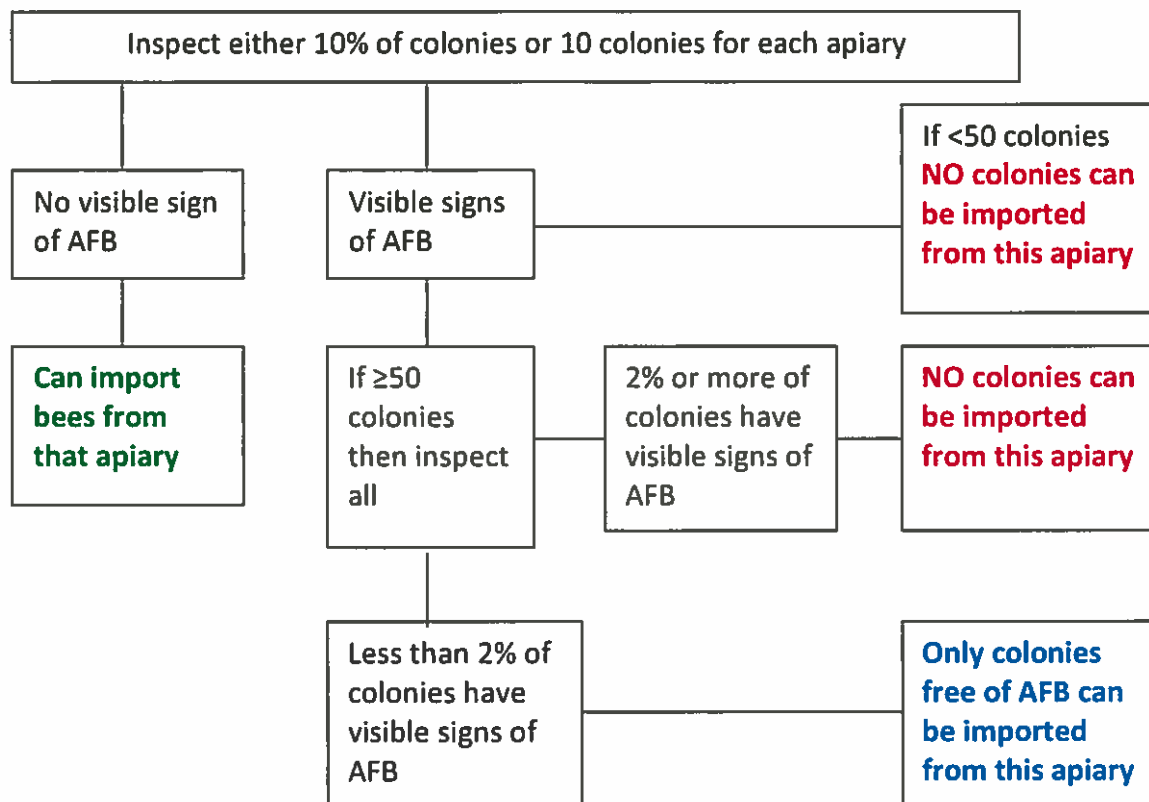
Export will not be permitted after 10 days has passed since SHB inspection. Inspection for other diseases must have occurred within 45 days for other diseases or pests prior to export.

- A letter confirming tracheal mite treatment (template attached) must be signed and provided by the exporting beekeeper declaring the colonies to be exported were treated in the spring of each import year or preceding fall (within 300 days prior to export) with a full formic acid treatment as label directed for control of tracheal mites
- Importation of colonies from Provinces where opportunity for exposure to hives originating from SHB affected areas may not be permitted.
- Once inspected, colonies shall not be stored or transported with colonies from yards that have not been inspected.
- Hives originating in Nova Scotia that provide pollination service outside NS may not be eligible for return where potential exists for exposure to hives originating from provinces with established SHB. A permit is required to return hives to NS and should be issued before departure from NS.
- Colonies to be imported to provide pollination service from provinces with established SHB are to be situated in Cumberland County and must not move beyond the borders of Cumberland County. For any colonies to be exported from a province where SHB has been detected in previous years, but is not considered to have an established SHB population, an individual review will be conducted and conditions established based on assessment of risk.

### **Certificate of Inspection requirements**

#### **American Foulbrood (AFB)**

- Colonies are not allowed to enter Nova Scotia from an apiary where antibiotic-resistant American foulbrood (rAFB) has been diagnosed within the previous two years of the importation date.
- For each apiary, at least 10% of colonies or 10 colonies, whichever is greater, must be inspected for visible signs of AF. If no visible sign of AFB is found, all colonies from that apiary can be imported.
- An inspection for AFB consists of a visual examination of a minimum of 3 brood frames with approximately 75% or greater brood coverage.
- If any colonies inspected show visible signs of AFB, then every colony in that apiary must be inspected for AFB. Only colonies free of AFB will be permitted to enter NS.
- If an apiary was found to have 2% 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 NS.



### Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

- Colonies may not be purchased for import from provinces with established SHB populations.
- No colonies are allowed to enter Nova Scotia from an apiary where SHB has been diagnosed within the previous two years of the importation date. This can be confirmed through the release of any inspection reports or warrants issued through exporting Province indicating the presence or absence of SHB in the previous two years.
- No colonies from a SHB quarantined apiary site or designated Zone may be imported into Nova Scotia. Colonies from apiaries in zone 1-ON (Essex County, Ontario) or from any quarantine zone that is in effect from April 1, 2017 are not permitted to enter NS.
- From each apiary at least 10% of colonies or ten colonies, whichever is greater, must be inspected for presence of SHB. This inspection must be a full brood nest inspection with a minimum of three frames per brood chamber and super(s) removed and inspected. Where feasible bottom boards must also be inspected. If any SHB (adult, eggs, or larvae) are found, then no colonies from that apiary will be allowed to enter NS.
- From provinces with established SHB a quick visual inspection of top bars immediately after removing hive covers must also be carried out for all hives (100%). If any SHB are observed then no colonies from that apiary will be allowed to enter NS.

### Requirements after permit is granted

- All imported colonies must be in compliance with Bill No. 173; *Bee Industry Act* and Section 17 Regulations. Importing beekeepers should make the supplier(s) aware that the NS Department of Agriculture may conduct inspection and sampling of colonies while in Nova Scotia.
- Where pests or diseases are detected in hives after importation, Nova Scotia inspectors may order risk mitigation measures such as treatment, disinfection, destruction, quarantine or return of colonies (within 72 hours) to province of origin. Selection of appropriate measures will depend on severity of infestation as well as the feasibility of implementation. The owner must be notified immediately of the intent to perform risk mitigation measures. Disinfection or application of pesticides to sites where colonies were situated may also be required.

### **Transportation requirements for colonies**

- Colonies travelling through any Canadian zones declared quarantine as of April 1, 2017, or which will have to travel through any such zones to get to NS, will not be permitted to enter NS in 2017.
- After inspection, shipments are to be transported directly to NS and not be modified en route. The importer is responsible for ensuring the truck drivers of each imported shipment will have a copy of the NS permit and applicable inspection reports. The importer is responsible for obtaining transportation permission from the provinces through which the imported colonies must travel to arrive in NS. Colonies must enter NS via TransCanada # 2/104 highway and be prepared to present NS Import Permit and supporting documentation at truck weigh stations.
- Small mesh netting ( $\leq 2.5\text{mm}$  gauge) or an enclosed vehicle must be used when transporting all imported colonies:
  - from point of departure in the exporting province;
  - through all provinces travelled; and
  - within Nova Scotia for relocation and return to exporter.
- Before colonies are moved into, within and out of NS, the importer must provide a minimum of three days' notice to the NS Provincial Apiculturist as to where the colonies will be unloaded.
- All colonies imported for pollination must leave Nova Scotia by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

Approved By: Maura MacBuloy Approved Date: December 1, 2016  
for Senior Director Agriculture and Food Advisory Services

## Letter Confirming Tracheal Mite Treatment

Beekeeper Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Beekeeper Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Beekeeper Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Beekeeper Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Beekeeper Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Colonies for Export: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

By signature of this letter I declare that prior to shipment of colonies to Nova Scotia, a treatment for tracheal mites through the application of formic acid has been applied to all colonies being exported to Nova Scotia in either the fall of 2016 or the spring of 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Exporting Beekeeper

\_\_\_\_\_

Date