

2019 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
(902) 890-1565

Requirements for importing honey bee colonies from another Province:

- Importation of honey bee colonies, including full hives, nucleus colonies and package bees, from other Canadian Provinces is not permitted for 2019.
- Nova Scotia hives will not be permitted to return if they leave the Province.

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

- Queens originating from Canadian Provinces can only be sourced from reputable breeding programs deemed eligible by the NS Department of Agriculture. Contact the Provincial Apiculturist in advance of ordering to determine eligibility.
 - Breeder eligibility will be evaluated based on:
 - History of producing commercially available honey bee queens for Nova Scotia beekeepers.
 - Selection and prioritization of specific desirable genetically-linked traits. Gentleness should be a high priority.

- Ability to produce detailed records concerning pest and disease interventions, introductions of new genetic stock, breeding crosses and colony performance, including assessments for selected genetically-linked traits.
- Endorsement from Provincial regulatory personnel, or Provincial Associations or Provincial Tech Transfer Teams.
- An inspection of queen cages must occur before the release of queens to the importer.
- Inspections must be performed by the Provincial Apiculturist or designate upon entry to Nova Scotia either at Halifax airport or Harlow Institute in Truro.
- Airport arrival times must be communicated to the Provincial Apiculturist **48h in advance to ensure the inspector can coordinate the inspection and release of queens in a timely manner.** Alternatively, queens may also be required to ship directly to Harlow Institute to the attention of the Provincial Apiculturist.
- All attendant workers in cages of queens imported from Canadian Provinces or California must be destroyed before queens are introduced to a colony.
- Packaging/shipping materials are to be stored immediately in a sealed bag and held in a freezer (less than -8 °C) for 48h before disposal.

Requirements for importing beekeeping equipment from another Province

- Importation to Nova Scotia of used hiveware such as: supers, brood chambers, frames, feeders, covers and bottoms, from other Canadian Provinces that has been previously used or exposed to honey bees is prohibited.
- 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.
- 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.

Requirements after permit is granted

- The import permit must be signed by the importing beekeeper and submitted to the NS Department of Agriculture to the attention of the Provincial Apiculturist within 7 days of entry to NS.

Approved by: 
 Executive Director Agriculture and Food Advisory Service

Date: 