



PROTOCOL REGARDING THE IMPORT OF BEES INTO QUÉBEC IN 2018 FROM A PROVINCE WHERE THE SMALL HIVE BEETLE IS ABSENT OR CONTROLLED BY HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Any beekeeper planning to permanently (sale) or temporarily (commercial pollination) import colonies, nuclei or packages of bees into Québec territory¹ **must** have an authorization to import bees into Québec issued by the Direction de la santé animale (DSA) of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ).

The goal of this protocol is to contribute to ensuring a reasonable degree of protection against the risk of introducing *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle or SHB) and *Paenibacillus larvae* (the causative organism of American foulbrood), bee diseases designated in the *Regulation to designate contagious or parasitic diseases, infectious agents and syndromes* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 4.2). This protocol targets beekeeping operations in provinces where the small hive beetle is absent or controlled by health authorities, and specifies the requirements that these businesses must meet to be eligible for an authorization to import into Québec territory.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. In the 30 days preceding the projected date of import of the colonies, nuclei or packages of bees into Québec, an inspection must be conducted by a bee inspector employed by the government of the bees' province of origin and under the authority of the provincial apiarist.
- B. For each apiary from which the imported bees originate, the inspection must comply with the following requirements:
 1. To detect the presence of *Aethina tumida*, at least 25% of the colonies/nuclei, with a minimum of 25 colonies or nuclei per apiary, must be subjected to an inspection that meets the following conditions:
 - At least 10% of the colonies/nuclei of each apiary, with a minimum of 10 colonies or nuclei per apiary, must undergo a **full brood inspection**. This entails an inspection of super frames and brood chamber frames (at least three frames) as well as a visual examination of the hive floor (if it can be accessed).
 - At least 15% of the colonies/nuclei, with a minimum of 15 additional colonies or nuclei per apiary, must undergo a visual inspection of the top of the super frames (**Top bar inspection**).
 2. To detect **American foulbrood**, inspections must meet the following conditions:
 - At least 10% of the colonies/nuclei of each apiary, with a minimum of 10 colonies or nuclei per apiary, must undergo a full inspection designed to detect visible signs of this disease.
 - When there are visible signs of **American foulbrood** in a colony/nucleus inspected as described above, the inspection must be extended to all of the apiary's colonies/nuclei.
- C. If, upon inspection, the prevalence of **American foulbrood** in the apiary is less than 2%, only the colonies/nuclei that are not visibly affected may receive an authorization to import into Québec.
- D. If, upon inspection, the prevalence of **American foulbrood** in the apiary exceeds 2%, no colonies/nuclei from that apiary may receive an authorization to import into Québec.
- E. No oxytetracycline-resistant strain of *Paenibacillus larvae* (the causative organism of **American foulbrood**) must have been diagnosed in the beekeeping operation from which the bees originate in the two years preceding their import into Québec.
- F. The colonies, nuclei or packages of bees to be imported into Québec must come from beekeeping operations:
 - That are not infested or suspected of infestation by *Aethina tumida*,
 - That were not infested in the 24 months preceding the bees' import into Québec.

¹ The issuance of an authorization to import by MAPAQ is not required for package bees imported into Canada in accordance with the requirements of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

- G. The colonies, nuclei or packages of bees to be imported into Québec must not have been purchased from a beekeeping operation known to have been infested by *Aethina tumida* in the 24 months preceding the bees' import into Québec.
- H. A bee inspector employed by the government of the bees' province of origin must affix an identifier to the inspected hives to facilitate cross-referencing with the inspection report.
- I. A bee inspector employed by the government of the bees' province of origin and under the authority of the provincial apiarist must produce, for each apiary inspection conducted, an inspection report bearing their signature and certifying that the requirements set out above were met.
- J. The owner of the bees to be introduced must confirm that the colonies, nuclei or packages of bees in question were not, in the preceding 24 months, located in a zone where *Aethina tumida* is known to be endemic².
- K. If the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate remains the owner of the bees in Québec, they must be registered with the MAPAQ in accordance with section 2 of the *Regulation respecting the registration of beekeepers* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 5).

If SHB is detected in a hive imported into Québec for commercial pollination, the owner must retrieve all the hives and return them safely to their province of origin within 48 hours.

PROCEDURES

The owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate must:

1. Contact their provincial apiarist or a bee inspector under the provincial apiarist's authority to:
 - Ensure that they meet Québec's basic health requirements;
 - Declare all the sites of apiaries from which the bees to be imported into Québec will originate;
 - Request that all declared apiary sites be submitted to the health inspection required to obtain an authorization to import.

The province's bee inspector must:

2. Produce an inspection report for every apiary inspected. The report must bear their signature and a mention to the effect that the bees from that apiary meet the eligibility requirements of this protocol.
3. Provide a copy of all inspection reports to the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported into Québec originate, for all inspected apiary sites.

The owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate must:

4. Complete the *Request for authorization to import bees into Québec from a province where the small hive beetle is absent* (Schedule 1).
5. Complete the *List of receivers of bees to be imported* (Schedule 2).

² For 2018, the zones where SHB is known to be endemic are as follows:

- In British Columbia: Fraser Valley;
- In Ontario: Essex County, Chatham-Kent County, Niagara County, Norfolk County and Haldimand County (<http://ontarioca11.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=93d00701708946d5b011d2ab88319597&embed>). These zones may change depending on the status of the situation.

6. Send the following in a single mailing:

- a copy of all inspection reports³;
- schedules 1 and 2.

The documents must be sent to the MAPAQ by email at animaux@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca or by fax at 418-380-2201.

For more information, contact the central reporting line of the MAPAQ's Direction de la santé animale at 1-844-ANIMAUX.

Expect a minimum of five working days between the date the MAPAQ receives the documents and the issuance of the authorization to import. The owner of the bees **must hold this authorization when the bees are imported into Québec territory**. Failure to comply with this provision may result in penal prosecution and seizure of the bees pursuant to the *Animal Health Protection Act* (CQLR, c. P-42, s. 55.43).

It should also be noted that all beekeepers with hives on Québec territory must comply with the requirements of the *Regulation respecting the inscription affixed on hives* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 8).

Bees brought into Québec for the sole purpose of direct transit towards another province are subject to the *Protocol regarding the transit of bees in Québec in 2018*.

Given constant evolution of the knowledge on which the rules governing the import of bees into Québec is based, this protocol may be amended without notice. All import requests will be analyzed individually based on the risk and the situation at the time of the request.

³ The beekeeper can make arrangements for all documents to be sent to the MAPAQ by the provincial apiarist.

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT BEES INTO QUÉBEC
FROM A PROVINCE WHERE THE SMALL HIVE BEETLE IS ABSENT
(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE OWNER OF THE BEEKEEPING OPERATION)**

As the owner of bees to be imported into Québec,

I, the undersigned: _____

Corporate name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____ Postal code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

hereby request authorization to import:

Number	Description (nucleus, colony or package)	Number of apiaries the bees come from	Projected import date	Purpose
				<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial pollination <input type="checkbox"/> Honey production <input type="checkbox"/> Sale

and declare:

- That I will remain the owner of the bees imported into Québec and that I am duly registered in accordance with the *Regulation respecting the registration of beekeepers* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 5)⁴ (does not apply in case of a sales transaction);
- That the bees for which the request for authorization to import has been made come from my beekeeping operation;
- That my beekeeping operation's hives are not infested or suspected of being infested by SHB, and that they were not in the preceding 24 months;
- That in the preceding 24 months, none of the hives in the apiaries from which bees to be imported originate were located in a zone where SHB is known to be endemic (namely Essex County, Chatham-Kent County, Niagara County, Norfolk County, Haldimand County and Fraser Valley);
- That I have had all the sites of apiaries from which the bees to be imported into Québec originate inspected by a government inspector, as required;
- That I accept that, if SHB is detected in one of my hives imported into Québec for commercial pollination, I will be required to retrieve all of them and return them safely to their province of origin within 48 hours;
- That I recognize my liability for any financial loss arising from any misrepresentations concerning the presence of SHB and American foulbrood in my beekeeping operation.

I have enclosed with this request all the documents mentioned in the *Protocol regarding the import of bees into Québec in 2018 from a province where the small hive beetle is absent or controlled by health authorities*.

Signature of the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate

Date

⁴ The registration form is available on the Ministère's website (www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/abeille).

LIST OF RECEIVERS OF BEES TO BE IMPORTED

Name of receiver in Québec*	Full address and phone number	Quantity	Description of product (nuclei, colonies or packages)	Projected date of entry into Québec	Address of bees' destination (if different from that of the receiver)

Signature of the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate

Date

* "Receivers in Québec" is defined as follows:

- The owner of the site where the bees will be located in cases where the bees are imported for the purpose of honey production or commercial pollination without a sales transaction;
- The lessee of the bees imported in cases where there is a leasing contract;
- The buyer of bees in Quebec in the case of a sales transaction.

LIST OF CANADA'S PROVINCIAL APIARISTS

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QUÉBEC

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