

Inspection Requirements for Movement of Honey Bees into and Within Alberta for 2018

Medhat Nasr, Provincial Apiculturist

Email: (bee@gov.ab.ca)

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) has agreed with Western Provinces to follow the 2016 honey bee inspection protocol to meet requirements outlined in the *Bee Act* and Regulations for each province. Each province will inspect bee colonies moving into and out of the provinces for regulated pests including; varroa mites (VM), American foul brood (AFB) and the small hive beetle (SHB). It is important to continue improving our honey bee surveillance and biosecurity practices in order to keep healthy bees.

Beekeepers are asked to follow AF outlined requirements when:

- Transporting bee colonies, queens, nuclei, packages, or used bee equipment to Alberta from BC or other provinces.
- Transporting bee colonies, nuclei and other used bee equipment through Alberta to other provinces.
- Moving BC bee colonies and colonies overwintered in BC to Hybrid canola fields for pollination.

Note: Any colonies within the quarantine zone are not allowed to move out of the quarantine zone. Please check quarantine conditions to ensure you are following them.

Requirements:

1. Based on the protocol accepted by BC and Western Provinces, inspections must be conducted within 4 weeks prior to moving bees into Alberta.
2. Inspection reports must be emailed to bee@gov.ab.ca or faxed to 780-422-6096 before moving any bee colonies, nuclei, or other used bee equipment into Alberta.
3. A request to move bee colonies, nuclei or other used bee equipment into Alberta or transporting colonies through Alberta must be submitted to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) with the following information:

A. Name of beekeeper

B. Beekeeper contact info in BC:

1) Address:

2) Telephone:

3) Email address:

C. Beekeeper contact info in Alberta or other province where colonies will be located:

- 1) Address:
- 2) Telephone:
- 3) Email address:

D. A copy of the BC inspection report

E. Purpose of moving colonies to Alberta:

- 1) Increased number of bee colonies in my operation or sales
- 2) Honey production
- 3) Honey production and pollination of hybrid canola in southern Alberta.

Note: Colonies are not allowed to move directly from BC to hybrid canola fields for pollination without prior permit from the Provincial Apiculturist.

- 4) Planned shipment dates and routes for moving colonies to:
 - a) Alberta for increase, honey production, and sales
 - b) Hybrid canola fields for pollination:

All shipment dates for colonies must be within 4 weeks of inspection.

4. A permit for transporting bee colonies, nuclei, and queens to Alberta will be issued based on the inspection results as follows:

- 1) If SHB adult, larva and egg are NOT found in bee colonies and equipment, the colonies or equipment can be immediately moved into AB. NOT Hybrid Canola Pollination Fields.
- 2) If SHB is not found in an operation, queens can be shipped in 3- hole cages with 4 attendant workers.
- 3) If adult beetles or developing stages are found, colonies and equipment in the infested apiary cannot be moved at that time into AB. Colonies can be treated, managed and re-inspected. If, upon re-inspection no SHB is found, colonies in this apiary can then be moved into AB. NOT Hybrid Canola Pollination Fields.
- 4) If adult beetles or developing stages are found in queen producing operations, queens must be shipped in 3-hole cages that have been stored in a refrigerator before introducing the queen. Four attendant workers must be put in cages to protect any transportation of SHB eggs.

5. If colonies from BC moved to AB and are then rented for hybrid canola pollination in Southern AB, a second inspection is needed. The number of colonies to be inspected is based on the number of bee colonies moving to pollination. If bees are found free from the SHB those bee colonies will be permitted to move for canola pollination. If the SHB adult, larva, and egg are found, the bee colonies in the infested apiary cannot be moved to hybrid canola fields. The bee colonies can be treated, managed, and re-inspected (allowing 6 weeks for treatment).

Note: The time required for treatment and re-examination may not allow a colony adequate time to move to hybrid canola pollination for that season. Apiaries positive for SHB can be used in honey production within the established control zone.

6. All bee colonies or nuclei moving into BC in the fall will require a regulated inspection. A health certificate based on fall inspection will be issued in order to get a permit for moving bees to BC

7. BC bees and nuclei for sale to AB beekeepers: Any colonies or bee nuclei for sale must originate from bee operations free of SHB. All nucs or colonies for sale must be inspected. An inspection must be conducted in a maximum of one week prior to the sale. A permit will be issued before transporting to AB.

8. Be sure to carry a valid Alberta permit for moving bee hives, nuclei or other used bee equipment into Alberta. You may be asked by Alberta Transport or RCMP about a permit for moving bees. Thus you do not run into issues while transporting your bees.

Note: No honey bee colonies or nuclei are allowed from Ontario at this time. Only queens allowed, please check number 4 for conditions to issue a permit and contact the Provincial Apiculturist (bee@gov.ab.ca).