

A Guide for Beekeepers on Procedures to Move, Export or Sell Honey Bees Across Canada

[This document is a summary of provincial importation and movement requirements. The full requirements are available by contacting the Provincial Apiarist from the province of interest. Provincial importation and movement requirements are subject to change at any time.]

1. Identify which province(s) your bees will be moved to and pass through on the way to their destination.

Most types of movement and export of bees require a permit, by the receiving province. This varies depending on how the bees are housed and the movements planned. Table 1 answers the question whether a permit is required for each type of movements.

Note that some provinces may or may not require a permit if the bees are being imported from another country, as these will undergo federal inspections – however the current document focuses on **interprovincial movements**.

Table 1. Permit requirements for movements/imports of bees for Provinces across Canada.

Province	Permanent import of queens, nuclei, bee packages and colonies	Temporary import of colonies (e.g.: for pollination, honey production, overwintering, etc.)	Transit of nuclei, bee packages and colonies through the province	Import of used beekeeping equipment
British Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alberta	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saskatchewan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Manitoba	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ontario	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quebec	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
New Brunswick	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Prince Edward Island	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes
Newfoundland and Labrador	Importation of bees or equipment from other Canadian Provinces into NL is not allowed			
Nova Scotia	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes

2. Contact your Provincial Apiarist well in advance.

Your Provincial Apiarist (PA) will contact or connect you with other PAs to facilitate the coordination all inspection requirements and necessary paperwork for your planned movement(s). They will inform the inspectors, who will plan to inspect your colonies in the province of origin according to the receiving (importing) province(s) requirements.

[It is important that you contact your PA well in advance – ideally weeks prior to the intended export or import – as it takes time to schedule inspections and field staff have other inspection requirements that they need to plan around.]

If you have any questions or concerns, your PA is there to address them.

You can find your PA’s contact information in **Annex 1**.

3. Have your bees inspected.

After informing your PA of your intention to move bees out of your province, you will be contacted for an inspection. While most provinces are concerned with the same bee pest and diseases, the requirements may differ somewhat. The chart below is intended to assist beekeepers in planning whether their honey bees may meet the requirements of the receiving (importing) province.

For each province, the following criteria must be met for movement to be permitted.

These are general guidelines. Provinces reserve the right to refuse the entry of all colonies from an apiary or beekeeper based on information on the inspection report and comments resulting from inspections.

Table 2. Inspection criteria for each province including inspection report expiration (some criteria may not apply to queen movements).

Province	Varroa	American foulbrood (AFB)	European foulbrood (EFB)	Small hive beetle (SHB)	Inspection report valid for
British Columbia	Apiary average infestation level below 1%	No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	No SHB in the province	30 days
Alberta ¹	Apiary average infestation level below 1%	No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	No SHB in the province	30 days

Saskatchewan	Apiary average infestation level below 1%	No clinical signs in the operation Equipment or bees from an operation with history of OTC* resistance may only be moved to areas in SK with similar history	No clinical signs in the operation	Bees must be from a region determined to be free of SHB	30 days
Manitoba	Apiary average infestation level below 1%	No clinical signs in the operation No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	No SHB in the colonies inspected ²	30 days
Ontario	Apiary average infestation level below 2%. No amitraz resistance in the county or rural municipality	No OTC or tylosin resistance AFB in the county or rural municipality Less than 2% of colonies showing signs in the apiary (no more than 10 colonies in all yards) No clinical signs in the colonies in the colonies permitted to move	Less than 2% of colonies showing signs in the apiary (no more than 10 colonies in all yards) No clinical signs in the colonies inspected	Honey bee colonies that are positive for SHB are not allowed to enter Ontario SHB-negative colonies from a SHB-positive yard may be allowed to enter Ontario unless there is evidence of excessive SHB reproduction and damage	45 days
Quebec	Apiary average infestation level below 1% No amitraz resistance in the operation	Less than 2% of colonies showing signs in the apiary No clinical signs in the colonies permitted to move No OTC resistance in the operation	No criteria	No SHB in the operation in the previous 2 years ³ Some areas are excluded to export	30 days

New Brunswick	No outbreak in the colony (i.e. if the inspector determines the colony to be unhealthy)	Less than 2% of colonies showing signs in apiary in the previous six months No clinical signs in the colonies inspected No OTC resistance in the previous 2 years in the apiary	No outbreak in the colonies inspected (i.e. if the inspector determines the colony to be unhealthy)	For permanent residence: Some areas are excluded to export (except queens are permitted). Excluded areas are shown in the protocol. Non-excluded areas: no SHB in the area in the previous two years For temporary residence (e.g. pollination): No areas excluded ⁴	45 days
Prince Edward Island	No criteria	Less than 2% of colonies showing signs in apiary No clinical signs in the colonies inspected No OTC resistance in the apiary	No criteria	Operation with SHB for 3 consecutive years are excluded ³ No SHB in the apiary	30 days
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia ⁵	No varroa mites in the apiary	No clinical signs in the apiary	No clinical signs in the apiary	No SHB in the apiary	45 days

* OTC: Oxytetracycline

¹ Only queens are allowed from Ontario (no bees or bee equipment).

² Provinces with active SHB cases are required to follow the inspection protocol for SHB positive areas.

³ For Ontario or New Brunswick, you must install traps in all your hives 7 to 14 days prior to inspection.

⁴ For all of Ontario and counties in other provinces where the SHB has been reported in the previous two years, you must install SHB Beetle Blaster Traps (placed 7 or more days prior to inspection) or approved SHB cloths (placed 5 to 10 days prior to inspection) in your hives.

⁵ Nova Scotia only accepts bees from Newfoundland and Labrador.

4. Fill out the paperwork.

Forms must be filled out for each province where the bees are being moved. These will be provided to you by your PA and can also be found on each government's website (**Annex 1**).

All paperwork (including application forms, completed inspection reports and supporting documents) must be send to the PA of the receiving province at least a week before you plan to move.

Table 3. Paperwork flow for permit application.

Province	Who must fill a form and apply for the Import Permit?	Who can send the inspection report?	The beekeeper temporarily moving bees (pollination, overwintering, honey production) must be registered in the receiving province	Who is the permit sent to?
British Columbia	Importer	Inspector, PA, or beekeeper	Yes	Importer
Alberta	Importer or exporting beekeeper	Inspector, PA, or beekeeper	Yes	Importer and/or exporting beekeeper (cc'd to the PA)
Saskatchewan	Importer or exporting beekeeper	Inspector or PA		Importer (cc'd to the PA)
Manitoba	Importer	Inspector or PA	Yes	Importer (cc'd to the PA)
Ontario	Importer or exporting beekeeper	PA	Yes (if within Ontario, or if outside of Ontario and requiring the permit)	Importer or exporting beekeeper (cc'd to the importer and the PA)
Quebec	Exporting beekeeper	PA or beekeeper	Yes (≈20\$ fees)	Exporting beekeeper (cc'd to the importer and the PA)
New Brunswick	Importer	PA	No	Exporting beekeeper. The importer may also have a copy, if requested
Prince Edward Island	Importer	Inspector or PA	N/A – no beekeeper registration in PEI	Importer
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia	Importer	Inspector, PA, or beekeeper	N/A	Importer

5. Receive the permit.

Inspection reports are not permits. The process is not complete until you and/or the importer have received the **permit** from the PA of the importing province. Bees moving through multiple provinces will need a transit permit from each province’s PA (see Table 1).

6. Moving your bees.

Make sure your bees are transported in an approved manner according to your permit(s) and to have a copy of your permits on hand during transport.

An inspection of your bees upon arrival may be required for temporary and/or permanent stays, depending on the province.

Table 4. Transport requirements for bees from outside the province across Canada.

Province	Bees can be transported on an open truck/trailer	Bees can be transported in an enclosed truck	Bees can be transported on an open truck/trailer if covered by a fine mesh net	Other criteria
British Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	A copy of movement permit must be provided
Alberta	Yes	Yes	Yes	A copy of movement permit must be provided
Saskatchewan	No	Yes	Yes	No
Manitoba	No	Yes	Yes	A copy of movement permit must be provided
Ontario	No	Yes	Yes	A copy of inspection report and movement permit must be provided
Quebec	No	Yes	Yes	A copy of movement permit must be provided Must take the shortest route

New Brunswick	Yes ¹	Yes ²	Yes ²	A copy of movement permit must be provided Bees must take the shortest route The colonies must not be modified in transit
Prince Edward Island	No	Yes	Yes	A copy of import permit must be provided All trucks must stop at the Borden-Carleton Weigh Scale
Newfoundland and Labrador	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia	No	Yes ³	Yes ³	A copy of inspection report and import permit must be provided

¹ If not from Ontario or from a county that has had a report of the SHB in the current year or two previous calendar years.

² Transit permits (through NB) for this column can be to and from anywhere across Canada.

³ From Newfoundland and Labrador only.

Note that in some provinces, there are requirements for hives imported temporarily (e.g.: for pollination) to leave the province's territory before a fixed date.

Annex 1. Contact information for provincial apiarists.

Province	Name	Email	Phone number	Website Information
British Columbia	Paul van Westendorp	Paul.vanwestendorp@gov.bc.ca or vanwestendorp@telus.net	778 666-0582	www.gov.bc.ca/apiculture
Alberta	Samantha Muirhead	Bee@gov.ab.ca or sam.muirhead@gov.ab.ca	780 644-8746 or 780 415-2309	www.alberta.ca/apiculture-regulation.aspx
Saskatchewan	Geoff Wilson	Geoff.wilson@gov.sk.ca	306 980-6198	https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/1370
Manitoba	Rhéal Lafrenière	Rheal.Lafreniere@gov.mb.ca	204 945-4825 or 204 791-0124	https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/crop-management/pubs/inter-provincial-movement-form.pdf https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/crop-management/pubs/manitoba-importation-and-inter-provincial-bee-movement-protocols.pdf Inter-provincial Movement Inspection Protocol Inter-Provincial Movement Application Form
Ontario	Paul Kozak	Paul.Kozak@ontario.ca Apiary@ontario.ca	519 820-0821	https://www.ontario.ca/page/importing-honey-bees-ontario https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-apiary-program

Quebec	Julie Ferland	julie.ferland2@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca abeille@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca	418 380-2100 (ext 2067) or 418 933-0786	www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/abeille https://www.agrireseau.net/apiculture/documents/108563/protocol-for-the-introduction-into-quebec-territory-of-bees-from-a-region-considered-at-risk-of-infestation-by-the-small-hive-beetle-in-2022?a=1 https://www.agrireseau.net/apiculture/documents/108566/protocol-for-the-introduction-into-quebec-territory-of-bees-from-a-region-that-is-not-considered-at-risk-of-infestation-by-the-small-beehive-beetle-in?a=1 https://www.agrireseau.net/apiculture/documents/108568/protocol-for-the-transit-of-bees-on-quebec-territory-in-2022?a=1
New Brunswick	Chris Maund	chris.maund@gnb.ca	506 453-3477	https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/agriculture/content/bees.html
Prince Edward Island	Cameron Menzies	crmenzies@gov.pe.ca	902 314-0816	https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/import-honey-bee-material-prince-edward-island-permit-2022
Newfoundland and Labrador	Karen Kennedy	karenkennedy@gov.nl.ca	709 637 2662	https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/programs-and-funding/programs/apiculture/
Nova Scotia	Jason Sproule	Jason.sproule@novascotia.ca	902 890-1565	www.novascotia.ca/bee-industry