

2021 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

Lorraine Building

74 Research Dr.

Bible Hill, NS, B6L 2R2

or

Email: ACS@novascotia.ca

Email: jason.sroule@novascotia.ca

Phone: (902) 890-1565

Fax: (902) 893-2757

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 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 the Halifax airport or Lorraine Building in Bible Hill.

Agriculture

- 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 Lorraine Building 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 or Territory

- 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.
- A permit to import used hives such as: supers, brood chambers, brood comb, frames, feeders, covers and bottoms, from other Canadian Provinces into Nova Scotia that has been previously used or exposed to honey bees may be issued where risk of introduction of reportable pests and pathogens is considered negligible and the following criteria are met.
 - Hiveware must be treated in an insect-tight, climate-controlled reefer truck for 48h at -12°C, and treatment confirmed by temperature data; or
 - Hiveware must be subject to a Gamma sterilization dose of 10-15kGy, and treatment confirmed by certificate of irradiation; and
 - Equipment must be inspected by an inspector before use.

Requirements for importing honey bee colonies from another Province or Territory

- Importation of honey bee colonies, including full hives, nucleus colonies and package bees, from other Canadian Provinces may only be permitted where bees originate from Newfoundland. Importation of honey bee colonies from other Canadian provinces or territories is not permitted.
- Colonies originating in Nova Scotia will not be permitted to return if they leave the Province.

Requirements for importing honey bee colonies from Newfoundland


- Hives entering Nova Scotia from Newfoundland, for permanent placement or for transit to other Provinces, require a Provincial Import Permit.
- Newfoundland maintain freedom from varroa mites, tracheal mites, American foulbrood, European foulbrood, small hive beetle and other reportable pests or diseases.

Agriculture

- A Certificate of Inspection from the Newfoundland Department of Agriculture that meets the inspection requirements for pests and diseases as indicated below, with the inspection having been completed within 45 days prior to import.
- For each apiary, at least 10% of colonies or 10 colonies, whichever is greater, must be inspected for visible signs of pests and diseases. Inspection requires visual examination of a minimum of 3 brood frames with approximately 75% or greater brood coverage. Inspections must include qualitative descriptions of overall bee health, reportable pests and diseases, symptoms associated with viral infection and queen presence.
- Colonies shall not be stored or transported with colonies from apiaries that have not been inspected, prior to arrival in Nova Scotia.
- 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.
- Small mesh netting or an enclosed vehicle must be used when transporting all imported colonies:

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.
- Before colonies are moved into or through NS, the importer must provide a minimum of three days notice.

Approved by: 
Executive Director Agriculture and Food Advisory Service
Acting S.T.

Date: 

