

HONEY BEE MOVING CONDITIONS & REQUIREMENTS

This document includes the conditions and requirements involved with moving honey bees between Bee Districts within British Columbia, and from other provinces into BC.

British Columbia has been divided into Bee Districts to regulate the movement of honey bees in order to minimize the risk of disease. Beekeepers who wish to move bees across Bee District boundaries or into BC from another province must obtain an inspection report and a permit from the Apiculture Office. Moving bees within a Bee District does not require a permit.

Movement Conditions Between Bee Districts

- The colonies (or the originating colonies from which the queens or packaged bees have been produced) must be free of clinical signs of American Foulbrood (AFB) and European Foulbrood (EFB). Additional laboratory analyses may be required.
- Varroa mite levels may not exceed 1% prevalence.
- Colonies must be free of Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and Africanized Honey Bees (AHB).
- Used beehive equipment must be free of clinical signs of AFB and EFB.

Movement Conditions For Out-of-Province Bees

- Contact your Ministry of Agriculture and arrange for an inspection. The inspection results will be shared with the BC Ministry of Agriculture (BCMA) and are needed for the issuance of an Import Permit.
- Make sure to prepare strong and healthy colonies. Treat disease before shipment.
- Confirm the registration of each apiary site before moving bees to BC.
- During the spring season, BCMA staff will inspect colonies before they are returned to the home province.

INSPECTION STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS:

- 25 colonies randomly selected or 5% of the total (whichever is greater) must be inspected and tested.
- Inspection must take place within 30 days before shipment.
- A minimum of 3 brood frames per selected colony must be inspected for brood disease.
- For mite detection, an alcohol-wash test is required involving 300 bees collected from the brood nest. Varroa mite infestation may not exceed 1% (=3 mites/300 bees).
- If mite levels exceed 1%, all colonies (including nucleus colonies) intended for movement must be treated with an approved mite control product and retested upon completion of the treatment prior to shipment.

- Honeybee packages must have been produced from colonies with mite infestation of less or equal to 1%.
- For used beehive equipment, 10% of randomly selected brood boxes/supers containing frames with comb must be examined.
- All shipments must be accompanied with a copy of the permit.

List of Bee Districts

- Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands Bee District
- Powell River Bee District
- Sunshine Coast Bee District

- Fraser Valley Bee District
- Squamish-Lillooet Bee District
- Thompson-Nicola Bee District
- Cariboo Bee District
- Fraser-Fort George Bee District
- North West Bee District

- Central-North Okanagan Bee District
- Okanagan-Similkameen/Kootenay Boundary Bee District
- East Kootenay Bee District

- Peace River / Fort Nelson Bee District.

For more information or clarification, please contact the Apiculture Office at 604-556-3129.

(04/15)