

In cases in which bee colonies or nuclei are imported into Québec, issuance of an authorization from the Direction de la santé animale (DSA) of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) to import bees into Québec is mandatory.

The goal of this protocol is to contribute to ensuring a reasonable degree of protection from the risk of introducing *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle) and American foulbrood into Québec, bee diseases designated in the *Regulation to designate contagious or parasitic diseases, infectious agents or syndromes affecting bees* (c. P-42, r. 4.1, s. 3). It describes Québec's requirements for eligibility for the authorization to import bees into Québec from other Canadian provinces or the Canadian territories.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR AN AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT

- A. An inspection by a bee inspector employed by the government of the province and under the authority of the Provincial Apiarist has to have been conducted in the 45 days preceding the projected date of import of the bees into Québec.
- B. Inspection of bees imported into Québec must comply with the following requirements :
 1. Inspection for the presence of *Aethina tumida*.
 - For each apiary from which the imported bees originate, at least 10 % of the colonies/nuclei, with a minimum of 10 colonies/nuclei inspected per apiary, has to have been inspected for the presence of *Aethina tumida*. This entails inspection of the brood frames and visual examination of the hive floor, if it can be accessed.
 - And for every province where the presence of *Aethina tumida* was declared, the top of the frames of an extra 15 % of the colonies/nuclei of each apiary, with a minimum of 15 extra colonies/nuclei inspected per apiary, must be visually inspected. In such a case, for each apiary, at least 25 % of colonies/nuclei, with a minimum of 25 colonies/nuclei inspected, will therefore have been inspected.
 2. Inspection for the presence of **American foulbrood** :
 - For each apiary from which the imported bees originate, at least 10 % of the colonies/nuclei, with a minimum of 10 colonies/nuclei inspected per apiary, has to have been inspected for visible signs of **American foulbrood**.
 - When there are visible signs of **American foulbrood** in a colony/nucleus inspected as described above, then all the colonies/nuclei of the apiary have been inspected.
- C. No strain of oxytetracycline-resistant **American foulbrood** was diagnosed in the beekeeping operation from which the bees originate in the two years preceding their import into Québec.
- D. No colonies/nuclei of an apiary in which the prevalence of **American foulbrood** was established as being more than 2 % during the inspection are imported into Québec.
- E. The colonies or nuclei of bees to be imported into Québec show no visible signs of **American foulbrood**.
- F. The colonies or nuclei of bees to be imported into Québec come from colonies and/or apiaries that were always located at a site outside any zones where *Aethina tumida* is known to be endemic and have never had an epidemiological link to a case of infestation by *Aethina tumida*.
- G. The colonies or nuclei of bees to be imported into Québec have never been suspected of infestation by *Aethina tumida*.
- H. The bee inspector employed by the government of the province and under the authority of the Provincial Apiarist must, for each apiary inspection conducted, produce an inspection report bearing his or her signature and attesting that the above-indicated requirements have been met.
- I. If the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originates remains the owner of the bees in Québec, then he must be registered as a beekeeper in Québec in accordance with section 2 of the *Regulation respecting the registration of beekeepers* (c. P-42, r. 5).

PROCEDURES

Note: The name and contact information of the people to reach must be clearly indicated in each of the schedules.

Owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate

1. Contact the Provincial Apiarist or the bee inspector under his or her authority :
 - 1.1 to declare all the sites of apiaries from which the bees to be imported to Québec will come;
 - 1.2 and ask that they undergo the health inspection required for obtaining an authorization to import.

Bee inspector

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

Owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate

4. Complete the REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT BEES INTO QUÉBEC (Schedule 1);
5. Complete the LIST OF QUÉBEC RECEIVERS OF THE BEES TO BE IMPORTED (Schedule 2);
6. Send the following in a single mailing*
 - ☐ A copy of all inspection reports (Note: Beekeepers may make an agreement under which the bee inspector employed by the government or the Provincial Apiarist sends the reports),
 - ☐ Schedules 1 and 2,

By fax: 418 380-2201 or email: centraledesignalement@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca

AND

the originals of Schedules 1 and 2 by regular mail to :

Centrale de signalement
Direction de la santé animale (DSA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
200, chemin Sainte-Foy, 11e étage, Québec (QC) G1R 4X6

*Expect a minimum of five working days between the date MAPAQ receives the documents and issuance of the authorization to import.

Those importing bees into Québec must hold an authorization to import at the time of import. Failure to comply with these provisions may result in penal prosecution and seizure of the bees pursuant to the *Animal Health Protection Act* (c. P-42, s. 55.43).

Note that in Québec, beekeepers must also comply with the requirements of the *Regulation respecting the inscription affixed on hives* (c. P-42, r. 8).

Bees brought into Québec for the sole purpose of direct transit towards another province are not subject to this protocol.

Note: Given the evolution of the knowledge on which the rules governing the management and import of bees into Québec is based, this protocol may be amended without notice.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPORT BEES INTO QUÉBEC
(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE OWNER OF THE BEEKEEPING OPERATION FROM WHICH THE IMPORTED BEES ORIGINATE)

As the owner of the bees to be imported into Québec,

I, the undersigned : _____

Corporate name : _____

Address : _____

Postal code : _____ Phone : _____ Fax : _____

Email : _____

hereby request authorization to import

_____	_____
Number	Description (nucleus/colony)

for the following purpose : Sale ☐ Honey production ☐ Commercial pollination ☐ Other : _____

and declare

- ☐ that I am importing the bees into Québec while remaining the owner thereof and am duly registered pursuant to the *Regulation respecting the registration of beekeepers* (c. P-42, r. 5)*.

*The registration form is available at www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/abeille

Or

- ☐ that I am importing bees into Québec for sale to a buyer in Québec.

- that the bees for which the request for authorization to import has been made come from my beekeeping operation and are the only bees to be imported to Québec.
- have contacted the Provincial Apiarist or the bee inspector under his or her authority **and** have declared all the sites of apiaries from which the bees to be imported into Québec will come so that they can undergo the health inspection required for obtaining an authorization to import.
- that I recognize my liability for any financial loss arising from misrepresentation of the knowledge of histories or previous contacts in relation to *Aethina tumida* and American foulbrood in my beekeeping operation.

I have also enclosed all the documents requested at point 6 of the procedure established for the Protocol regarding import into Québec of bees from other Canadian provinces.

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

 Date

LIST OF QUÉBEC RECEIVERS OF THE BEES TO BE IMPORTED

Name of receiver in Québec*	Complete address/phone	Quantity	Description of product (bee nuclei/colonies)	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

* "Québec receivers" is defined as follows :

1. In cases in which the imported bees are sold in Québec, the receiver is reputed to be the buyer of the bees.
2. In cases in which the bees are imported for the purpose of honey production or commercial pollination without a sales transaction, the receiver is reputed to be the owner of the site where the bees will be located or, in cases in which there is a leasing contract with the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees originate, the lessee of the bees imported.

LIST OF PROVINCIAL APIARISTS

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