



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

COMMUNICATION:

Risk Assessment on the Importation of Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Packages from the United States of America

We are sharing with you the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) animal health risk assessment on importing honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) packages from the United States of America for your consideration.

In recent years, a number of bee diseases and pests have spread between countries through international trade in bees. International bee movement involves real risks of spreading pests and diseases, treatment-resistant strain of existing pests and diseases, or troublesome bee genetics. In the last few years, Canadian beekeepers experienced bee health challenges and significantly elevated overwinter losses.

The Agency has conducted an animal health risk assessment on the importation of honey bee packages from the USA in order to protect Canadian bee status and human health from biological agents and pests. Please be advised that the current import status of USA honey bee packages is unchanged until such time as all activities associated with this risk assessment are completed.

Thereafter, the information contained in this assessment and comments from stakeholders will assist the Agency in the risk management decision.

If you have any questions or would like to provide comments by email, fax or regular mail, please contact:

Animal Health Risk Assessment
Animal Health Science Directorate
Animal Health Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
1400 Merivale Road
Ottawa, ON
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Fax: 613-773-5387
AHRA-ARSA@inspection.gc.ca

Deadline for comments: November 25, 2013

For email submissions, please include "**Risk Assessment for USA Honey Bees**" as the subject line.

Note on privacy: Please note that by submitting comments, you consent to having them published in whole or in part, along with your name or the name and address of any entity or association that you represent, and the position you hold within that entity or association and you warrant that you have the authority to give that consent on behalf of that entity or association. All comments may be edited by the CFIA. Comments provided to the CFIA are subject to requests for access to information under the Access to Information Act. All personal information will be treated in accordance with that Act and the Privacy Act. Personal information will remain confidential and will not be published by the CFIA, except for the information that you are consenting to have published as noted above.

Sincerely,



Dr. Francine Lord
Director, Animal Import/Export Division
Canadian Food Inspection Agency