

Permit Requirements for Common Beekeeping Practices in Ontario

Are you a beekeeper in Ontario?

Anyone who owns or is in possession of honey bees is required to register with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

Do you sell honey bees or used beekeeping equipment?

Do you provide pollination services outside of Ontario OR import bees into Ontario?

You require a selling permit or queen and nuc permit.

You require an import permit.

Selling Permit

- Allows the sale of honey bees or used beekeeping equipment.
- Valid for one sales transaction.
- Requires an inspection of the originating bee yard by an Ontario Apiary Inspector.
- Expires 30 days after being issued.
- Contact your local Apiary Inspector to request a selling permit.

Queen and Nuc Permit

- Intended for beekeepers selling honey bees or used beekeeping equipment to multiple buyers.
- Valid for an unlimited number of sales within a single season.
- Must be applied for and renewed annually.
- Requires inspection of a percentage of your bee yards by an Ontario Apiary Inspector.
- Sales must be documented and submitted to OMAFRA.

Import Permit

- Allows the movement of honey bees into Ontario from another jurisdiction.
- Providing pollination services outside of Ontario?
- Requires an inspection of the originating bee yard(s) by an Ontario Apiary Inspector. Permit is issued to allow colonies to return back into Ontario after pollinating crops in other provinces.
- Importing honey bees from another country?
- Requires an import permit from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- Importing honey bees from another Canadian Province?
- Requires an inspection report(s) from the province of origin. The inspection must be conducted by a government appointed Apiary Inspector, Provincial Apiarist, or equivalent.