



PROTOCOL FOR THE INTRODUCTION

**into Québec territory of bees from a region that is not considered at risk
of infestation by the small beehive beetle in 2021**

Any beekeeper planning to permanently (sale) or temporarily (commercial pollination) import colonies, nuclei, packages of bees or queens into the territory of Québec¹ **must** have an authorization to import bees into Québec issued by the *Direction de la santé animale* (DSA) of the *Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation* (MAPAQ).

This protocol contributes to ensure a reasonable degree of protection against the risk of introducing *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle or SHB) and *Paenibacillus larvae* (the causative organism of American foulbrood), bee diseases designated in the *Regulation to designate contagious or parasitic diseases, infectious agents and syndromes* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 4.2). Furthermore, it ensures adequate protection against infestation by amitraz-resistant strains of *Varroa destructor*. This protocol targets beekeeping operations established in a region outside Québec that is not considered to be at risk of infestation by the small hive beetle (SHB)² and specifies the requirements that these businesses must meet to be eligible for an authorization to import into the territory of Québec.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. **In the 30 days** preceding the projected date of import of the colonies, nuclei, packages of bees or queens into Québec, an inspection must be conducted by a bee inspector employed by the government of the province of origin of the bees, and under the authority of the provincial apiarist.
- B. For each apiary from which the bees that will be introduced in Québec originate, the inspection must comply with the following requirements:
1. For the detection of the **SHB**, at least 25% of the colonies or nuclei, with a minimum of 25 colonies or nuclei per apiary, must be subjected to an inspection that meets the following conditions:
 - at least 10% of the colonies or nuclei of each apiary, with a minimum of 10 colonies or nuclei per apiary, must undergo a **complete inspection**. This entails an inspection of super frames and brood chamber frames (at least three frames) as well as a visual examination of the hive floor (if it can be accessed);
 - at least 15% of the colonies or nuclei, with a minimum of 15 additional colonies or nuclei per apiary, must undergo a visual inspection of the top of the super frames (**top bar inspection**);
 - the places used for caging and preparation for shipment of **queens** and their accompanying workers must also be inspected to confirm the absence of any form of SHB. These places must be enclosed and considered inaccessible to the introduction of SHB, during the whole process of caging and preparation for shipping of queens and accompanying workers.
 2. For the detection of **American foulbrood**, inspections must comply with the following requirements:
 - at least 10% of the colonies or nuclei of each apiary, with a minimum of 10 colonies or nuclei per apiary, must undergo a full inspection designed to detect visible signs of this disease;
 - if there are visible signs of **American foulbrood** in a colony or nucleus inspected as described above, the inspection must be extended to all of the apiary's colonies and nuclei.
 3. For the detection of ***Varroa destructor***, inspections must comply with the following requirement:
 - a minimum of 3 colonies per apiary must be sampled for alcohol wash, collecting 200 to 300 bees per colony. Bees must be immersed in alcohol and then shaken vigorously for at least 2 minutes; then, mites must be counted and the percentage of infestation is established.
- C. If, during the inspection, the proportion of colonies showing signs of **American foulbrood** in the apiary is less than 2%, only colonies or nuclei that are not visibly affected can receive authorization to enter Québec.

¹ The issuance of an authorization to import by MAPAQ is not required for package bees imported into Canada in accordance with the requirements of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

² For 2021, the following regions outside Québec are considered **at risk**: Ontario and New Brunswick. Individuals wishing to import bees from these regions should instead refer to the *Protocol for the introduction into Québec territory of bees from a region considered at risk of infestation by the small hive beetle in 2021*.

- D. If, during the inspection, the proportion of colonies showing signs of **American foulbrood** in the apiary exceeds 2%, no colony, no nucleus, no package of bees nor queen of this apiary can receive authorization to enter Québec.
- E. No oxytetracycline-resistant strain of *Paenibacillus larvae* (causative organism of **American foulbrood**) must have been diagnosed in the beekeeping operation from which the bees originate in the two years preceding their introduction into Québec territory.
- F. If, following the inspection, the average percentage of *Varroa destructor* infestation in the colonies sampled in the apiary exceeds 1% (3 mites per 300 bees tested), no colony, no nucleus, no package of bees nor queen of this apiary can receive authorization to enter Québec. Colonies will need to be properly treated with a product registered in Canada, and then retested to confirm that the average percentage of infestation is actually below the 1% threshold, before they are granted authorization to enter Québec.
- G. No amitraz-resistant strain of *Varroa destructor* must have been diagnosed in the beekeeping operation from which the bees originate. *Varroa destructor* is considered amitraz-resistant when amitraz effectiveness is established as being less than 80% by means of a "modified" Pettis Test.
- H. The colonies, nuclei, packages of bees or queens to be introduced into Québec territory must come from beekeeping operations:
- that are not infested or suspected of being infected by the **SHB**;
 - that have not been infested by the **SHB** during the 24 months preceding their introduction into Québec territory.
- I. Colonies, nuclei, packages of bees or queens intended to be introduced into Québec territory must not have been purchased from a beekeeping operation known to have been infested with **SHB** during the 24 months preceding their introduction into Québec territory.
- J. **Queens** and accompanying workers must be prepared and kept only in places inspected by the beekeeping inspector in the service of the government until shipment. All the material necessary for the preparation and shipping of the queens must also be stored in the places inspected.
- K. A beekeeping inspector employed by the government of the province of origin of the bees must affix an identifier on the inspected hives to facilitate cross-referencing with the inspection report.
- L. A bee inspector employed by the government of the province of origin of the bees and under the authority of the provincial apiarist must produce, for each apiary inspection conducted, an inspection report bearing their signature and certifying that the requirements set out above were met.
- M. The owner of the bees to be introduced must confirm that the colonies, nuclei, packages of bees or queens in question were not, in the preceding 24 months, located in an area considered at **high risk** of infestation by the **SHB**³.
- N. If the owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate remains the owner of the bees in Québec, they must be registered with the MAPAQ in accordance with section 2 of the *Regulation respecting the registration of beekeepers* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 5).

³ For 2021, the regions considered at **high risk** of infestation by the SHB for the purposes of the application of this protocol are the following:

- In Ontario: Niagara and Haldimand counties.

These regions are subject to change as the situation evolves. In order to follow the latter, the following map can be consulted:
<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=40f8961d0ae54f5eae0393b0dc4bd945>.

PROCEDURE

The owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate must:

1. Contact their provincial apiarist or a bee inspector under the authority of the provincial apiarist to:
 - ensure that they meet the basic health requirements of Québec;
 - declare all the sites of apiaries from which the bees to be imported into Québec will originate;
 - request that all declared apiary sites be submitted to the health inspection required to obtain an authorization to import.

The bee inspector of the province of origin must:

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

The owner of the beekeeping operation from which the bees to be imported originate must:

4. Complete the *Application for the introduction into Québec territory of bees from a region that is not considered at risk of infestation by the small hive beetle* (annex 1).
5. Complete the *List of recipients of the bees to be introduced into Québec territory* (annex 2).
6. Send the following in a single mailing:
 - a copy of all inspection reports⁴;
 - annex 1 and 2 completed.
7. Where applicable, ensure compliance with the requirements of the province(s) transited to reach Québec by contacting the provincial apiarist(s) of the province(s) concerned.

The documents must be sent to the MAPAQ by email at animaux@mapaq.gouv.qc.ca or by fax at 418-380-2201.

For more information, contact the central reporting line of the MAPAQ's *Direction de la santé animale* at 1-844-ANIMAUX.

Expect a minimum of five working days between the date the MAPAQ receives the documents and the issuance of the authorization to import. The owner of the bees **must be in possession of this authorization when the bees are imported into Québec territory**. Failure to comply with this provision may result in penal prosecution and seizure of the bees pursuant to the *Animal Health Protection Act* (CQLR, c. P-42, s. 55.43).

It should also be noted that all beekeepers with hives on Québec territory must comply with the requirements of the *Regulation respecting the inscription affixed on hives* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 8).

As for beekeepers wishing to introduce bees to Québec for the sole purpose of having them transit directly to another province, they must consult the *Protocol for the transit of bees on Québec territory in 2021*.

Given the constant evolution of the knowledge on which the rules governing the introduction of bees into Québec territory is based, this protocol may be amended without notice. All introduction requests will be analyzed individually based on the risk and the situation at the time of the request.

⁴ The beekeeper can make arrangements for all documents to be sent to the MAPAQ by the provincial apiarist.

APPLICATION FOR THE INTRODUCTION INTO QUÉBEC TERRITORY OF BEES FROM A REGION THAT IS NOT CONSIDERED AT RISK OF INFESTATION BY THE SMALL HIVE BEETLE ⁵

(To be completed by the owner of the beekeeping operation)

As the owner of bees to be introduced into Québec territory,

I, the undersigned: _____

Corporate name: _____

Address: _____

Postal code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

hereby request authorization to introduce:

Number	Description (nucleus, colony, package or queen)	Number of apiaries from which the bees will be coming	Projected introduction date	Purpose
				<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial pollination <input type="checkbox"/> Honey production <input type="checkbox"/> Sale

and declare:

- That I will remain the owner of the bees imported into Québec and that I am duly registered in accordance with the *Regulation respecting the registration of beekeepers* (CQLR, c. P-42, r. 5)⁶ (does not apply in case of a sale transaction).
- That the bees for which the request for authorization to import has been made come from my beekeeping operation.
- That the hives of my beekeeping operation are not currently infested or suspected of being infested with SHB, and neither were they in the last 24 months.
- That during the last 24 months, no hive of the apiaries from which the bees to be introduced come has been located in one of the regions considered to be at **high risk** of infestation by the SHB (namely the counties of Niagara and Haldimand).
- That I have had the sites of all the apiaries from which the bees to be brought into Québec come inspected by a government inspector, as required.
- That I acknowledge my liability for any financial loss arising from any misrepresentations regarding the presence of the SHB or American foulbrood in my beekeeping business.

I enclose with this application all the documents mentioned in the *Protocol for the introduction into Québec territory of bees from a region that is not considered at risk of infestation by the small beehive beetle in 2021*.

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

Date

⁵ All regions of Canada, except Ontario and New Brunswick.

⁶ The registration form is available on the Ministry's website at www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/abeille.

LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF THE BEES TO BE INTRODUCED INTO QUÉBEC TERRITORY

Name of the recipient in Québec ⁷	Full address and phone number	Quantity	Description (nucleus, colony, package or queen)	Projected date of arrival into Québec	Destination address of the bees (if different than that of the recipient)

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

Date

⁷ Recipients in Québec are defined as follows:

- the owner of the site where the bees will be located in the event that they are introduced for honey production or commercial pollination activities;
- the bee buyer in Québec in the case of a sale transaction;
- the person leasing the bees brought in Québec if there is a rental contract.

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