

**PROTOCOL FOR THE INTRODUCTION INTO QUÉBEC TERRITORY
OF BEES FROM OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES IN 2023**

Any beekeeper who plans to introduce colonies, nuclei, bee or queen packages into Québec on a permanent (sale) or temporary (commercial pollination) basis is **required** to hold an authorization to introduce bees issued by the Direction de la santé animale of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ).

This protocol helps to ensure adequate protection against the risk of infestation by the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and the agent of American foulbrood [AFB] (*Paenibacillus larvae*), beekeeping diseases designated in the Regulation to designate contagious or parasitic diseases, infectious agents and syndromes (CQLR, chapter P-42, r. 4.2). It also provides adequate protection against the risk of infestation by amitraz-resistant strains of *Varroa destructor*.

This protocol applies to beekeeping operations established outside Québec, in the other Canadian provinces, and specifies the Québec requirements that these enterprises must meet to be eligible for an introduction into its territory.¹²

For provinces deemed **to be at risk of infestation by the small hive beetle (SHB)**, namely **Ontario** and **New Brunswick**, beekeepers must comply with additional requirements and procedures, which are presented in boxes such as this one.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Inspection of colonies, nuclei, bee packages or queen bees, conducted by a beekeeping inspector in the service of the government of the province from which the bees originate and acting under the authority of the Provincial Apiarist must have been completed **within 30 days** of the expected date of introduction into Québec.
 - B. This inspection must be carried out in **each yard** from which the bees to be introduced into Québec originate, in accordance with the following procedures:
 1. For **SHB** detection:
 - a minimum of 10 colonies or nuclei per yard, equivalent to at least 10% of the colonies or nuclei in each yard, must have undergone a **full inspection**, including an inspection of the top of super frames, inspection of brood chamber frames (minimum of three frames) and a visual inspection of the hive floor (where accessible);
 - a minimum of 15 additional colonies or nuclei, equivalent to at least 15% of the colonies or nuclei in each yard, must undergo a visual inspection of the top of the super frames (**top bar inspection**);
- in Ontario and New Brunswick, all (100%) colonies and nuclei must undergo a visual inspection of the top of the super frames (**top bar inspection**). Each colony and nuclei must contain two microfiber SHB traps (Beetle Bee-Gone® type) previously installed by the beekeeper between 7 and 14 days before inspection in the province of origin. One of the traps must have been installed on top of the frames of the upper super and the other, between the brood chamber and the first honey super (above the queen excluder). A visual inspection of both traps shall be carried out by the beekeeping inspector during the complete inspection of the colonies or nuclei and an inspection of the trap present on the top of the upper rise frames shall be carried out during the top bar inspections. The traps must be left in place in the hives and still be present when the hives are in Quebec, where a second inspection can be carried out by Quebec beekeeping inspectors;
 - in addition, **each colony or nucleus that appears weak at the time of visual inspection of the top of the frames** must be subjected to a **complete inspection**, including an inspection of the brood chamber frames and a visual inspection of the hive floor (when accessible);
- the premises used for caging and preparing 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 closed and considered inaccessible to the SHB, during the entire process of caging and preparing for the shipment of queens and accompanying workers.

¹ The issuance by the MAPAQ of an authorization to introduce into Quebec territory is not required for packages of bees and queens imported into Canada, in accordance with the requirements of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

² Beekeepers wishing to introduce bees into Québec for the sole purpose of transiting them directly to another province must refer to the *Protocol for the transit of bees through Québec in 2023*.

2. For **AFB** detection:
 - a minimum of 10 colonies or nuclei per yard, equivalent to at least 10 % of the colonies or nuclei in each yard, must be fully inspected for visible signs of this disease;
 - if a colony or nucleus inspected as specified above shows visible signs of AFB, the inspection must be extended to all colonies and nuclei in the yard.
 3. For the detection of *Varroa destructor*:
 - a minimum of 3 colonies per yard must be washed with alcohol, according to a sample of 200 to 300 bees per colony. Bees should be immersed in alcohol, and then vigorously shaken for at least 2 minutes; then the varroa mites must be counted and the percentage of infestation is established.
- C. The requirements for inspection results are as follows:
1. For the detection of SHB, colonies or nuclei in which **no SHB was found** on inspection may receive an authorization for introduction into Québec. **However, Québec may refuse entry to all colonies in an yard or beekeeping operation based on the information contained in the inspection report and the comments resulting from the inspections.**
 2. For the detection of AFB, if, during inspection, the proportion of colonies showing signs of **AFB** in the yard is **less than 2%**, only colonies or nuclei that are not visibly affected may receive an authorization for introduction into Québec territory. If, during the inspection, the proportion of colonies showing signs of AFB in the yard exceeds 2%, no colony, nucleus, bee package or queen in the yard may be authorized to introduce into Québec territory.
 3. For the detection of *Varroa destructor*, if, following the inspection, the average percentage of infestation with *Varroa destructor* in the sampled colonies of the yard exceeds 1% (3 mites per 300 bees tested), no colony, nucleus, bee package or queen in this yard can obtain an authorization for introduction into Quebec. Colonies will need to be adequately treated with a product registered in Canada, and then retested to confirm that the average infestation percentage is **below the 1% threshold**, before they are granted an authorization for introduction into Quebec.
- D. No strain of *Paenibacillus larvae* (agent of **AFB**) **resistant to oxytetracycline** must have been diagnosed in the beekeeping business from which the bees originate during the two years preceding their introduction into Québec.
- E. No strain of *Varroa destructor* **resistant to amitraz** must have been found and confirmed in the beekeeping operation from which the bees originate. *Varroa destructor* is considered resistant to amitraz when the efficacy of amitraz is established to be less than 80% by a modified Pettis test.
- F. **Queens** and accompanying workers must be prepared and kept only on premises inspected by the beekeeping inspector in government service until shipment. All equipment necessary for the preparation and shipment of queens must also be stored on the premises inspected.
- G. A beekeeping inspector employed by the government of the province from which the bees originate must affix an identifier to the hives inspected so that they can be traced using the inspection report.
- H. A beekeeping inspector employed by the government of the province from which bees originate and acting under the authority of the provincial beekeeper must produce an **inspection report** bearing their signature and certifying that the inspection procedures set out above have been followed for each yard inspected.
- I. The owner of bees to be introduced must confirm that the bee colonies, nuclei, packages or queen bees in question have not been located in an area deemed to be at **high risk** of **SHB** infestation in the past 24 months³.
- J. The owner of the beekeeping operation retaining ownership of bees once introduced into Québec must be **registered with the MAPAQ** in accordance with section 2 of the Regulation respecting the registration of bee owners (CQLR, chapter P-42, r. 5).

³ In 2023, the regions deemed to be at **high risk** of infestation by SHB for the purposes of the present protocol are as follows: Niagara and Haldimand counties in Ontario. These regions are subject to change as changes of the situation.

PROCEDURE

1. You must contact the Provincial Apiarist of the bees' province of origin or a beekeeping inspector reporting to them to:

- ensure compliance with Quebec's basic health requirements;
- declare all yard sites from which bees will come to be introduced into Québec;
- request that all declared yard sites be subject to the health inspection required to obtain an introduction authorization;

- install, in **100% of the hives to be inspected** located in **Ontario** or **New Brunswick**, **7 to 14 days before** the inspection by the beekeeping inspector working for the government of his province, two microfibre SHB traps (Beetle Bee-Gone® type). One of the traps must be installed on top of the frames of the upper super and the other, between the brood chamber and the first honey super (above the queen excluder). The traps must be left in place in the hives and still be present when the hives are in Quebec.

The beekeeping inspector of the province of origin must:

2. Produce an inspection report for each yard inspected. The report must bear their signature and an indication that the bees in the yard inspected 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 introduced into Québec originate, for all yard sites concerned.

Inspection reports do not constitute authorization for introduction. Note that Quebec may refuse entry to all colonies in an yard or beekeeping operation based on the information contained in the inspection report and comments resulting from inspections.

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

4. Complete the *Application for Authorization for the Introduction into Québec of Bees from Other Canadian Provinces* (Annex 1).
5. Complete the *List of recipients of the bees to be introduced into Québec* (Annex 2).

6. Have Annex 3 completed by the Provincial Apiarist if the bees are from Ontario or New Brunswick.

7. Send together:

- copies of all inspection reports;
- Annexes 1 and 2;

- Annex 3 if the bees originate in Ontario or New Brunswick.

8. If applicable, ensure that they meet their obligations with respect to the province(s) they will cross en route to Québec by contacting the Provincial Apiarist(s) in the province(s) concerned.

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

Note that a **minimum of five business days** must be allowed between the date of receipt of the documents at MAPAQ and the production of the authorization to introduce. The owner of the bees **must be in possession of this authorization at the time of their introduction into Québec territory**. Failure to comply with this provision may give rise to penal proceedings and seizure of bees under the Animal Health Protection Act (CQLR, chapter P-42, s. 55.43).

Also note that any beekeeper with hives in Québec must comply with the requirements of **Regulation respecting the inscription affixed on hives** (CQLR, chapter P-42, r. 8).

Given the current evolution of knowledge on which rules governing the introduction of bees into Québec is based, this protocol may be amended without prior notice. Any request for introduction will be subject to an individual analysis based on the risk and the situation at the time of the application.

For more information, contact the MAPAQ Animal Health Department's reporting center at 1 844 ANIMAUX.

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE INTRODUCTION INTO QUÉBEC TERRITORY OF BEES
FROM OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES**

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

As the owner of bees destined for introduction into Quebec, I, the undersigned:

First and last name: _____

Company name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

requests authorization for the introduction of:

Number	Description (nucleus, colony or package)	Number of yards from which these bees will come	Expected date of introduction	<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 thus introduced into Québec and be duly registered under the Regulation respecting the registration of bee owners (CQLR, chapter P-42, r. 5) (does not apply in the case of a sale).¹
- That the bees for which this request for introduction was made originate from my beekeeping operation.
- That in the past 24 months, no hives in the yards from which the bees to be introduced originate have been in one of the areas deemed to be at **high risk** of SHB infestation (Niagara and Haldimand counties in Ontario).
- That I have had all yards from which bees come to be brought into Québec inspected by a government inspector, as required.
- That I acknowledge my liability for any financial loss associated with misrepresentation regarding the presence of SHB, AFB or an amitraz-resistant strain of *Varroa destructor* 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 other Canadian provinces in 2023*.

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

Date

¹ 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

Name of recipient in Quebec ¹	Complete address and telephone number of recipient	Quantity	Description (nucleus, colony, package or queen)	Expected date of entry into Québec	Destination address of the bees (if different from that of the consignee)

Signature of the owner of the beekeeping holding from which the bees to be introduced come

Date

¹ The following are considered recipients in Québec:

- the owner of the site where the bees will be located if they are introduced for honey production or commercial pollination activities;
- The bees' buyer in Québec in the case of a sale transaction;
- the person leasing the introduced bees in the case of a rental agreement.

**STATEMENT FROM THE PROVINCIAL APIARIST
FOR BEES FROM ONTARIO AND NEW BRUNSWICK**

Beekeeping enterprise covered by this declaration	
Owner's name:	_____
Company name:	_____ Email: _____
Address:	_____ Telephone: _____

I, the undersigned:

First and last name: _____

Title: _____

Certify:

that bee colonies, nuclei or packages intended to be introduced into Québec:

- have been inspected by a beekeeping inspector employed by the government of my province, in accordance with the inspection procedures specified in the *Protocole for the introduction into Quebec territory of bees from other Canadian provinces in 2023*;
- have been marked to confirm their inspection by inspection staff in accordance with the protocol guidelines;
- did not show clinical signs of AFB or Small Hive Beetle (SHB) infestation;
- originate from yards that are not located in areas deemed **to be at high risk** of SHB infestation (i.e., Niagara and Haldimand counties in Ontario);

that the beekeeping company to which these hives belong:

- is not known to be or suspected of being infected with an oxytetracycline-resistant strain of AFB, nor has it been infected in the past 24 months;
- is not known to be or suspected of being infested with an amitraz-resistant strain of *Varroa destructor*.

Signature of Provincial Apiarist

Date

LIST OF PROVINCIAL APIARISTS IN CANADA

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