



Ministry of
Agriculture

Importing Queens & Packaged Bees

Apiculture Bulletin #002

Updated: 04/15

Canadian beekeepers can import queens and packaged bees from several approved sources. All bee imports into Canada require an Import Permit issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Please be aware that the status of approved honey bee sources may change due to their disease/pest profile.

Approved sources include:

Queens: New Zealand, Australia, California and Hawaii

Packages: New Zealand, Australia

Import Permits must be applied for and can be obtained from:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Room 175, 17735 – 1st Avenue
Surrey, BC V3S 9S1

Phone: (604) 541-3364

Fax: (604) 541-3375

Information about obtaining an Import Permit can also be found on the internet at www.inspection.gc.ca (Animals / Imports of Animals & Animal Products / Automated Import Reference System / type in “bees” or “queens”)

Import Permits involve a few, regardless of the size of the order. For smaller shipments, ordering through a Canadian supplier or group purchase is cheaper and more convenient.

When ordering bees from sources overseas plan for the earliest date of delivery. Early season shipments are often better quality and queens adjust better.

When queens or packages are needed later in the spring, consider purchasing good quality bees from local breeders. For a list of members of the BC Bee Breeders Association, see www.bcbeekeepers.com.