

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089

Apiary Program Message Line: 508-281-6784

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TO: Honey Beekeepers and Suppliers

FROM: MDAR Apiary Program Inspection Team

REGARDING: Live Honey Bees and Used Equipment Shipments into Massachusetts

DATE: 2026 Honey Bee Season

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Apiary Program (“Department”) would like to remind you that as a beekeeper, beekeeping supplier or business (“Supplier”) pursuant to [M.G.L. Chapter 128, Sections 32-36B, 38](#) and [330 CMR 8.00](#) (newly amended), all imported honey bee packages, nucleus colonies (nucs), colonies, and used equipment (“Shipment”) brought into the state of Massachusetts must have a proper state-issued health certificate (“Health Certificate”) including at least one (1) health inspection (“Inspection”) dated within sixty (60) days prior to transport. It is also required that you do the following to be in regulatory compliance:

- Notify the Department no less than two business days prior to each Shipment import,
- Provide destination information (within Massachusetts) for each Shipment,
- Submit a copy of the Shipment Health Certificate to the Department;
- Keep records regarding the sale of the Shipment items; and
- Pursuant to [M.G.L. Chapter 132B](#), provide the pesticide product label to customers who are purchasing colonies and nucs which contain visible miticides so they are aware of proper treatment, handling and disposal.

The contents of a Health Certificate can vary by state, and thus be sure to also include the following information with your submission of documentation:

- Name and contact information of Supplier,
- Address for Shipment origin,
- Date of import,
- Date of Inspection from state of origin, and
- Imported Shipment totals (i.e. packages, nucs, colonies, and used equipment).

Notification and Health Certificates can be submitted either electronically using the online form: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/shipment-notification-of-honey-bees-and-beekeeping-equipment> or hardcopy by mail to:

*MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
ATTN: Apiary Inspection Program
138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42
West Springfield, MA 01089*



For additional questions, refer to the [Transporting and Selling Honey Bees and Related Products FAQ](#) or contact the MDAR Apiary Program Team at (508) 281-6784; email bees@mass.gov.