

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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**TO:** Honey Beekeepers and Suppliers

**FROM:** Kim Skyrn, Ph.D., Chief Apiary Inspector, MDAR Apiary Program

**REGARDING:** 2022 Live Honey Bee and Used Equipment Shipments Into Massachusetts

**DATE:** March 25<sup>th</sup> 2022

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (“Department”) would like to remind you that as a beekeeper or a beekeeping supplier pursuant to *M.G.L. c. 128, Section 35, 330 CMR 8.00 Section 8.06 (1-2)* all imported honey bee packages, nucleus colonies (nucs), colonies and used equipment (“Shipments”) brought into the state of Massachusetts must have a proper state-issued health certificate (“Certificate”) including at least one health inspection (“Inspection”) within 60 days prior to shipment. It is also required that you:

- Notify the Department at least 48 hours prior to bringing each Shipment into Massachusetts,
- Provide the destination within the Commonwealth for each Shipment; and  
Submit a copy of the Certificate to the Department for each Shipment to be in regulatory compliance.

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

- Supplier name and contact information,
- Address of Shipment origin,
- Date of import,
- Date of Inspection from state of origin,
- Total number of each type (i.e. packages, nucs, colonies, or used equipment) imported; and
- Final destination address where imported materials will be kept or distributed in Massachusetts.

Notification and 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:

*MDAR Chief Apiary Inspector  
138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42  
West Springfield, MA 01089*

If you are selling nucs and plan to include visible Varroa mite pesticide treatments (i.e. miticides) inside the box upon receipt to beekeepers you must notify beekeepers about their presence and provide label instructions which state when and how to properly remove and dispose of materials after the treatment period to be deemed in compliance with M.G.L. c. 132B.

Please note that the Department is currently in the process of promulgating amendments to 330 CMR 8.00 and anticipates that these changes will go into effect within the next few months. More information about

the amended version of 330 CMR 8.00 will be provided to all stakeholders and the Department will work to provide education and compliance assistance when these new changes go into effect.

For further questions, contact Kim Skyrms at 413-726-2007 or email [kim.skyrms@mass.gov](mailto:kim.skyrms@mass.gov).

CITED LAWS:

**M.G.L. c. 128:** Agriculture - <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIX/Chapter128>

- **M.G.L. c. 128: Section 35.** *No colony of bees nor any used bee equipment shall be shipped or transported into or delivered in this commonwealth from any other state or country without a certificate, stating that the inspector of apiaries or other officer charged with similar duties in that state or country has inspected said colony or equipment within sixty days and that it is free from infectious or contagious disease. The department may by regulation establish a fee to be paid by any person or entity bringing hives, colonies or packages of bees into the commonwealth under this section, subject to approval by the secretary of administration and finance. Said fees shall not be assessed on the importation of five or fewer hives, colonies or packages so imported at one time, and shall be not less than five dollars for importation of from six to twenty hives, colonies or packages at one time, and shall be not less than twenty-five cents for each hive, colony or package in amounts over twenty imported at one time; provided, however, that in no event shall an individual or entity importing hives, colonies or packages of bees into the commonwealth be assessed any amount greater than two hundred and fifty dollars annually; provided, further, that no assessments shall be made for the importation of queen bees. No transportation company or common carrier shall be liable in damages for refusing to receive, transport or deliver any colony of bees or used equipment when unaccompanied by a certificate as above provided. This section shall not prevent the transportation or delivery of queen or package bees from Canada or the United States of America when not accompanied by brood, honey or comb.*

**M.G.L. c. 132B:** Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act -

<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIX/Chapter132B>

CITED REGULATIONS:

**330 CMR 8.00:** Apiary Inspection - <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/330-CMR-08-apiary-inspection>

- **330 CMR 8.06(1).** *No honeybee colonies, packages, used or second-hand equipment, honeycombs, frames, and other used beekeeping equipment shall be moved into Massachusetts from other states or countries unless or until a permit is issued by the Bureau of Plant Industries, Bureau Chief, which permit may be issued when the Chief Apiary Inspector shall have been furnished by the corresponding official of the state or country from which said honeybees or equipment are to be moved, with a certificate to the effect (a) that all colonies, apiaries, and apiary sites, owned and operated by the applicant, his agent or representative, have been inspected annually, and at the time when the honeybees are actively rearing brood, by his state or country or the state or country of origin including one inspection within 60 days prior to shipment; and either (b) 1. that no American foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*), European foulbrood (*Melissococcus pluton*), Tracheal mites (*Acarapis woodi*) Varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) and Africanized honeybees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) or other infectious diseases have been detected in any apiary, apiary site or other places where honeybees have been held by the applicant, his agent or representative, within a period of two years prior to the date of movement into Massachusetts, or 2. that said bees and/or equipment have been treated in such a manner as the Chief Apiary Inspector or his agent may direct.*
- **330 CMR 8.06(2).** *The applicant shall notify the Bureau of Plant Industries 48 hours prior to bringing said materials into the Commonwealth and inform the bureau of each destination within the Commonwealth.*