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12 August 1996

## CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HONEY-BEES

### General Information.

1. Under current legislation the import of the honey-bee (*Apis mellifera*) into Australia is permitted from:

Austria, Canada, Canary Islands, Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Poland, the United Kingdom, the USA, the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union, Croatia, Slovenia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

**NOTE: The importation of bees from countries in which the Africanised strain (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) of honey-bee is known to occur is permitted under certain conditions [see Appendix 2, Item 5 (ii)] and is subject to approval of the Director of Quarantine.**

2. (a) An application to import bees must be lodged with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) in New South Wales. The address for applications is:

Att: PRINCIPAL QUARANTINE OFFICER  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (NSW)  
Quarantine Services Building  
Locked Bag 6  
MASCOT NSW 2020

- (b) For bees from the countries listed above under Item 1, applications will be assessed by AQIS and may be approved by the Manager, Animal Programs Section, AQIS. Applications to import bees from countries other than those listed under Item 1 will be considered on a case by case basis.
  - (c) As time and space are limiting factors, approval to import will only be granted for a specified time period. Allocations will be made on a first come, first served basis. The facility at Eastern Creek Quarantine Station has 12 cages each capable of being occupied by 2 nucleus hives. It is therefore preferable that queens be imported in multiples of two for efficient utilisation of the space available.
3. (a) The Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS (NSW) must receive at least 48 hours prior notice of the expected arrival of the bees and their mode of transport.
  - (b) Each consignment must be clearly addressed on the outside to:  
AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
"CAUTION: LIVE BEES"  
PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL QUARANTINE OFFICER

AQIS NSW Ph. 02 9364 7222

- (c) In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the Manager, Animal Programs Section, AQIS, to allow import consignments of bees to be transported to Australia as personal effects/items (ie other than by mail or air freight). Subject to approval being granted, import consignments transported as personal effects must be securely packaged in mite-proof material (in accordance with specifications available from the Principal Quarantine Officer) and are to be delivered to a Quarantine Officer at the port of entry.
  - (d) Each consignment is to be accompanied by the original of the "Permit to Import" and a completed certified Health Certificate from:
    - (i) Owner of the Apiary of Origin (Appendix 1); and
    - (ii) Government Apiary Officer or Veterinary Officer (Appendix 2); the latter to be officially stamped with the seal of the appropriate government authority.
  - (e) Any inadequacies in certification may result in the consignment being returned to the country of origin at the importer's expense or the destruction of the queen(s) and escorts.
4. On arrival in Australia the imported bees (queen/s and escorts) will be taken to the quarantine station at Eastern Creek by a Quarantine Officer where the post-arrival quarantine procedures in Appendix 3 will be followed.
  5. Importers should be aware that if any disease detailed in Appendix 2 or undesirable germplasm is detected in the imported queens, escorts, or larvae, the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS (NSW) may order destruction of the affected bees, imported bees in the consignment from the same hive and (in the case of infectious disease or parasites) any other imported bees deemed to have been in-contact with the affected bees. Compensation will not be paid for bees destroyed.
  6. Because of the many and varied circumstances associated with the success of:
    - . (i) establishing a queen in a nucleus hive
    - . (ii) graftingno liability will be accepted by the Director of Quarantine, AQIS, for deaths of imported queens in quarantine or for failure of any larval graft.
  7. Importers will be responsible for all prescribed fees associated with the importation of the queen bee as well as the maintenance fee for the queen whilst in quarantine.
  8. At the end of the period of time that an imported queen bee is to be maintained in quarantine, as formally agreed between the importer and the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS (NSW), the queen bee, adult bees, brood and all other components comprising the nucleus colony will be destroyed.

9. The importer will be required to enter into a written agreement with AQIS for use of the quarantine facilities and for payment of the quarantine fees.

DAVID WILSON  
A/g Assistant Director  
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

DECLARATION BY THE OWNER OF THE APIARY IN THE  
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

I, (name) ..... of  
(locality, state/province) .....

hereby declare that:

- 1. the queen bees and escorts described in the schedule below originated from progeny that were bred and reared in:

(country of origin) .....

and are from an apiary located at:

(address) .....

.....

of which I am the registered owner.

- 2. the queen bees and escorts are from a hive free from visible evidence of the following diseases affecting honey-bees:

- American foul brood (*Bacillus larvae*)
- European foul brood (*Melissococcus pluton*)
- External acariasis (*Acarapis externus*, *A. dorsalis*, *A. vagans*)
- Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*)
- Varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*)
- Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*)
- Bee Lice (*Braula spp.*)
- Half-moon disorder

- 3. the queen bees and escorts in the export consignment do not exhibit any physical or behavioural abnormalities and are free from any visible evidence of the parasitic diseases listed above under item 2.

- 4.(a)\*\*during the 56 days prior to export, the hive(s) or nucleus colony(ies) in which the bees (queen/s and escorts) for export have been housed has/have been continuously exposed to treatment with a product of proven efficacy for the control of parasitic bee mites as per the following details:-

Product Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details of manufacturer: ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
fax.: \_\_\_\_\_

(i) no.of brood frames per acaricidal strip: \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) no.of acaricidal strips applied: \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*delete that which does not apply**

OR

(b)\*\*the health certification accompanying this consignment confirms country freedom from the following parasitic mites of bees; Varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*), Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*), and Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*) and therefore no pre-export acaricidal treatment has been applied.

5. the escort bees accompanying the queen bee are daughters of that queen bee in each instance and each queen is accompanied by not less than 6 escort bees.

**NOTE: A minimum number of six (6) escorts is required for each queen consigned.**

Schedule

Details of Consignment:

No.of queen bees consigned: .....

Breed and/or strain: .....

Person to Whom Bees Exported (Australian Importer):

Name: .....

Address .....

Declared at ..... on ...../...../.....

Signature: .....

Witnessed by:- \*\*Government Apiary Officer or \*\*Government Veterinary Officer

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: ...../...../.....

**\*\* delete that which does not apply**

**APPENDIX 2**

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**OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT APIARY OFFICER OR  
GOVERNMENT VETERINARY OFFICER OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**

I, (name) ..... of  
(town and state/province) .....  
am a full-time **\*\*Government Apiary Officer / \*\*Government Veterinary Officer**  
whose duties relate to apiculture and hereby certify in relation to the honey-bees  
(*Apis mellifera*) described in the owner's declaration, that:

1. after due enquiry I have no reason to doubt the Owner's Declaration  
(Appendix 1)
2. the queen bees and escorts originated from an apiary subject to government  
registration and periodic government inspection
3. **\*\***(country of origin) .....  
is the country of origin of bees in the export consignment and is free of the  
following parasitic mites of honey bees:  
Varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*)  
Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*)  
Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*)

**(NOTE: Delete Item 3 if it does not apply)**

4. within twenty-one (21) days of export, the hive(s) belonging to:-  
Owners Name: .....  
and located at:  
Address:.....  
Country of Origin: .....

from which bees for export to Australia will be sourced, was/were  
inspected by me and was/were found to be free of visible evidence of  
the following diseases (including parasitic infestation) affecting honey-  
bees:

- American foul brood (*Bacillus larvae*)
- European foul brood (*Melissococcus pluton*)
- External acariasis (*Acarapis externus*, *A. dorsalis*, *A. vagans*)
- Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*)
- Half moon disorder
- Varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*)
- Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*)
- Bee Lice (*Braula spp*)

**NOTE: Please stamp each page of this certificate with official government seal  
\*\*delete that which does not apply**

5.\*\* I confirmed that the hive(s) or nucleus hive(s) in which the bees to be exported have been housed was/were undergoing treatment with a product of proven efficacy for the control of parasitic bee mites:

Product Name: .....

Manufacturer: .....

**(NOTE: Delete Item 5 if country is free from Tracheal mite  
Varroa mite and Tropilaelaps mite)**

6.(i)\*\* the African strain of bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) is not known to occur in:

(country of origin) .....

and a visual inspection of random samples within the apiary of origin has not indicated the presence of behavioural or anatomical evidence of the African strain of honey bee or its hybrids

OR

(ii)\*\* the African strain of bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) is known to occur in:

(country of origin) .....

but is not known to occur in:

(state/province/territory) .....

from which the bees are being exported.

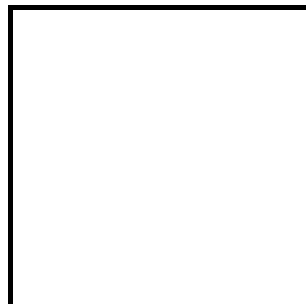
A visual inspection of random samples within the apiary of origin has not indicated the presence of behavioural or anatomical evidence of the African strain of honey bee or its hybrids.

Dated at ..... on ...../...../19.....

Signature: .....

Designation: .....

Official Seal



**\*\*delete that which does not apply**

**APPENDIX 3**

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POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

1. Entry of the bees into Australia cannot occur until an import permit has been issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).
2. The original permit is to accompany the bees together with the required health certification from the country of origin.
3. Queen bees with escorts can travel to Australia as follows:(i) by mail (ii) by air freight or (iii) in mite-proof material as "personal effects" (subject to prior approval being obtained from The Manager, Animal Programs Section, AQIS).

The bees should be consigned as follows:

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE

"CAUTION: LIVE BEES"

PLEASE CONTACT PRINCIPAL QUARANTINE OFFICER

AQIS NSW Ph. 02 9364 7222

4. The imported bees will be collected by a Quarantine Officer at the Sydney Mail Exchange or Sydney International Airport depending on the mode of importation. Apiarists returning with imported bees as "personal effects" are to deliver bees and accompanying documentation to a Quarantine Officer at the port of entry.
5. The Quarantine Officer will deliver the imported bees to the Eastern Creek Animal Quarantine Station bee facility. The consignment(s) and the attached certification will be checked to ensure compliance with the import conditions.
6. If the documentation is in order and corresponds to the bees imported, an Australian Quarantine Apiary Officer will open the consignment(s) and visually inspect the queen(s) and her escorts for external parasites. If no visible evidence of parasites is detected, the imported queen will be placed in a new cage and undergo an isolation period with Australian escorts (not older than 4 days) for not less than fourteen (14) days.
7. All imported escort bees will remain in the original cage, be killed and then examined internally and externally by an entomologist for the presence of:
  - Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*)
  - Varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*)
  - Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*)

The imported cage and escort material will be destroyed by incineration.



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8. At the end of the isolation period, the Australian escort bees will be killed and examined internally and externally by an entomologist for the presence of:

- Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*)
- Varroa mite (*Varroa spp.*)
- Tropilaelaps mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*)

The cage and escort material will be destroyed by incineration.

9. Provided that all tests have been completed to the satisfaction of the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS, (NSW), the imported queen will be introduced into a nucleus colony in a quarantine flight cage.

Bees in the nucleus colony are to be sourced from a resident hive at the Eastern Creek quarantine facility which has been inspected by an Australian Quarantine Apiary Officer and is free of visible evidence of the diseases listed in Appendix 2 (for which quarantine inspection and/or testing is required).

10. The introduction and preparation of the nucleus colony will be done by an Australian Quarantine Apiary Officer. An acceptance period of up to ten (10) days will be allowed following the introduction of each imported queen into a nucleus colony.
11. Following acceptance of an imported queen by the nucleus bee colony, all bees in the quarantine flight cage are to be continuously exposed (in accordance with the product manufacturers recommendations) to acaricidal treatment with a product of proven efficacy for the control of parasitic bee mites for the remaining duration of the quarantine period. If possible, treatment is to be applied through exposure of a different chemical agent to that employed in the country of origin prior to export.
12. All routine maintenance procedures will be carried out by AQIS officers (or nominees) familiar with beekeeping management. For all bee management procedures, personnel will be supplied with clean, protective clothing which will remain on the quarantine station. Personnel will shower before entering and leaving the facility.
13. The nucleus bee colony will include a frame of comb (removed from a resident hive at the Eastern Creek quarantine facility) containing young larvae. At an interval of not less than 10 days following introduction of the imported queen, that frame will be removed and all larvae/pupae (from that frame - ie 100% sampling) will be examined at a government approved laboratory for the presence of:
- Varroa mite (visual inspection)
  - Tropilaelaps mite (visual inspection)

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14. When appropriately aged brood of an imported queen first become available in the quarantine flight cage following introduction of the queen into a nucleus colony, a representative sample (as specified below) will be tested at a government approved laboratory for traits associated with the Africanised strain of honey-bee:
  - . not less than ten (10) pupae
  - Africanised gene testing (DNA analysis)
15. For imports from those countries where the Africanised strain of honey-bee is known to occur, the following additional testing requirements will apply:
  - when adult progeny (not less than 3 days of age) of an imported queen first become available in a quarantine flight cage a representative sample (as specified below) will undergo examination at a government approved laboratory for morphometric traits of the Africanised strain of honeybee:
    - . not less than ten (10) adults
    - Africanised gene testing (morphometric analysis)
16. For all bee imports, the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS, (NSW) will allow grafting to commence only after all required testing and inspection of brood for undesirable genetic traits, infectious diseases and/or parasites has been completed with negative results.
17. If either a queen or her attendants or brood are found to be infected with organisms associated with the diseases listed in Appendix 2 of the import conditions, the Principal Quarantine Officer , AQIS, (NSW) may order destruction of the cage, affected bees and all other components comprising the colony to which affected bees belonged. Compensation will not be paid for bees destroyed.
18. If a queen bee or her progeny are found to exhibit traits associated with Africanised strain of honey-bee, the affected queen bee and her brood will be destroyed.
19. The nominated grafter, who must be approved by AQIS, will then be allowed to commence grafting.
20. The grafter must advise the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS (or nominee), in advance, the days on which grafting is to take place and the number of cells required for grafting.
21. The grafter will be supplied with clean, protective clothing which will remain on the station. He/she will only be allowed into the grafting room and will shower before entering and prior to leaving the facility.

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22. A frame of larvae of a suitable age for grafting will be removed from the nucleus in the flight cage by an Australian Quarantine Apiary Officer and given to the grafter (in the grafting room) for grafting into new pre-polished plastic queen cells supplied by the Quarantine Station.
23. All grafting will be supervised by an Australian Quarantine Apiary Officer or a nominated Quarantine Station staff member.
24. Only grafted queen cells may be removed from the Quarantine Station.  
The importer, must inform the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS (NSW), in writing, of the name and address of the owner and the location of the apiaries in which the grafted queen cells are inserted in case follow-up action is required.
25. The importer is to notify the Principal Quarantine Officer, AQIS (NSW), in writing, when grafting has been completed. The imported queen(s) will be destroyed and examined for the parasitic diseases listed in Appendix 2.  
All remaining adult bees, brood and all other components comprising the nucleus colony will be destroyed by incineration.  
Quarantine fees for an imported queen bee will cease on the death of that bee.
26. Post-quarantine release of the grafted queen cells derived from any importation under these conditions is only permitted into Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

APPENDIX 4

EXAMINATION OF BEES BY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT  
APIARY OFFICER OR VETERINARY OFFICER

1. Country of origin of consignment :  
.....

2. Apiary of origin:  
.....

3. Consigned to: .....

4. Import permit no.:- .....

5. Is the documentation accompanying the import consignment in order?  
\*\*YES/\*\*NO If "NO" please detail deficiencies:-  
.....  
.....

5. Date consigned to Australia: ...../...../.....

6. Arrival date in Australia: ...../...../.....

7. Mode of Transport to Australia: \*\*air freight /\*\* mail /\*\* personal effects

8. Number of Bees in Consignment:  
Live Dead Total  
A. Queens  
B. Escorts

9. An initial inspection of bees in the import consignment found no visible evidence of disease, parasitism, or genetically undesirable traits.

10. The required samples for laboratory testing were forwarded to the following government approved laboratory/(ies):-  
.....

Completed testing results were received on ...../...../..... and:-  
\*\*(i) confirmed the absence of diseases, parasites and germplasm of quarantine concern

OR  
\*\*(ii) identified diseases, parasites and/or germplasm of quarantine concern as outlined below:-  
.....

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Designation: .....

Date: ...../...../.....

**\*\* delete that which does not apply**