



# Bees to the United States of America (OMAR)

USBEEPER25

Effective from 31 January 2022

## **TITLE**

Animal Products Notice: Bees to the United States of America (OMAR)

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on 31 January 2022

## **REVOCATION**

This Animal Products Notice revokes and replaces:

- OMAR B LIVEBEE.USA 15.03.05 Live Bees To The United States Of America

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

This Animal Products Notice is issued under sections 167(1) and 60(1) of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Dated at Wellington, 26 January 2022

Carolyn Guy  
Manager Animal Health & Exports  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

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## Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Animal Products Notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the zoosanitary requirements necessary to export compliant bees (*Apis mellifera*) from New Zealand to the United States of America.

## Background

The Animal Products Act 1999 provides the controls and mechanisms needed to give and to safeguard official assurances or zoosanitary certificates to facilitate the entry of animal material including live animals, hatching eggs, semen and embryos, and products into overseas markets.

Notices issued as Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs) under section 60(1)(a) and (b) of the Animal Products Act specify the requirements that are necessary or desirable for the purpose of facilitating access to overseas markets or are in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority of the importing country.

OMARs may also determine the form and content of the official assurances that can be issued for animal material or product, including live animals, hatching eggs, semen or embryos, which meet the specified requirements.

Where the OMAR determines the form and content of the official assurances, a separate export certificate template is available to authorised persons, recognised persons and registered exporters who have applied for access to the certificate templates, to facilitate the completion and issuing of the relevant official assurance. That template will be an amendable version of the form set in the OMAR.

Notices issued under section 60(1)(c) of the Animal Products Act to safeguard the assurances provided by New Zealand, and guidance in the form of Operational Codes, should be read in conjunction with this Notice.

This OMAR specifies the requirements that must be met by exporters of Bees (*Apis mellifera*) to be exported from New Zealand to the United States of America and determines the form and content of the official assurance that must accompany the Bees (*Apis mellifera*) to be exported. The OMAR was issued after consultation with industry and the United States of America. It is based on the *ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, Subpart B – Importation of Adult Honeybees, Honeybee Germplasm and Bees Other Than Honeybees From Approved Regions, Title 7 part 322*, downloaded 10 September 2020.

## Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

Exporters of Bees (*Apis mellifera*) to the United States of America.

## Why is this important?

This Notice is important because it sets out the requirements that need to be met so that the Director-General of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) can certify that the bees (*Apis mellifera*) meet the requirements for export to the United States of America which New Zealand, in consultation with the government of the United States of America, has determined will apply. It should be noted that although the bees (*Apis mellifera*) may comply with these requirements and be given an official assurance (by way of a certificate), the importing country ultimately retains control over what bees (*Apis mellifera*) it clears for entry.

## Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
31 January 2022	All sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New OMAR format</li><li>• Update to meet changes to the Code as of Federal Regulations of the United States of America</li></ul>

## Other information

### Export non-conformances

Exporters should note that, under section 51 of the Animal Products Act 1999, where they have exported animal material or products, including live animals, hatching eggs, semen and embryos, that are refused entry by the foreign government they have a statutory duty to notify the Director-General of MPI not later than 24 hours after they have first knowledge of the event.

### Liability

Section 61A of the Animal Products Act 1999 states that:

The Crown is not liable, and nor is the Director-General or any employee of the Ministry liable, for any loss arising through the refusal or failure of the relevant authority of an overseas market to admit export animal material or animal product to that market.

### Related documents

OMAR documents can be downloaded from <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/export/export-requirements/omars-for-live-animals-semen-and-embryos/>

When you click on the + symbol on the right-hand side of any OMAR document, you can view the related information and documents (guidance document and export certificate template).

The export certificate for this OMAR is provided for in Bees (*Apis mellifera*) to the United States of America (*Export Certificate*). The export certificate is password-protected through a RealMe® account.

## Part 1: Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This Notice applies to the export of live adult honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) from New Zealand to continental United States of America.
- (2) Bee exports to Hawaii are excluded from this notice.

### 1.2 Definitions

- (1) In this Notice, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Act** means the Animal Products Act 1999.

**AFB** means American Foulbrood or infection with *Paenibacillus larvae*.

**APHIS** means The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

**Approved Beekeeper** means a beekeeper approved under the Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA) with additional disease competencies as described in Clause 1.3.3(b) of this Notice.

**Brood** means the larvae, pupae or postovipositional ova (including embryos) of bees.

**CBP/AI** means the Customs and Border Protection Agricultural Inspection of the United States.

**Disease Elimination Conformity Agreement (DECA)** refers specifically to Section 37 of the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998. [Biosecurity \(National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan\) Order 1998 \(SR 1998/260\) \(as at 02 March 2018\) – New Zealand Legislation.](#)

**Hive** means a box or other shelter containing a colony of bees.

**Inspector** means any employees of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or other individual authorised by the Administrator to carry out the provisions of this part.

**MPI accredited person** means an official veterinarian employed by a Recognised Agency who can verify export requirements for live animals and germplasm, also referred to as Recognised Person (RP).

**Office International des Epizooties (OIE)** means The World Organisation for Animal Health responsible for the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which includes a section regarding bee diseases in international trade.

**Package bees** mean queen honeybees with attendant adult honeybees placed in a shipping container, such as a tube or cage.

**United States** means the States, District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

**Verification Services (VS)** means an MPI official veterinarian who can issue official assurances (MPI export certificates) as authorised persons.

- (2) A term used in this Notice that is defined in the Act or the following Notices (or their successors) has the meaning given to it in the Act or that Notice:
  - a) [Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products.](#)

## 1.3 Requirements for export

- (1) Bees (*Apis mellifera*) exported from New Zealand to the United States of America must be accompanied by an official assurance in the form of a zoosanitary certificate, a sample version of which is included in Part 3.
- (2) A zoosanitary certificate must be completed and issued by an authorised person.
- (3) In order to issue a zoosanitary certificate, the authorised person must be satisfied that:
  - a) The shipment has been packaged to prevent the escape of any bees or bee pests in accordance with the requirements set out in Part 2 of this document.
  - b) The Approved Beekeeper must have proof of competency (further information can be found in the accompanying *Guidance Document*) to recognise and detect the following diseases:
    - i) Chronic bee paralysis
    - ii) European foulbrood
    - iii) Half moon disorder
    - iv) Kashmir bee virus
    - v) Melanosis
    - vi) Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*)
    - vii) Tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*)
    - viii) Varroa destructor
  - c) The proposed shipment otherwise meets the requirements of this Notice.

## 1.4 Laboratories

- (1) Where this Notice requires laboratory testing to be undertake, the testing must be done in laboratories operating in accordance with the Recognised Laboratory Programme (RLP) unless otherwise stated.

## Part 2: Packaging to prevent the escape of bees.

To ensure compliance to the packaging requirements for the United States, the exporter must ensure that the outer packaging is to the standard specified in this section at the time the live bees are presented for shipping at the airport.

For each shipment, the following process must occur:

- (1) The container should comply with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations.
- (2) The exporter or their agent is required to provide a declaration regarding the packaging and in particular the compliance with Part 2: "Packaging to prevent the escape of bees".
- (3) The declaration statement is provided to the Recognised Person (RP) prior to the signing of the eligibility document (ED). The declaration statement is incorporated into the documentation that is provided to the RP.
- (4) The RP issues the eligibility document and submits it to MPI Verification Services (VS).
- (5) VS will assess the documentation and evidence supplied by the RP prior to the issuance of the Official Assurance (export certificate).

### 2.1 Requirements for pallets of bees

- (1) The entire pallet must be covered by at least one layer of bee proof netting of 2-millimetre mesh.
- (2) All seams in the mesh must be bee proof.
- (3) There must be no holes or stretches in the netting through which the bees can enter or escape.
- (4) Supports such as cardboard or metal angles must be on all vertical and horizontal edges and all corners.
- (5) If wooden pallets are used, the load must be totally sealed underneath.
- (6) The entire load must be covered and secured to the pallet with cargo netting.
- (7) Warning signs stating "Live bees" with letters at least 13 centimetres high must be attached to all four sides of the pallet.
- (8) Two lengths of flagging tape must be secured completely around the pallet.
- (9) The pallet contents should be stacked or secured to ensure that no twisting or distortion of the pallet will occur during the transport.
- (10) There must be no loose bees inside the netting.
- (11) There must be no bees hidden in the folds of the net.
- (12) There must be no bees clinging to the outsides or top of the mesh net covering the load.

### 2.2 Requirements for parcels of bees

- (1) The entire parcel must be covered by at least one layer of bee proof netting of 2-millimetre mesh.
- (2) Any seams in the mesh must be bee proof.
- (3) Warning signs stating "Live bees" must be attached to all four sides of the parcel as described in the *Guidance document*.
- (4) There must be no holes or stretches in the netting through which bees can enter or escape.
- (5) There must be no loose bees inside the netting.
- (6) There must be no bees hidden in any folds of the net.
- (7) There must be no bees clinging to the outsides or top of the mesh net covering the parcel.



## Part 3: Zoosanitary Certificate



Certificate No: .....

### NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

#### ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Commodity: BEES (*Apis mellifera*)  
 To: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
 Exporting Country: NEW ZEALAND  
 Competent Authority: MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Exporter (name, address and telephone number)		Consignee (name, address and telephone number)	
Producer (including registration number and code)		Final destination	
Means of transport (date posted if applicable)		Port of loading	Port of discharge
Shipment details (country, airport, flight number, date)			
Number of packages	Nature of packages (queens/workers/drones)		Total gross weight

**IV: SANITARY INFORMATION****VETERINARY CERTIFICATION**

I, ....., an Official Veterinarian of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, certify, after due enquiry with respect to the live bees described in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

1. New Zealand is officially free from Asian mite (*Tropilaelaps clareae*), *Euvarroa sinhai*, Cape honeybees (*Apis mellifera capensis*), tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*), and European foulbrood (*Melissococcus plutonius*). These organisms are notifiable in New Zealand.
2. Small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) has not been detected within the last 12 months and is notifiable in New Zealand.
3. Oriental honey bee (*Apis cerana*) and Thai sacbrood virus have not been detected in New Zealand within the last 12 months.
4. The bees come from hives which were:
  - 4.1 individually inspected by an approved beekeeper under the direction of a MPI accredited person in accordance with the MPI Official Assurance Programme, no more than 10 days prior to export.
  - 4.2 visually inspected showing no clinical signs of poor health in the brood.
5. The bees are derived from an apiary, or apiaries of origin that were free from visible clinical evidence of American foulbrood (AFB) and varroa mites. Within the ninety (90) days prior to export, a random selection of bee colonies/hives in the beekeeping export operation were examined by an approved beekeeper;
  - 5.1 In the case of AFB, at least three (3) brood frames per colony/hive were inspected, and there was no visible clinical evidence of AFB.
  - 5.2 In the case of the varroa mite, testing for varroa using alcohol washing of bee samples (300 bees per colony/hive) showed that varroa was not detected, or was present at less than one percent (1%) or 1 mite per 100 bees tested.
6. The bees in the shipment were produced in New Zealand and are the offspring of bees or semen also produced in New Zealand.
7. New Zealand does not permit the importation of bees.

.....  
Signature of Official Veterinarian  
Ministry for Primary Industries

.....  
Official Stamp and Date

Name and Address: .....

**Note. The Official Veterinarian must sign and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate using a different colour ink to the paper and the print, and, where applicable, sign, date and stamp each page of the documents (e.g. laboratory reports) that form part of the extended health certificate.**