



THE IMPORTATION OF BEE HIVE PRODUCTS AND/OR FOODS CONTAINING THEM INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Background

Western Australia is free of European foulbrood which is a serious disease that kills young bees in hives. The legislation under the Western Australian *Beekeepers Act (1963)* and the quarantine measures in place prevent the import of hive products, including foods containing them, into the State. Some low-risk products are permitted entry into Western Australia under the conditions stated below.

If European foulbrood disease were accidentally introduced into the State it would have serious economic consequences for the bee industry. It would also impact on the horticulture and agricultural industries that rely on bees for pollination.

Protocol for the import of apiary products into Western Australia

1) Prohibited products

Products that can not be brought into Western Australia include honey, honeycomb, unprocessed beeswax, pollen, bees, used hive equipment, used beekeeping appliances, queen bees, queen cells, packages (live bees in a wooden box), or any other hive product not mentioned above.

2) Risk assessment for food or health products containing hive products

Foods or health products containing prohibited products are subject to risk assessment prior to entry. The authority for undertaking risk assessments is contained in provisions under the Western Australian *Beekeepers Regulations (1963)*.

Companies wishing to import food or health products containing hive products must:-

- (i) Send a sample of the packaged product (as offered to the public) to the Senior Apiculturist, Department of Agriculture and Food marked "For Risk Assessment". The consignment must also be declared for quarantine.
- (ii) Provide supporting information, accompanying the consignment, as follows:
 - a product data sheet;
 - a list of ingredients showing the quantity of each ingredient; and ,
 - a processing data sheet that details the temperature and time that the product was heated when processed.
- (iii) Provide a signed letter, accompanying the consignment, requesting a Risk Assessment for the specific product/s with name, address and contact details (phone and facsimile) included, so that there can be a prompt reply.

The consignment should be sent to the Senior Apiculturist, Department of Agriculture and Food at Locked Bag No 4, Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983, or delivered to reception at 3 Baron – Hay Court, South Perth.

On receipt, the product will be inspected and assessed and, if necessary, tested.

Note:-

- 1) If testing is required a test charge of \$24.50 (including GST) and a case handling fee of \$18.40 may apply for each type of product imported.
- 2) Samples supplied for Risk Assessment will not be returned unless specifically requested in writing and then at the sender's expense.

Subject to the results of the Risk Assessment, a letter of Import Approval will be forwarded to you within 30 days of receiving the product/s. If the product does not meet the requirements under the Regulations you will be advised in writing.

If the approval is granted, a copy of the Import Approval notice must be attached to each consignment entering the State in an envelope marked "Import Approval". Each consignment must also be declared so that AQIS or WAQIS Officers can check and release the consignment for entry into Western Australia.

3) Restricted products

- **Honey:** May be imported from other Australian States provided it is accompanied by a 'Health Certificate for the Interstate Movement of Apiary Products', issued by the Department of Agriculture and Food equivalent in the state of origin. The certificate must certify that the honey has been heat treated at 65 degrees Celsius for 8 hours.
- **Royal jelly:** Prior approval from the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) is required for commercial quantities to enter the State. Royal jelly must be consigned to the CVO at the Department of Agriculture and Food's Animal Health Laboratory in South Perth for testing prior to release.

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