



Entry Requirements for Honey Bee Hives and Appliances

In accordance with the Virginia Beekeeping Act, §3.2-4405 of the Code of Virginia, any person desiring to bring any bees on combs, empty used combs, used hives, or other used apiary appliances must obtain an entry permit from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) before transport of the item or items into the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A request for an entry permit must be accompanied by evidence of inspection from the state of origin indicating the occurrence and extent of any honey bee disease or pest infestation, including but not limited to American foulbrood, small hive beetle (SHB), and African or Africanized honey bee (AHB).

A EUROPEAN HONEY BEE (EHB) CERTIFICATE or other proof of genetic origin must be issued by the state of origin for hives or nucleus colonies shipped from a state infested with AHB. A copy of the certificate or other document stating EHB status must be included with each shipment. In addition, all queens originating from an AHB infested state must be clipped and marked prior to shipment.

Hives, nucleus colonies, comb, and beekeeping appliances that exhibit a honey bee contagious disease or pest infestation shall be prohibited entry into the Commonwealth.

An entry permit request must include the anticipated entry and departure dates and intended destination of honey bee hive(s) or other items entering the Commonwealth.

Hives, nucleus colonies, comb, and beekeeping appliances entering Virginia are subject to inspection by the VDACS apiary inspection service to determine the occurrence and extent of any disease or pest infestation.

1. The owner of a hive, nucleus colony, comb, or beekeeping appliance found to be infested with SHB must remove the item from the Commonwealth or destroy the item within 10 days after notification by the State Apiarist or VDACS employee. In addition, the owner is required to treat the soil immediately around the SHB infested item with a soil drench pesticide approved by the United State Environmental Protection Agency to control SHB larvae development and adult beetle emergence.
2. The owner of a hive, nucleus colony, comb, or beekeeping appliance found to be infested with AHB must remove the item from the Commonwealth or depopulate the item within 10 days after notification by the State Apiarist or VDACS employee.

For additional information contact the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Office of Plant Industry Services, at 804-786-3515 or email VABees@vdacs.virginia.gov.