



## Shipping Requirements for Package Bees and Queens

Transport of honey bees into the Commonwealth of Virginia that are in non-compliance with Virginia law is prohibited. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services requires that all package and queen bees consigned to locations in Virginia must meet the following shipping conditions:

1. A **CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH** must be issued by the state of origin to the package or queen bee producer declaring the parent apiary apparently free from contagious bee diseases within 60 days prior to shipment of any package or queen bees. Bee diseases are defined in the Code of Virginia, §3.2-4400, as a departure from a sound state of health of bees characterized by visible symptoms and shall include American foulbrood caused by *Bacillus larvae*, Small hive beetle, and any other diseases, insects, mites or other bee pests. A copy of proof of inspection and certification or declaration of disease-free status must be included with each shipment. Shipment into the Commonwealth of Virginia of package or queen bees that originate from an apiary exhibiting an American foulbrood or small hive beetle infestation is **PROHIBITED**.
2. During transit, all packages shipped to Virginia locations must receive preventative treatment with an EPA approved miticide for *Varroa* mite. Treatment must be in accordance with approved label directions to retard spread of the *Varroa* mite.
3. A **EUROPEAN HONEY BEE (EHB) CERTIFICATE** or other proof of genetic origin must be issued by the state of origin to the package or queen bee producer declaring that all packages and queens produced in a state infested with the African or Africanized Honey Bee (AHB) were produced from certified EHB queens, certified EHB production queens, or certified EHB queen cells, as defined in the "European Honey Bee State Certification Procedures" as approved by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. A copy of this certificate must be included with each shipment. In addition, all queens originating from an AHB infested state must be clipped and marked prior to shipment.
4. At the end of each shipping season, a **LISTING OF ALL SHIPMENTS** of package and queen bees shipped to Virginia or received by a Virginia resident **MUST BE PROVIDED** to the Virginia State Apiarist by mail at P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218 or Fax: 804-371-7793.

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