

## **TRANSPORT OF BEES ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS**

For the purpose of sending bees across borders a set of rules exists inside the EU. There are different rules for shipping bees between the member states, and for sending bees out of the EU (export) and getting bees into the EU (import). The main piece of legislation is the EU Council Directive 92/65/EEC of 13 July 1992 “laying down animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A (I) to Directive 90/425/EEC”.

### Inside the EU

Free trade of animals inside the EU. Authorisation of transborder shipments are dependent on the health status of the animals (certified at the origin), and the requirement that they are not departing from areas with quarantine restrictions.

Each member state implements the EU Directive with national legislation (usually issued by Ministry of Agriculture or Health).

Similar to other animals, a TRACES certificate must accompany the bees while in transit. A TRACES certificate must be issued for each shipment of bees. The issuing of a TRACES certificate is a matter for the Regional Veterinary Authority.

*Example:* For Denmark, to send bees out of the country, one must register as an exporter of bees with the local Department of Agriculture. Shipment of bees must be announced at least four working days in advance to the Veterinary Authority. They make sure that the area from which the bees originate is not inside an active outbreak zone of a disease for which notifying is mandatory, nor has been in such a zone in the last 30 days. The size of the outbreak zone depends on the pathogen (for AFB the area is a 3 km radius, for small hive beetles or *Tropilaelaps* mites it is a 100 km radius). The Veterinary Authority signs and stamps the papers.

To receive bees from abroad, one must register with the responsible Authority as an Importer of bees. This authority must then be notified one working day before arrival that a shipment is due. This authority has the right to subsample 10 % of the shipment for tests, but in principle the idea is that things are checked before they are shipped, and not when they arrive.

TRACES website: <https://sanco.ec.europa.eu/traces/>

### Sending bees out of the EU

Dependent on the rules in place in the country that receives the bees. National authorities can check if an agreement was already reached between a EU member state and the country you want to ship bees to, and refer to that. If no agreement exists, better start early.

### Bringing bees into the EU

There is a list of countries from which bees can be sent to the EU. However, the list of countries is shortened by the occurrence of OIE diseases in third countries. Those parts of the world where small hive beetles are present are not on the positive list. Those countries where *Tropilaelaps* mites occur are not possible. Countries that do not have these diseases as registered as notifiable are also ruled out. In short, much of Asia, Africa, Australia, and North America are ruled out. In the remaining few countries, those areas where AFB occurred within a 3 km zone in the last 30 days are of course also ruled out.