

## **Importing country requirements for bee products.**

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### **Introduction**

This document provides outline information on importing country requirements for countries and jurisdictions that currently import Australian honey and bee products as at March 2010. Included in this list are countries that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is aware that do not accept Australian honey and bee products. If a country is not included in this list, it implies that there has been little or no trade in bee products and the importing country requirements are not known to AQIS.

Importing country requirements often change and therefore AQIS strongly advises exporters to verify import conditions for all exports with their importers prior to finalisation of sales contracts.

AQIS will charge a fee for every export certificate and may charge for additional declarations, therefore, to minimise the cost of export, exporters should not send bee product with a certificate, unless it is an importing country requirement.

### **Canada**

Canada has no prescribed certificate for honey, but does require government management of all exporters of bee products. Government management in Australia includes,

- state authorities inspect apiary producers to control animal health issues, and
- the NRS regularly monitors Australian honey for residues.

Exporters of blended honey must analyse any imported components to check compliance with Canadian residue limits. Exports of blended product must also ensure that they comply with Canadian “Country of Origin” labelling.

## **European Union**

### **Edible bee products**

Australia has a trading history with the following European Union (EU) member countries; Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

To export to EU member states, all Australian exporters must be aware of the bee product provisions in Regulations (EC) No 178/2002, (EC) No 852/2004 and (EC) No 853/2004 and must produce their bee products to comply with these regulations.

Exporters to the EU must register with AQIS and must have implemented a HACCP based food safety program, which meets the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004. The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council's B-QUAL and other JASANZ accredited food safety programs meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.

All honey exported to the EU must be monitored for residues in compliance with Directive 96/23/EC. Due to the collaborative effort between the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC), the National Residue Survey (NRS) and AQIS, all Australian honey meets this requirement and exporters do not need to do further residue testing if the product they are exporting is of Australian origin.

The European Union does not allow the use of antibiotics in bee products. The only antibiotic allowed in Australian apiculture is oxytetracycline, which only a veterinarian can prescribe for the treatment of an outbreak of European Foulbrood. Exporters cannot send honey to the EU from properties that have treated their hives with oxytetracycline in the previous six months.

The European Union permits the export of Australian honey blended with imported honey. However, the honey must be the product of one of the countries allowed to send honey to the EU. Each year, the EU updates this list and the list is current for 12. The current list can be found in Commission Decision 2009/800/EC and has been reproduced at Attachment 1.

Exporters must ensure that the appropriate certificate, which they have accurately completed, accompanies all edible bee product exports to EU member countries. An AQIS authorised officer will check, sign and stamp all certificates for edible bee products to the EU. Manual EU edible bee product certificates are available in English, French/English, German/English and Italian/English.

### **Bee by products**

To export to EU member states, all Australian exporters of bee by-products must be aware of the EU by-product Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 in particular Article 6 and Annex VIII and Chapter IX and must produce their bee products to comply with this regulation.

Exporters of bee by-products must ensure that they are listed with AQIS.

Exporters must treat bee by-products by either freezing at -12°C for at least 24 hours or in the case of wax by rendering. To enter the EU, untreated bee by-products must come from an area free of American foulbrood (*Paenibacillus larvae*), Acariosi (*Acarapis woodi*), small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) and Tropilaelaps mites (*Tropilaelops spp.*). Australia claims freedom from Acariosi and Tropilaelaps mites, but an exporter must provide a declaration from the relevant State apiary officer that the hives from which the by-product was harvested are free of American foulbrood and small hive beetle.

Exporters must ensure that an appropriate certificate, which they have accurately completed accompanies all bee by-product exports to EU member countries. An AQIS veterinary officer will check, sign and stamp all certificates for bee by-products to the EU. Manual EU bee by-product certificates are available in English, French/English and German/English.

### **French Polynesia**

Australia has access for edible and inedible bee products to French Polynesia. AQIS regional offices can provide negotiated certificates for both edible and inedible bee products in a locked Word form. Exporters of both edible and non-edible bee products must meet the French Polynesian animal health conditions, by providing a declaration from a state apiary officer that confirms the following:

- The product has been harvested from hives in which no case of European, American foulbrood or noseosis has been reported for at least six months.
- European, American foulbrood or noseosis must not have been present within a radius of five kilometres around the apiary for at least six months.

The exporter must also provide a statement that the bee products have not been in contact with bees for at least 48 hours before being shipped.

In addition, edible bee products must comply with Australian domestic standards in relation to handling, storing and transporting and the producer must have a JASANZ accredited HACCP based food safety program in place. French Polynesia does not allow harmful food additives or processing aids. Australian honey meets French Polynesian residue requirements, because the National Residue Survey annually monitors and confirms its good residue status.

All exporters that are eligible to export honey to the European Union are eligible to export to French Polynesia, provided the Specific French Polynesian animal health requirements are met. Other exporters of edible bee products must demonstrate that they meet the French Polynesian food safety requirements.

### **Gulf Cooperation Countries**

Australian bee products exporters have traded with the following Gulf Cooperation countries, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. All Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) require a Certificate of Origin for all bee product imports that are larger than sample sized. Exporters can obtain Certificates of Origin from a Chamber of Commerce.

## **Indonesia**

Indonesia is in the process of changing importation regulations and the impact on honey is not yet known; therefore, exporters should contact AQIS regional offices for information on Indonesian import conditions, prior to export.

The certification requirements of Indonesia will not change; Indonesia requires all food consignments to be accompanied with a certificate that includes the following declaration: “*Product is safe for human consumption and is permitted to be distributed in Australia.*” Therefore, exporters must ensure that the certificate that they obtain to send edible bee products to Indonesia includes this declaration.

## **Fiji**

Australia has access for honey, but only honey of Australian origin. The Australian honey system meets most of the Fijian requirement, including the following, that:

- honey must be produced in officially registered apiaries that are regularly inspected by State authorities
- honey is harvested from apiaries that are free of American Foulbrood and in which antibiotics have not been used against American Foulbrood. (In Australia, an American Foulbrood outbreak results in the destruction of hives and no antibiotic is registered for use against American Foulbrood.)
- honey has been regularly monitored for residues for many years and demonstrated that it is free from pesticides, fungicides and antibiotics
- the honey has all the properties and requirements of honey in the most current Codex Alimentarius standards for natural honey

However, heat treatments for chalk brood (*Ascosphaera apis*) and European foulbrood (*Melisococcus pluton*) must be carried out. These are for *Ascosphaera apis* that the honey has been heat treated twice at 65°C for 8 hours or 70°C for 2 hours; and for *Melisococcus pluton*, that the honey has been heat-treated for 50°C for 48 hours, 60°C for 12 hours 38 minutes, 70°C for 3.5 hours, or 80°C for 1 hour. Core samples from bulk honey have been tested to ensure the appropriate temperature was reached before timing began.

Export certificates for honey to Fiji in a locked Word format are available from AQIS regional offices. AQIS officers must be provided with a declaration that confirms that the honey is of Australian origin only and that the heat treatments for *Ascosphaera apis* and *Melisococcus pluton* have been complied with.

## **New Caledonia**

Australia has access to New Caledonia for honey and bee products. New Caledonia regularly updates its certificates for foods derived from animals and exporters should check the New Caledonian website to obtain the current certificate for bee products in a Pdf fill-in form, [http://davar.gouv.nc/portal/page/portal/davar/importations/produits\\_animal](http://davar.gouv.nc/portal/page/portal/davar/importations/produits_animal)

New Caledonia requires that honey and bee products are treated by a procedure that is equivalent to a core heat treatment of 70°C for 60 minutes (see decree No. 06-XX GNC at the above web site. Exporters to New Caledonia must provide a signed statement that confirms that they or the producer has carried out this treatment on the consignment intended for export. This will enable the authorised AQIS officer to sign and stamp the certificate.

## **New Guinea**

Exporters may only export bee products produced in Australia to New Guinea. An EX188 certificate that includes the declaration “These goods are free from contamination and fit for human consumption” must accompany all uncooked products that contain honey. As the National Residue Survey regularly monitors all Australian, all honey consignments will meet the contaminant requirement. Exports can demonstrate “Fitness for human consumption” by providing a copy of a current certificate of compliance with a JAS ANZ accredited food safety program such as B-Qual. All exporters eligible to export to the EU can export to New Guinea.

## **New Zealand**

Currently, Australia does not have negotiated access to New Zealand.

## **Malaysia**

Exporters should request an AQIS Certificate as to Condition (an EX180) to confirm the product is acceptable for sale in Australia and is of Australian origin.

## **Russia**

The Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor) has provided AQIS with its requirements for bee products and AQIS has developed a certificate for apiary products to Russia. The Rosselkhoznadzor has not yet cleared the certificate, but consignments of Australian honey have been exported using the certificate. The Russian requirements include that:

- The apiary products have been harvested from beehives have been free of American foulbrood, European foulbrood and *Nosema Apis* for the past three months\*.
- The beekeeper has not placed the hives within 5 kilometres from a flowering genetically modified crop\*\*.
- No colouring, food additives, antibiotics, hormones, ionized radiation or UV have been used in the production of the bee products.
- The bee products have been treated to kill any pathogens.
- The apiary products are suitable for free sale without restrictions.
- The bee products meet the requirements of the Russian Federation
- Single use containers only are used, and
- The bee products comply with the transport regulations of the producing country.

\* requires a declaration from the state apiary officer that confirms the disease free status of the product

\*\* Australia has only cleared one GM crop – varieties of GM canola. Moratoriums on GM food crops are in place in South Australia and Tasmania and canola cannot be grown in Queensland. Therefore, a statement is required from producers in Victoria, NSW and WA to confirm that the product has not been harvested from hives that have been placed within 5 kilometres of a flowering GM canola crop.

## **Switzerland**

EU conditions for honey production, but no mandated certificate. Exporters should request the English/German bi-lingual certificate if their importer suggests that one should be used.

## **United States of America**

The United States has no import restrictions specific to honey. However, exporters must comply with US food standards in relation to food safety and the use of additives and veterinary medicines. In particular, no food in the US is allowed to contain residues of chloramphenicol and nitrofurans. US import authorities regularly check honey and bee products for these substances. Therefore, exporters of blended honey should demonstrate that their product is free of chloramphenicol and nitrofurans by analysis and must accurately label their product.

## **Other trading partners**

The following countries have no specific requirements for honey. However, exporters must comply with the general food standards of the importing country, particularly in relation to food safety, the use of additives and veterinary medicines.

Bangladesh	Brunei	Cambodia
China	Cook Islands	Djibouti
El Salvador	Ethiopia	Guam
Guatemala	Hong Kong	India
Japan*	Jordan	Kenya
Republic of Korea	Lebanon	Maldives
Mali	Mauritania	Mauritius
Mongolia	Morocco	Nauru
Nigeria	Norfolk Island	Pakistan
Philippines	Samoa (American)	Senegal
Seychelles	Singapore	South Africa
Sri Lanka	Sudan	Taiwan
Tanzania	Thailand	Trinidad and Tobago
Vanuatu	Vietnam	

\* Must comply with Japan's Food Sanitation law.

## **Attachment 1: Countries eligible to export to the EU**

This list of eligible export countries that meet the requirements of Directive 96/23/E is taken from Commission Decision 2009/800/EC of 31 October 2009. This list will be current until 31 October 2010.

Argentina  
Australia  
Belize  
Brazil  
Cameroon  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
Croatia  
Cuba  
El Salvador  
Ethiopia  
French Polynesia  
Guatemala  
India  
Israel  
Jamaica  
Kyrgyzstan  
Montenegro  
Mexico  
New Caledonia  
New Zealand  
Nicaragua  
Pitcairn Island  
Russia  
Serbia  
San Marino  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Turkey  
Ukraine  
Uganda  
United States  
Uruguay  
Zambia