



Frequently Asked Questions

Registration of Primary Producers of Honey

Q What is primary production?

A It means the production, rearing or growing of primary products including harvesting, milking and farmed animal production prior to slaughter. It also includes the harvesting of wild products. Primary production includes the production of honey, which is designated as a product of animal origin.

Q Why does a primary producer of honey have to register?

A EU Regulations on food and food safety, commonly referred to as the Hygiene Package, came into effect in 2006 to revise and consolidate earlier legislation. The objectives of the Regulations include focusing controls on what is necessary for public health protection and clarifying that it is the primary responsibility of Food Business Operators to produce food safely. Part of the requirements of these Regulations is that people involved in the production of primary products must be registered as Food Business Operators with the relevant Competent Authority, which in this case is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Q What is a Food Business Operator?

A It is the natural or legal person(s) responsible for ensuring the requirements of food law are met within the food business(es) under their control.

Q What is a Food Business?

A The 'food business' referred to above is any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing or distribution of food.

Q What do I have to do to comply with the EU Regulations?

A The requirements that are relevant to honey producers are:

- to keep clean any facilities used in connection with primary production and associated operations, including facilities used to store and handle feed, and, where necessary after cleaning, to disinfect them in an appropriate manner;
- to keep clean and, where necessary after cleaning, to disinfect, in an appropriate manner, equipment, containers, crates, vehicles and vessels;
- to use potable water, or clean water, whenever necessary to prevent contamination;
- to ensure that staff handling honey are in good health and trained on health risks;
- as far as possible to prevent animals and pests from causing contamination;
- to store and handle waste and hazardous substances in a manner that will prevent contamination of food/feed;
- to take account of the results of any relevant analyses carried out on samples taken from bees or other samples that have importance to human health;



- to use feed additives and veterinary medicinal products correctly, as required by the relevant legislation, and,
- to keep records relating to the measures put in place to control hazards.

Food Business Operators producing honey are, in particular, to keep records on;

- the nature and origin of feed for the bees;
- the name and quantity of veterinary medicinal products or other treatments given to their bees, dates of administration and withdrawal periods; the person who administered the animal remedy and where they purchased the animal remedy;
- the occurrence of any disease(s) that may affect the safety of the honey;
- the results of any relevant analyses carried out on samples taken from the bees or other samples taken for diagnostic purposes, that have importance for human health, and,
- any relevant report(s) on checks carried out on the bees or honey.
- sales of honey to anyone other than the final consumer

Q What else do these requirements apply to?

A As well as affecting primary producers, these requirements also apply to:

- the transport, storage, and handling of primary products at the place of production;
- the transport of live animals or products of plant origin, and,
- transport operations to deliver primary products from place of production to an establishment.

Q How do I register?

A Please complete the attached registration application form and post it to the address below.

Q What happens if I don't register?

A You will not be able to sell your produce legally without this registration.

Q Do I need to be a minimum age to register as a Primary Producer of Honey?

A Yes. The Department recognises that there are a number of young beekeepers in the country. If you are under 18 years of age, you should get your parent/guardian to complete the form on your behalf.

Q Where is this Register of Primary Producers kept?

A The Register is maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Q How is any information I supply to the Department handled?

A The data may be shared with other national authorities including the FSAI, for the same purposes, as provided by law. Queries on the use of personal data should be directed to the Minister's Data Protection Officer. Further details of your rights under data protection law can be found here. <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/>