



Importing Bees into Ireland from other European Union (EU) Member States

The animal health requirements for trade in bees (*apis mellifera* and *bombus spp*) between European Union Member States are outlined in **Council Directive 92/65/EEC** (as amended). This Directive harmonised rules for intra-Community trade and established the animal health guarantees for trade between Member States. The rules about checks on imports established by **Council Directive 90/425/EEC** also apply.

24 Hours Advance Notice of the arrival of Consignments

All imports of bees from other EU Member States must be notified to Horticulture & Plant Health Division, Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare (beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie; Telephone 353 1 5058895) using the attached **Advance Notice of Importation form** at least 24 hours before the consignment's arrival in the Republic of Ireland.

Health Certificate

A Health Certificate which has been issued by the Competent Authority in the Member State of origin must accompany each consignment of bees. If a consignment is subsequently subdivided for delivery to two or more recipients, a copy of the Health Certificate must accompany each partial consignment to its final destination.

In addition to giving details about the movement of the bees, the prescribed Health Certificate must state the following:

*either**

(a) the bees/bumble bees come from an area which is not subject to a prohibition order associated with an occurrence of American foulbrood, (the period of prohibition has been continued for at least 30 days following the last recorded case and the date on which all hives within a radius of three kilometres have been checked by the competent authority and all infected hives burned or treated and inspected to the satisfaction of the said competent authority);*

*or**

(a) the bumble bees come from an environmentally isolated structure recognised by and under the supervision of the competent authority of the Member State, which is free of American foulbrood and was inspected immediately prior to dispatch and all bumble bees and breeding stock show no clinical signs or suspicion of the disease;

*and either**

(b) the bees/bumble bees come from an area of at least 100km radius which is not the subject of any restrictions associated with the suspicion or confirmed occurrence of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*) or the *Tropilaelaps* mite (*Tropilaelaps spp.*), and where these infestations are absent;*

*or**

(b) the consignment consists only of cages queen bees each containing one single queen with a maximum of 20 accompanying attendants and comes from an area of at least 100km



radius which is not the subject of any restrictions associated with the suspicion or confirmed occurrence of the Tropilaelaps mite (Tropilaelaps spp.), and from an establishment that fulfils the following requirements:

- it is situated at least 30km distance from the limits of a protection zone of at least 20km in radius around confirmed occurrences of the small hive beetle, and*
- it is situated outside of a zone restricted by protective measures established by the Union due to the occurrence of small hive beetle, and*
- it is situated in an area where annual surveillance for the detection of small hive beetle by the competent authority is ongoing to provide a confidence level of at least 95% of detecting small hive beetle if at least 2% of the apiaries were infested, and*
- it is inspected every month by the competent authority with negative results to provide a confidence level of at least 95% of detecting small hive beetle if at least 2% of the hives were infested, and*
- where each cage or the whole consignment is covered by a fine mesh of maximum 2mm pore size immediately after the visual examination for the health certification;*

*or**

(b) the bumble bees come from an environmentally isolated structure recognised by and under the supervision of the competent authority, which is free of small hive beetle.

and

(c) the bees/bumble bees as well as their packaging, have undergone a visual examination to detect the occurrence of the small hive beetle (Aethina tumida) or their eggs and larvae, or other infestations, in particular the Tropilaelaps mite (Tropilaelaps spp), affecting bees.*

*Note:** Deleted as necessary

Additional requirements relating to Fireblight

Consignments of bees that are imported into the Republic of Ireland between 15th March and 30th June must also be accompanied by documentary evidence, from the Competent Authority in the Member State of origin, to show that the bees have either:

- come from an area that is free of Fireblight (*Erwinia amylovora*) / a protected zone for Fireblight, or,
- were subjected to an appropriate quarantine measure that restricted their foraging activity for at least 48 hours before the time of their arrival in Ireland.

Imports from Third (non-EU) Countries

Bees may not be imported directly into Ireland from countries outside the EU. Any such bees will have to firstly undergo border inspection checks at a Border Inspection Post approved for category 'O' animals in another Member State, e.g., at Heathrow or Frankfurt.

**Horticulture & Plant Health Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.
Telephone: +353 1 5058895;**

Email: beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie



**ADVANCE NOTICE OF IMPORTATION OF BEES FROM MEMBER STATES
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Notice is hereby given to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of my/our intention to import the animal(s) described below:

Importer Details

Name of Importer(s): _____ Registration No: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____ Email: _____

Consignment Details

Please enter total number being imported in each category below:

	Honeybee Queens (with up to 20 attendant workers)
	Honeybee Packages of Bees (Queen and workers)
	Honeybee Nucleus Colonies (Queen, brood and workers)
	Honeybee Colonies (Queen, brood and workers)
	Bumble Bee Colonies (Queen, brood and workers)

Intended Use (please tick one or more of the following as appropriate):

Pollination ☐ Breeding ☐ Transhumance ☐ Onward sale ☐

Premises of Destination: _____

Expected Date of Arrival in Ireland: _____ Country of origin: _____

Name and Address of Premises of Origin: _____

EU Health Certificate No.(s) (if available): _____

Signature of Importer: _____ Date: _____

Signed completed forms should be scanned and emailed to: beekeeping@agriculture.gov.ie

Alternatively forms may be submitted by post to: Horticulture & Plant Health Division,
Administration Building, Backweston Campus, Celbridge, Co Kildare

Forms should arrive at least 24 hours before the arrival of the bees in the Republic of Ireland.

Data Protection Notice: The Minister is the Controller for this personal data under data protection law. This data is retained by the Minister for these purposes and compatible purposes under the Minister's data retention policy, after which it is destroyed where permitted under the National Archives Act. You have a right to request access to and correction of your data. A right to seek erasure of the data and to object to or seek restrictions on its use may apply in certain circumstances. You have the right to lodge a complaint on the use of your data with the Data Protection Commissioner. 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 at: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/>