

Factsheet #002

IMPORTING QUEENS AND PACKAGED BEES

Canadian beekeepers can import queens and packaged bees from several approved sources. All bee imports into Canada require a federal Import Permit. Please be aware that the status of honey bee sources can change as diseases may be introduced.

Approved sources include:

- Queens New Zealand, Australia, Chile, California and Hawaii
- Packages New Zealand, Australia and Chile

Import Permits must be applied for and can be obtained from:

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Room 175, 17735-1st Ave
Surrey, BC V3S 9S1

ph. 604-541-3364
fax 604-541-3375

Information about obtaining an Import Permit can also be found on the internet at www.inspection.gc.ca (Animals / Imports of Animals & Animal Products / Automated Import Reference System / type in "bees" or "queens").

Import Permits involve a fee, regardless of the size of the order. For smaller shipments, ordering through a Beekeeper Supplier or group purchase may be far cheaper.

When ordering bees from overseas sources, plan for the earliest possible date of arrival. Earlier shipments tend to be of better quality and queens adjust better.

When queens or packages are needed later in the spring, consider purchasing good quality bees from local breeders. For a list of members of the BC Bee Breeders Association, see www.bcbeekeepers.com or contact the Apiculture office (604-556-3152).