

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2011 REPORT

CHAPTER 4.14.

OFFICIAL HEALTH CONTROL OF BEE DISEASES**HYGIENE AND DISEASE SECURITY PROCEDURES
IN APIARIES**Article 4.14.1**Purpose**

This chapter is intended to set out guidelines for official health control of bee diseases. These are needed for the control of endemic bee diseases at the country level and to detect incursions of exotic diseases, thereby ensuring safe international trade of bees, bee products and used equipment associated with beekeeping. The guidelines are designed to be general in nature and more specific recommendations or requirements are made in Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. dealing with specific bee diseases.

Article 4.14.2.

Overview

In each country, official health control of bee diseases should include:

- a) Official registration of the apiaries by the Veterinary Authority in the whole country;
- b) an organisation for permanent health surveillance;
- c) approval of breeding apiaries for export trade;
- d) measures for cleaning, disinfection and disinfestation of apicultural equipment;
- e) rules precisely stating the requirements for issuing an international veterinary certificate.

Article 4.14.3.**Official registration of the apiaries by the Veterinary Authority in the whole country**

The registration of apiaries is the first step in developing a regional management plan for bee disease surveillance and control. With knowledge of bee density and location it is possible to design valid sampling schemes, to predict the spread of disease and to design inspection programmes to target areas of high risk.

The official registration of apiary sites should include:

- 1) the GPS coordinates of specific apiaries, or
the mapping of specific apiaries on gridded maps of municipalities or regions;

2) the time of year when *apiary* sites are most likely to contain colonies;

3) the average number of hives expected in a given *apiary*;

4) the name and address of the principal owner of the bees in the *apiary*.

Annex XXI (contd)

The main *apiary* locations (places where the *bee hives* are located the longest time in the year) should be registered first, followed as far as possible by the seasonal *apiary* locations.

Article 4.14. ~~24~~.

Organisation for permanent official sanitary surveillance of apiaries

Veterinary Authorities of countries are requested to regulate the organisation for permanent official sanitary surveillance of *apiaries*.

Permanent official sanitary surveillance of *apiaries* should be under the authority of the *Veterinary Authority* and should be performed either by representatives of this *Authority* or by representatives of an approved organisation, with the possible assistance of bee-keepers specially trained to qualify as 'health inspectors and advisers'.

The official surveillance service thus established should be entrusted with the following tasks:

1. visit *apiaries*:
 - a) annual visits of a representative number of *apiaries* in the whole country during the most appropriate periods for the detection of *diseases*;
 - b) unexpected visits to *apiaries* where breeding or transport operations are carried out for trade or transfer to other regions, or any other purpose whereby *diseases* could be spread, as well as to *apiaries* located in the vicinity;
 - c) special visits for sanitary surveillance to sectors where breeding *apiaries* have been approved for export purposes;
2. collect the samples required for the diagnosis of contagious *diseases* and despatch them to an official laboratory; the results of laboratory examinations ~~must~~ should be communicated within the shortest delay to the *Veterinary Authority*;
3. apply hygiene measures, comprising, in particular, treatment of colonies of bees, as well as *disinfection* of the equipment and possibly the destruction of affected or suspect colonies and of the contaminated equipment so as to ensure rapid eradication of any *outbreak* of a contagious *disease*.

Article 4.14. ~~25~~.

Conditions for approval of breeding apiaries for export trade

Veterinary Authorities of exporting countries are requested to regulate the conditions for approval of breeding *apiaries* for export trade.

The apiaries ~~must~~ should:

1. ~~be situated in the centre of an area defined as follows and in which:~~
 - a) ~~no case of varroosis has been reported for at least the past 2 years within a radius of 50 kilometres;~~
 - b) ~~no case of any other contagious disease of bees included in this Terrestrial Code has been reported for at least the past 8 months within a radius of 5 kilometres;~~
21. have received, for at least the past 2 years, visits by a health inspector and adviser, carried out at least ~~3~~ two times a year (~~in spring, during the breeding period and the most appropriate periods for detection of diseases in autumn~~), for the systematic examination of at least 10% of the hives containing bees and of all the apicultural equipment, and for the collection of samples to be sent to an official laboratory and, depending on the situation of the importing and exporting countries, no positive results were reported to the Veterinary Authorities for the relevant bee diseases included in the Terrestrial Code;
2. systematically be sampled within seven days of shipment and, depending on the situation of the importing and exporting countries, found free for the relevant bee diseases included in the Terrestrial Code. To achieve this, a statistically valid number of bee colonies should be examined by any method complying with the relevant chapters of the Terrestrial Manual.

Bee-keepers ~~must~~ should:

3. immediately notify the *Veterinary Authority* of any suspicion of a contagious disease of bees in the breeding *apiary* and in other *apiaries* in the vicinity;
4. not introduce into the *apiary* any bee (including pre-imago larval stages) or apicultural material or product originating from another *apiary* unless health control has been previously performed by the *Veterinary Authority*;
5. apply special breeding and despatch techniques to ensure protection against any outside contamination, especially for the breeding and sending of queen-bees and accompanying bees and to enable retesting in the *importing country*;
6. collect at least every ~~40~~ 30 days, during the breeding and despatch period, samples from breeding material, brood-combs, bees (including possibly separately raised accompanying bees) queen-bees and or queen-bees ~~bees (including possibly separately raised accompanying bees)~~, to be sent to a an official laboratory and all the positive results officially reported to the Competent Authority.

Article 4.14.46.

Conditions for sanitation and disinfection of apicultural equipment

Veterinary Authorities of exporting countries are requested to regulate the use of products and means for sanitation and *disinfection* of apicultural equipment in their own country, taking into account the following recommendations.

1. Any apicultural equipment kept in an *establishment* which has been recognised as being affected with a contagious *disease* of bees shall be subjected to sanitary measures ensuring the elimination of pathogens.
2. In all cases, these measures comprise the initial cleaning and scraping of the equipment, followed by sanitation or *disinfection* depending on the *disease* concerned.

3. The kind of equipment (hives, small hives, combs, extractor, small equipment, appliances for handling or storage) shall also be taken into account in the choice of procedures to be applied.
34. Infected or contaminated equipment which cannot be subjected to the above-mentioned measures ~~must~~ should be destroyed, preferably by burning. ~~Any equipment in bad condition, especially hives, as well as larvae in combs affected with varroosis, American foulbrood or European foulbrood, must should be destroyed by burning.~~
45. The products and means used for sanitation and *disinfection* shall be accepted recognised as being effective by the *Veterinary Authority*. They shall be used in such a manner as to exclude any risk of contaminating the equipment which could eventually affect the health of bees or adulterate the products of the hive.
6. ~~When these procedures are not performed, the products shall be kept away from the bees and any contact with apicultural equipment and products must should be prevented.~~
7. ~~Waste water from the cleaning, sanitation and *disinfection* of apicultural equipment shall be kept away from the bees at all times and disposed of in a sewer or in an unused well.~~

Article 4.14. 57.

Preparation of the international veterinary certificate for export

This certificate covers hives containing bees, swarms, consignments of bees (worker bees or drones), queen bees (with accompanying bees), brood-combs, royal cells, etc.

This document shall be prepared in accordance with the model contained in Chapter 5.10. and taking into account the specific-disease Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. related to bee diseases.