

Alberta Beekeepers,

The order of Alberta Provincial Apiculturist to quarantine the Small Hive Beetle diseased bees and beekeeping equipment in Peace River under Section 8(1) [Bee Act](#), (R.S.A. 2000, Chapter B-2) has been revoked. Following recent inspections, the Provincial Apiculturist and bee inspectors appointed under section 2 of the *Bee Act* are satisfied that the quarantined owners/operators have fulfilled the conditions outlined in the Small Hive Beetle Quarantine Order. There are no further findings of the Small Hive Beetle in these operations. The revocation date is effective October 1, 2018.

Bees purchased from other provinces must be inspected and, according to the *Bee Act* Section 7, a permit must be obtained from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to allow bees into Alberta. If bees or used beekeeping equipment are brought into Alberta without a permit or are infected with a bee disease, they will be subject to return to the place from which they came or further actions according to Section 7 and 8 of the *Bee Act*.

This recent finding of Small Hive Beetle is a good reminder for all beekeepers to be vigilant to prevent the establishment and spread of this pest in Alberta. Best management practices for the Small Hive Beetle include:

1. When importing bees to Alberta or moving bees through Alberta, operators must follow proper procedures with appropriate health certification and permits from the Provincial Apiculturist.
Note: No honey bee colonies or nuclei are allowed from Ontario and New Brunswick at this time. Only queens are allowed if shipped in 3-hole cages that have not been exposed to the small hive beetle. Four attendant workers must be handpicked and placed in each queen cage to ensure that beetles do not get into the queen cages.
2. Understand details of the Small Hive Beetle's lifecycle and how to recognize larvae and adult beetles.
3. Be vigilant and look out for the Small Hive Beetle when examining bee colonies as a part of routine management. Early detection means beekeepers are more likely to be successful in controlling the pest.
4. Employ good apiary management practices including maintaining strong colonies, good hygiene practices, and attentive extraction and honey handling procedures to protect honey from fermentation, re-infecting honey suppers and spreading beetles throughout your operation.
5. Any suspected findings of the Small Hive Beetle must be reported immediately to the Provincial Apiculturist.
6. Any questions related to the quarantine, or Small Hive Beetle and its management in Alberta can be directed to Medhat Nasr, PhD., Provincial Apiculturist: Office Phone: 780-415-2314, Cell Phone: 780-554-1566, email: medhat.nasr@gov.ab.ca.

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