



Department of Agricultural Resources

138 Memorial Ave, Suite 42, West Springfield, MA 01089

Apiary Program Message Line: (508) 281-6784 Email: bees@mass.gov

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources>



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): *Transporting and Selling Honey Bees and Related Products*

Q. Does the Commonwealth have laws or regulations pertaining to the transport and sale of honey bees and related products?

A. Yes. The MDAR Apiary Program is responsible for enforcing the provisions outlined in the statutes in [M.G.L. Chapter 128, Sections 32-36B, 38](#) and the regulations promulgated thereunder in [CMR 330 8.00](#) (newly amended).

Q. Under what circumstances do I need to notify the Apiary Program?

A. Any time a colony, package, nucleus colony (nuc), or used beekeeping equipment is brought into Massachusetts from any other US state or territory, you are required to notify the Apiary Program no less than two business days prior to importation. A health certificate must accompany the shipment and be issued from the US state or territory of origin.

Q. What is a health certificate?

A. A health certificate indicates that an inspection was performed by the originating state apiary program within sixty days prior to transport. Honey bees must be free from infectious or contagious disease to be imported into Massachusetts.

Q. Do I need to notify the Apiary Program when importing live queen honey bees to sell or keep?

A. No. The Apiary Program does not currently regulate the importation or sale of queen honey bees.

Q. Do I need to notify the Apiary Program if I am moving my personal honey bees to another US state or territory from Massachusetts?

A. Yes. Most US states and territories require a health inspection and accompanying health certificate for imported honey bees. Please check with the US state or territory Apiary Program that you will be moving into to find out what the requirements are for that area. To issue the necessary paperwork, the Massachusetts Apiary Program must perform an inspection of your honey bees. Inspection Requests can be made online using the link on the Apiary Program website: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/mdar-apiary-inspection-request-form>.



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Q. Do I need to notify the Apiary Program if I want to sell my own honey bees within Massachusetts?

A. No. If the colony, package, nuc or used beekeeping equipment originated within Massachusetts, it is not required that the Apiary Program be notified. However, we encourage you to get an inspection prior to sale to eliminate the occurrence and spread of infectious or contagious disease. Inspection Requests can be made online using the form on the Apiary Program website:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/mdar-apiary-inspection-request-form>.

Q. Do I need to keep records of the sale of imported honey bees?

A. Yes. Any individual selling any colony, package, nuc or used beekeeping equipment originating outside Massachusetts must keep records regarding the sale of such items for at least three years. Records must include date of sale, items sold, quantity, along with names and addresses of both the seller and buyer.

Q. How do I notify the Apiary Program prior to importing, exporting, or moving honey bees or for additional questions?

A. You can notify the program in any of the following ways:

1. Electronically on the Apiary Program website using the link or QR:

<https://www.mass.gov/forms/shipment-notification-of-honey-bees-and-beekeeping-equipment>

2. Email: bees@mass.gov

3. Phone: (508) 281-6784

