

**NOTICE XX OF 2010**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

**No. R.**

**2010**

**AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT, 1983  
(ACT No. 36 OF 1983)**

**PROPOSED CONTROL MEASURES RELATING TO HONEYBEES**

**Draft Honeybees Control Measures for Comments**

## SCHEDULE

### **Definitions**

1. Any word or phrase in this Schedule to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates-

**“American Foulbrood”** or **“AFB”** means a honeybee brood disease caused by the bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*.

**“AFB-infected colony”** means a colony testing positive for AFB as a result of a verifiable laboratory test or tests.

**“AFB-symptomatic colony”** means a colony with visually observed clinical symptoms of AFB.

**“AFB management measures”** means the management measures which are technically justified to reduce the infection level of AFB in such a way that clinical symptoms are no longer observed as approved at any particular time according to any particular management plan by the executive officer.

**“apiary”** means a site where a colony or colonies are kept in hives **which is located in a group**<sup>[J1]</sup> by a beekeeper.

**“beekeeper”** means any person **(natural or juristic)** <sup>[J2]</sup>owning or in charge of a colony of honey-bees, **including persons farming or pollinating with honey-bees**<sup>[J3]</sup>;

**“Capensis-infected colony”** means a colony of African bees that h<sup>[J4]</sup>Cape bees present, characterised by queen loss and the reproduction of female offspring by the worker bees.



“**colony**” means a honeybee community, including combs with brood and honey stores whether housed in a hive or a natural state.

“**executive officer**” means an officer designated in terms of section 2 (1) of the Act.<sup>[J4]</sup>

“**hive**” means a man-made structure built for the purpose of housing a colony of honeybees **utilising movable frames**.<sup>[J5]</sup>

“**honeybee**” means a bee of the species *Apis mellifera* with two southern African subspecies, *A. m. sc<sup>[J6]</sup>lata* (African honey bee) and *A.m. capensis* (Cape honey bee).

“**line**” means the line starting at the point where the northern boundary of the area of Vre<sup>[J7]</sup>dal and the western coastline of the Atlantic Ocean intersect and which runs from there in a generally easterly direction along the northern boundaries of the areas of Vredendal, Van Rynsdorp, Calvinia, Williston, Fraserburg, Beaufort West, Murraysburg, Graaff-Reinet, Cradock, Tarkastad, Sterkstroom, Glen Gray, Indwe, the northern boundary of Barkley East and south easterly along the boundaries of the Magisterial Districts of Elliot, Engcobo, Idutywa, and Willowvale where it meets the coastline with the Indian Ocean.

“**the Act**” means the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983).

“**threshold**” means an infection level of at least 50 brood cells showing clinical AFB symptoms in a colony.

### ***Registration of beekeepers***

2 (1) All beekeepers must register with the **executive officer** <sup>[J6]</sup>**within 30 days of becoming one and further** <sup>[J7]</sup>on an annual basis **not later than the last day of March each year** <sup>[J8]</sup>from the date of publication of these Control Measures in the *Gazette*, at the following address:

**Address needs to be finalised:**

(2) When registering, the following information must be furnished to the **executive officer**:

(a) the name of the beekeeper;

**(a1) the name of the representative if above is not a natural person**<sup>[J9]</sup>


(b) the physical and postal address of the bee-keeper;


(c) the contact telephonic and facsimile numbers of the bee-keeper;


 **the email address if available**<sup>[J10]</sup>

(d) the number of colonies in the beekeeper's operation;

(e) any other **information** which may be required **and deemed appropriate by the executive officer** for **control** communication, research or administrative purposes.<sup>[J11]</sup>

 (3) The authority must upon registration allocate an **unique** <sup>[J12]</sup> registration number to each beekeeper.

(4) The **registration**  number allocated to the beekeeper shall remain the property of the beekeeper whilst he remains registered with the authority.<sup>[J13]</sup>

(5) The registered beekeeper shall inform the authority  any change in the information provided in terms of control measure 2 (2) within 30 days.



**Marking of bee-hives**


3 (1) Within 6 months from the publication of these control measures in the Gazette, all beekeepers must mark all their beehives to display clearly and legibly the registration number allocated to him in terms of control measure 2 (3).

### ***Inspection and auditing***


4(1) All beekeepers must conduct inspections of colonies kept in hives at all their apiary sites at least once in three months to detect clinical symptoms of AFB.

(2) All beekeepers must allow, when required to do so, the inspection and sampling of colonies and hives by the executive officer, regarding the control of AFB, Cape honeybees **and other diseases when applicable**.<sup>[J14]</sup>.

**(3) All beekeepers must allow, when required to do so, auditing by the executive officer of documentation according to control measure 11.**<sup>[J15]</sup>

**(4) No landowner shall allow an unregistered beekeeper to place beehives on his/her property or allow unmarked beehives to be placed on his/her property.**<sup>[J16]</sup> 

### ***Notification Requirements***

5 (1) All beekeepers in the area north of the line must, within 72 hours of covery, notify the executive officer of any apiaries north of the Line in which Cape honeybees are present.

(2) All beekeepers shall, within 72 hours of discovery, notify the executive officer of any apiaries in which AFB-symptomatic colonies are detected.

### ***Prohibition of the movement of honeybees***

6 (1) No person shall move honeybees across the line without prior written approval from the executive officer.

(2) No person shall move or keep Cape bees north of the line without prior written approval from the executive officer.


(3) No person shall move any honeybee colony that is clinically symptomatic with AFB, unless it is to be destroyed or to be kept at a predetermined site for management purposes or with written approval from the executive officer.

**(4) No person shall move any Scutellata honeybee colony that is Capensis-infected, unless it is to be destroyed or with written approval from the executive officer.**<sup>[J17]</sup>

### ***Management Measures***

**7 (1) All beekeepers must apply appropriate management measures as approved by the executive officer.**<sup>[J18]</sup>

### ***Destruction of honey bee colonies***

8 (1) All beekeepers in the area north of the line must, as per the specifications of the executive officer, destroy within 72 hours of discovery, all Capensis-  
cted honeybee colonies.

**Or All beekeepers in the area north of the line must, when required to do so, provide the executive officer with evidence that they are managing their colonies and apiaries in such a manner that the spread of *capensis* worker bees has been eliminated and that all queenless *scutellata* colonies containing *capensis* workers have been destroyed.**<sup>[J19]</sup>



(2) All beekeepers must destroy within 72 hours any honey-bee colony:

(a) where a colony shows clinical symptoms above the infection threshold level; or

(b) in cases where clinical symptoms of AFB have been detected and appropriate management measures have been ineffective in preventing the remission of the AFB infection in the colony; or

(c) in terms of a directive issued by the executive officer.

### ***Exemption from control measures***

9. (1) Scientific research institutions involved in apicultural research, may apply to the executive officer for exemption from the provisions of the above control measures.

(2) Such an application is subject to a risk assessment and an evaluation and approval of the research facility by the executive officer.

(3) Such an application shall be made in writing and addressed to the executive officer at the following address:

Directorate: Plant Health

Private Bag X14

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### ***Recordkeeping and documentation***

10 (1) Every beekeeper must keep written records regarding:

(a) The number of colonies under his control;

(b) The location of every site used for beekeeping at any particular time during a calendar year;

(d) The particulars of AFB-symptomatic and/or Capensis-infected honeybee colonies detected, management measures applied, colonies destroyed and notification made to the executive officer as required in terms of these control measures, if applicable;

(e) Records kept of the 3-monthly inspections.

### ***Offences and penalties***

12 (1). Any person who refuses, contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of these control measures and any provision in terms of sections 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine or imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment, as prescribed in section 13 of the Act.

