

Draft Honeybees Control Measures for Comments

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

No. R.

AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT, 1983

(ACT NO. 36 OF 1983)

CONTROL MEASURES RELATING TO HONEYBEES

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries acting under section 6 of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) hereby-

- (a) prescribe the control measures set out in the Schedule hereto;
- (b) repeal the Government Notice No. R. 1674 of 24 December 1998;

T. JOEMAT-PETTERSSON

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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” means a honeybee brood disease caused by the bacterium *Paenibacillus larvae*.

“AFB-infected colony” means a colony with clinical symptoms of American Foulbrood.

“beekeeper” means any person owning or in charge of a colony of honeybees, including persons farming with honeybees;

“Capensis-infected colony” is a colony of African bees that has Cape bees present, characterised by queen loss and the reproduction of female offspring by the worker bees.

“executive officer” means the directors in the Directorates: Plant Health and Agricultural Products Inspection Services in the Department;

“honeybee” means a bee of the subspecies *Apis mellifera scutellata* or the subspecies *Apis mellifera capensis*, which are known by the common names African bee and Cape bee, respectively;

“line” means the line starting at the point where the northern boundary of the Magisterial District of Vredendal 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 Magisterial Districts of Vredendal, Van Rhynsdorp, Calvinia, Williston, Fraserburg, Beaufort West, Munraysia, 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 with the coastline of the Indian Ocean;

“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;

"the Act" means the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983);

“the authority” means the South African Bee Industry Organisation (SABIO);

“threshold” means the infection levels of a maximum of 50 brood cells showing clinical AFB symptoms in a colony

Prohibition of the movement of honeybees

2 (1) No person shall move African bees from an area north of the line to an area south of the line without prior written approval for 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 colonies that are clinically infected with AFB.

(4) No person shall move any colonies subject to standstill orders issued by the executive officer for a period of three months and until being declared as free of clinical AFB symptoms by the executive officer.

Notification requirements

3 (1) All users of land and all bee-keepers in the area north of the line shall, within 72 hours of discovery, notify the executive officer of any apiaries north of the Line in which Cape honeybees are present

(2) All users of land and all beekeepers shall, within 72 hours of discovery, notify the executive officer of any apiaries in which AFB-infected colonies are found.

Compulsory destruction of honey bee colonies

4 (1) All users of land and all bee-keepers in the area north of the line, shall according to the specifications of the executive officer, destroy within 72 hours of discovery, all Capensis-infected honey-bee colonies

(2) All users of land and all beekeepers, shall according to the specifications of the executive officer destroy within 72 hours of discovery, all AFB-infected honey-bee colonies:

(a) which are showing symptoms above the infection threshold level (50 diseased cells per colony).

(b) in cases where management measures have been ineffective in preventing the development of AFB symptoms.

Registration of beekeepers and Apiary Sites

5 (1) All bee-keepers shall register with the designated authority on an annual basis from the date of publication of these Control Measures in the *Gazette*, at the following address:

The Chairperson

South African Bee Industry Organisation (SABIO)

P.O BOX 14840

Hatfield

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(2) When registering, the following information shall be furnished to the authority:

- (a) the name of the beekeeper;
- (b) the address of the bee-keeper.
- (c) the geographical co-ordinates of all apiary sites (any place where honeybee colonies are kept for more than 30 days).
- (d) The number of colonies in the beekeepers operation

(3) The authority shall upon registration allocate a registration number to each beekeeper.

(4) The registered beekeeper shall inform the authority immediately of any change in the information provided in terms of control measure 10 (2).

(5) The registered beekeeper shall inform the authority immediately of the number of colonies destroyed due to AFB infection or Cape bee infestation

(6) No landowner shall allow beehives from unregistered beekeepers on their property.

Marking of bee-hives and identification of sites

6 By 6 months after the publication of these control measures in the Gazette, all bee-hives shall be marked to display clearly and legibly the registration number allocated the beekeeper in terms of control measure 5 (3).

Inspection and auditing

7.(1) All beekeepers and landowners are required to allow inspection by the executive officer, and to comply with the instructions and specifications regarding the control of AFB and Cape honeybees.

(2) The authority is required to allow access to the executive officer for auditing of all its documentation regarding the provisions in control measure 14.

Exemption from control measures

8. (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 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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Authorization to execute control measures

9. (1) The South African Bee Industry Organisation (SABIO) is hereby authorised under section 2 (4)(a) and (b), read with section 8, of the Act, to establish the administrative infrastructure to enable compliance of beekeepers to control measure 5(1), (2), (3),(4), (5) and (6) of the Control Measures.

(2) The authority shall construct the relevant administrative infrastructure to:

(a) provide each beekeeper an unique registration number upon annual registration

(b) keep and maintain records according to the information required as indicated in control measure 5 (2), (3),(4), (5) and (6).

(c) enable the executive officer free access to the records according the information required in control measures 5 (2), (3),(4) and (5).

(3) The authority may cover the costs to the execution of control measure 9 (2) (a), without profiting from it, by means of an annual administration fee, charged on an equal basis per beekeeper.

Offences and penalties

10. any person who refuses, contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of these control measures 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 agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No.36 of 1983).