



# SABIO

South African Bee Industry Organisation

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[www.sabio.org.za](http://www.sabio.org.za)

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## THE IMPORTATION OF HONEY

Afri - Compliance has brought it to SABIO's attention that there has been a great deal of non-compliance regarding import of honey. Afri - Compliance proposed after two meeting with SABIO board members that a complete audit of honey imports should be done. The investigation needs to be managed in three phases and structured as follow:

### PHASE 1:

- An audit of the Honey industry, the first phase includes research with regards to the import of honey over the last year and the identification of non-compliant importers; and
- Consultation with SABIO following this research with regards results decisions regarding actions to be taken then to be decided.
- Time: Approximately two to three weeks.

### PHASE 2:

- Processing of information, including the verification of individuals import transactions, sources (country of origin) and FOB values;
- Afterwards it can be determined if import tariffs have been paid and if there are any deviations regarding the quality standards under which it was imported.
- Verification of irradiation compliance.
- Profiling of dubious importers and their transgressions.
- Identifying of possible alternative actions against suspected person/s
- Consultation with SABIO regarding the action to be taken and future policy in this regard.
- Time: Approximately two to three weeks.

### PHASE 3:

- Depending on the results of the first phase, a final decision regarding actions to be taken. (In consultation with SABIO)

**Any one of these options may be considered and investigated:**

- Statutory measures via the Department of Agriculture (permit requirement and other conditions)
- Department of Health in terms of possible non-irradiation risks for human and bee health.
- SARS Customs and Excise route where false declaration of honey import figures, including reference value evaluation, has been done.
- SARS BTW route in case of possible offences connected with no payment of tariffs and taxes.
- When all is concluded a decision regards the necessary media coverage and other action to counter future infringements.

Afri - Compliance will regard their work as concluded as soon as evidence is shown that the task is handed over to the relative authorities for further action on behalf of SABIO. Afri - Compliance will also monitor the authorities on behalf of SABIO in follow up investigations if requested to do so.

The cost in regards to the three phases of the investigation:

PHASE 1 : R 20 000,00 (E)

PHASE 2 : R 20 000,00 (E)

PHASE 3 : R 25 000,00 (E)

SABIO management feels that this is matter of national importance and it is important to undertake this investigation. It touches the sustainability of the entire bee industry and relative industries in South Africa

We request urgent contributions so that we can start this investigation.

**Contributions can be deposit in the following account:**

SABIO

ABSA

Branch code: 501 045

Account number: 404 918 2946

Please indicate contributions with "Heuning Invoere"; "Honey Importation"

**Comment:**

SABIO supports the import of quality honey in to South Africa to supplement any honey shortens. This is not a witch hunt, but it is in the interest of our industry that the right procedures are be followed to ensure that only honey of good quality is sold to our consumers.

