

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. R. 858

15 November 2013

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

CONTROL MEASURES RELATING TO HONEY-BEES

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; and
- (b) repeal the Control Measures relating to honey-bees published under Government Notice No. R. 1674 of 24 December 1998.

T Joemat-Pettersson

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

SCHEDULE

Definitions

In this Schedule “the Control Measures relating to honey-bees” means the control measures published in the Government Notice No. R. 858 of 15 November 2013, as amended by Government Notice R. 1511 of 22 November 2019.

1. In these Regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning and, unless the context otherwise indicates—

"apiary" means a site where a colony or colonies are kept in a beehive or beehives by a beekeeper;

"area official" means an official designated by the executive officer for an area mentioned in Annexure B;

"beehive" means a man-made structure built for the purpose of housing a colony of honey-bees utilising movable frames;

"beekeeper" means a natural person who keeps, owns or is in charge of honey-bees in beehives for commercial or recreational purposes, and includes a person who removes, eradicates or relocates colonies;

"beekeeping activities" means the keeping of honey-bees in a managed beehive for the production and harvesting of any bee products, for queen rearing purposes or for commercial pollination services, or the removal, eradication or relocation of honey-bee colonies.

"Capensis-infected colony" means a colony of African bees that has Cape bees present, characterised by queen loss and the reproduction of female offspring by the worker bees;

"colony" means a honey-bee community, with or without combs with brood and honey stores which may be housed in a beehive or in a natural state;

"honey-bee" means a bee of the species *Apis mellifera* with two southern African subspecies, *Apis mellifera scutellata* (African honey-bee) and *Apis mellifera capensis* (Cape honey-bee);

"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 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 with the coastline of the Indian Ocean;

"management measures" means the management measures which are technically justified to reduce the infection level of any disease, whether notifiable or otherwise, in such a way that clinical symptoms are no longer physically observed or detected as a result of a verifiable laboratory test;

"notifiable disease" means those diseases or pathogens as designated in Annexure A;

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

[Amended by R. 1511 of 22 November 2019]

Registration of beekeepers

2. (1) Every person who carries out any beekeeping activities shall register with the Department.

(2) An applicant shall, on the form obtainable from the executive officer furnish the Department with—

- (a) in the case of a natural person, his or her—
 - (i) name;
 - (ii) registration number (if previously registered);
 - (iii) physical and postal address;

- (iv) fixed line and cellular phone number;
 - (v) fax number (if applicable); and
 - (vi) e-mail address;
- (b) in the case of a juristic person, the—
- (i) name of the juristic person;
 - (ii) name of the responsible beekeeper;
 - (iii) registration number of the juristic person (if previously registered);
 - (iv) physical and postal address of the juristic person;
 - (v) fixed line phone number of the juristic person;
 - (vi) cellular phone number of the beekeeper of the juristic person;
 - (vii) fax number of the juristic person (if applicable); and
 - (viii) e-mail address of the juristic person; and
- (c) information regarding the—
- (i) nature of the beekeeping activities; and
 - (ii) the number of colonies kept; and
- (d) any other information requested on the form obtainable from the executive officer.

(3) Every beekeeper shall on first registration be assigned a permanent registration number by the Department.

(4) Registration shall be for a period of twenty four months from the date of registration or renewal of registration and shall be renewable on expiry of the registration period.

(5) In the case of failure to comply with control measure 2(4), a registered beekeeper shall be deregistered and shall face penalties in terms of the Act.

(6) The beekeeper shall inform the Department within a reasonable time of any changes in the information required under control measure 2 (2).

(7) The beekeeper shall notify the Department in the event that he ceases to carry out beekeeping activities

(8) No person may conduct any beekeeping activities unless they are in possession of a valid registration certificate issued in terms of control measure 2 (1).

(9) No person may utilise the services of a beekeeper for the purposes of carrying out any beekeeping activities unless the beekeeper is in possession of a valid registration certificate issued in terms of control measure 2 (1).

[Amended by R. 1511 of 22 November 2019]

Marking of beehives

3. (1) Every beekeeper must mark his beehives to display clearly and legibly the registration number allocated to him in terms of control measure 2 (3).

(2) No person shall place any unmarked colonised beehive on any property except with the written authority of the executive officer.

Record keeping

4. (1) Every beekeeper shall, during the period of registration, keep written records of the—

- (a) number of colonies kept;
- (b) location of every apiary;
- (c) presence of any notifiable or other disease in the apiaries kept by the beekeeper;
- (d) management measures used to control any detected disease; and
- (e) number of colonies that ceased to exist, and the reasons for the loss.

(2) The executive officer may request a beekeeper to furnish additional records to the Department for the purposes of disease control.

Inspections

5. (1) Every beekeeper shall conduct regular inspections of every colony kept in beehives at each apiary site to detect—

- (a) clinical symptoms of notifiable bee diseases; or
- (b) *Capensis*-infected colonies.

(2) Every beekeeper shall notify the executive officer or area official of the presence or suspected presence of any notifiable disease or *Capensis*-infected colony in a—

- (a) colony kept in a beehive; or
- (b) colony in a natural state.

(3) The executive officer may—

- (a) instruct a beekeeper to conduct; or
- (b) personally conduct,

an inspection of the beehives and colonies to determine whether there are any notifiable diseases or a *Capensis*-infected colony on the property.

(4) A beekeeper shall comply with any instruction, order or notice issued by the executive officer for the purposes of the control of any notifiable disease or *Capensis*-infected colony.

(5) The executive officer may, for the purposes of the control of any notifiable disease or *Capensis*-infected colony, instruct a beekeeper to destroy a colony, beehive or bee product.

Prohibition of removal of *Capensis*-infected colonies

6. (1) No person may—

- (a) remove honey-bees across the line;
- (b) remove or keep Cape bees north of the line;
- (c) remove any *Capensis*-infected colony, without the prior written approval of the executive officer.

- (2) a *Capensis*-infected colony may only be removed if it is to be—
 - (a) destroyed; or
 - (b) kept in isolation from other honey-bee colonies at a predetermined site.

Destruction of *Capensis*-infected colonies

7. (1) If a beekeeper is unable to implement management measures to eliminate *Capensis* worker bees from a *Capensis*-infected colony, the colony shall be destroyed.

- (2) The executive officer shall order the destruction of a *Capensis*-infected colony—
 - (a) which is kept in an unmarked beehive; or
 - (b) where management measures to eliminate the presence of *Capensis* worker bees have not been implemented.

Prohibition of movement of infected honey-bee colonies

- 8. (1) Subject to control measure 8 (2), no person shall move—
 - (a) a colony infected with a notifiable disease and *Capensis* infected colony.
- (2) A colony contemplated in control measure 8 (1) may only be removed if—
 - (a) it is to be destroyed;
 - (b) kept in isolation from other honey-bee colonies at a predetermined site; or
 - (c) the executive officer gives written approval.

Destruction of infected honey-bee colonies

- 9. (1) A honey-bee colony shall be destroyed if—
 - (a) a beekeeper is unable to implement management measures in cases where clinical symptoms of a notifiable disease have been detected; or
 - (b) appropriate management measures have been ineffective in preventing the remission of a notifiable disease.
- (2) The executive officer shall order the destruction of any honey-bee colony infected with a notifiable disease—

- (a) which is kept in an unmarked beehive; or
- (b) where a beekeeper has—
 - (i) not implemented; or
 - (ii) not successfully implemented, management measures to eliminate the notifiable disease.

Exemption from control measures

10. (1) A scientific research institution involved in apicultural research may in writing apply to the executive officer to be exempted from any prohibition or obligation contained in the control measures.

(2) Before an exemption may be granted, the executive officer shall evaluate and approve the scientific research institution involved in apicultural research and conduct a risk assessment.

(3) An application for exemption shall be accompanied by a fee payable in terms of the departmental tariff book.

(4) An executive officer may by means of a permit exempt any person from a prohibition or obligation contained in the control measures.

ANNEXURE A

LIST OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Bacterial Diseases	Parasitic Mites	Fungal Diseases	Viral Diseases
American Foul Brood (AFB)			

ANNEXURE B

AREAS

Area	Centre
Gauteng	Johannesburg
	Pretoria
Limpopo	Polokwane
North West	Rustenburg
Mpumalanga	Nelspruit
Kwa-Zulu Natal	Durban
Free State	Bloemfontein
Northern Cape	Kimberley
Eastern Cape	Port Elizabeth
Western Cape	Cape Town
	George