

guilty of an offence and be liable to a fine or imprisonment, or both.

NB. Control Measures relating to honey-bees R.858 of 15 November 2013 can be obtained on the following link: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) > Branches > Agricultural Production Health and Food Safety > Plant Health > Legislation and Regulations > 2.4 Control Measures relating to honey-bees R.858 of 15 November 2013

#### List of notifiable diseases

Bacterial Diseases e.g. American Foul Brood (AFB), Parasitic Mites, Fungal Diseases and Viral Diseases

For further information and steps to take if the occurrence of any notifiable diseases on your farm or in your area is suspected, please contact the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Directorate: Plant Health. See contact details below.

#### Regulation R.858 or control measures relating to honey bees

Directorate: Plant Health

Policy, Norms and Standards Division

Tel.: 012 319 6164/6116/6198

E-mail: [NPPOZA@daff.gov.za](mailto:NPPOZA@daff.gov.za)

Website: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za)

#### Promotions and awareness

Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards

Plant Health Promotion Division

Tel.: 012 319 6295/6475/6368

E-mail: [info.sps@daff.gov.za](mailto:info.sps@daff.gov.za)

Website: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za)

#### Registration

Directorate: Inspection Services

Tel.: 012 309 8763/8763/8791

Fax no.: 012 309 8789

E-mail: [Registrations@daff.gov.za](mailto:Registrations@daff.gov.za)

Website: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za)

*N.B. Beekeepers and process are also advised that for food safety and quality standards for honey and honeybee products they can refer from the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No.119 of 1990) and its regulations.*



## South African National Control Measures relating to honey bees (R.858 of 15 November 2013) in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983)



agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

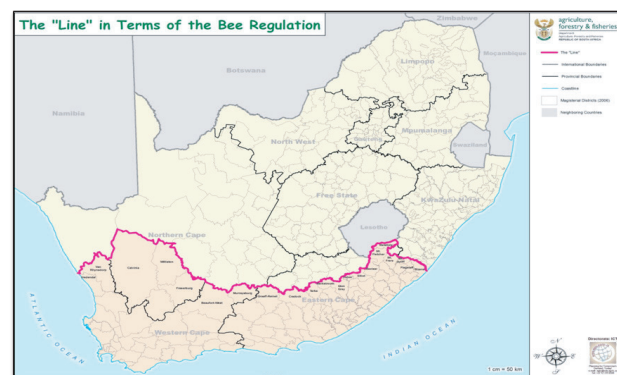
## Background

Regulation R.858 of 15 November 2013 under the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) provides for national control measures of honey bee diseases in South Africa. The regulation encourages any person who keeps, owns, or is in charge of a colony of honey-bees, whether for commercial purposes, a hobbyist or as a bee removal service provider to register annually with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) as a beekeeper.

The regulation states that a colony infected with a notifiable disease and *Capensis*-infected colonies may not be moved from infected areas to non-infected areas unless it is to be destroyed, kept in isolation from other honey bee colonies at a predetermined site, or if the executive officer gives written approval.

In South Africa, there are two different colonies currently kept for various reasons, namely the African honey bees (with their natural habitat in the northern and central parts of the country which includes Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and some parts of the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape provinces) and the Cape honey bees (with their natural habitat in the southern part of the country which, include the Western Cape and some parts of the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape provinces). See Figure 1 below: The South African map.

*NB: No person is allowed to keep the African honey bees south of the pink line or the Cape bees north of the pink line as indicated by Figure 1 below unless authorised to do so.*



**Figure 1: The South African map indicating the natural habitat of the Cape and African honey bees separated by a pink line.**

## Objective and rationale of Regulation R.858 of the Agricultural Pests Act of 1983

It provides for national control measure of honey bee diseases within the Republic of South Africa

### Registration of beekeepers

- Every beekeeper shall register with the Department between 1 January and 31 March of each year.
- An applicant shall, on the form obtainable from the executive officer furnish the Department with his/ her personal details, which could include the name, type of operation, addresses (both physical and postal), contact details and any other information that may be requested on the form.
- During first registration, every beekeeper will be assigned a permanent registration number by the Department
- The beekeeper shall inform the Department within a reasonable time of any changes in the personal information provided for registration purposes.
- In the case of failure to comply with registration procedures a registered beekeeper shall be deregistered.
- During this period, the beekeeper shall keep written records on the number of colonies kept, location of every apiary, presence of any notifiable diseases and management measures used for their control. It is important to note that, the executive officer may request a beekeeper to furnish additional records to the Department for disease control purposes.

*NB: The beekeeper registration form can be obtained on the following link: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) > Branches > Agricultural Production Health and Food Safety > Inspection Services > Forms > Beekeepers' registration with DAFF*

### Control of diseases

- The spread of diseases to other areas can be prevented by prohibiting the movement of infected colonies from infected areas to non-infected areas.
- Good husbandry in beekeeping practice will help reduce other stresses on honey bee colonies and possibly limit the areas affected by diseases such as American Foul Brood (AFB).
- Infected colonies must be destroyed (by, e.g., burning). This greatly reduces the incidence of diseases such as AFB.

### Markings of beehives

Every beekeeper must mark his/ her beehives to display clearly and legibly the registration number allocated to him/ her in the terms of procedures prescribed in this Regulation.

## Inspection of colonies

Every beekeeper shall conduct regular inspections of all the colonies kept in beehives at each apiary site for any clinical symptoms of notifiable bee diseases or *Capensis* infection.

*NB: If the occurrence of symptoms of any notifiable diseases in any beehive is suspected, the beekeeper must notify the executive officer or area official of this possibility.*

## Socio-economic importance

Honey can be used as a sweetener or sugar substitute for sugar (in jams, cereals, etc.), as an ingredient in health/medicinal/ beauty products. It is also used for making wine. Beeswax is used in the pharmaceutical, dental industries, cosmetics, ointments and production of candles and household waxes. Pollen which is rich in protein is used as a diet supplement and propolis forms an ingredient of cosmetics, lip balms and tonic. Royal jelly is an ingredient in the making of skin creams and lotions. This market/sales play an important role in the economy of our country. If the industry is not well safeguarded against regulated diseases such as AFB, this will in the long term lead to low yields of honey and honey products and indirectly affect pollination and result in job losses. It is important that the country make a concerted effort to conserve and protect its valuable bee population from destructive foreign diseases and to prevent the further spread of diseases from infected areas to non-infected areas.

## Legislative implications

- According to regulation R.858 of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983), no person may remove honey bees across the line, remove or keep Cape bees north of the line, or remove any *Capensis*-infected colony, without the prior written approval from the executive officer.
- A *Capensis*-infected colony may only be removed if it is to be destroyed or kept in isolation from other honey bee colonies at a predetermined site
- Regulation R.858 also states that, no person shall move a colony infected with a notifiable disease or *Capensis* from infected areas to non-infected ones.
- An infected colony can only be removed if it is to be destroyed, kept in isolation from other honey bee colonies at a predetermined site, or if the executive officer gives written approval.
- Section 13 of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) states that any person who refuses or neglects to comply with the provisions of a control measure shall be