

SECTION 9.

APIDAE

CHAPTER 9.1.

INFESTATION OF HONEY BEES WITH *Acarapis woodi*

Article 9.1.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, acarapisosis, also known as acarine disease or tracheal mite *infestation*, is an *infestation* of adult honey bees (species of the genus *Apis*), primarily *Apis mellifera* L. with the mite *Acarapis woodi*, an internal obligate parasite of the respiratory system which spreads by direct contact from adult honey bee to adult honey bee.

When authorising import or transit of the *commodities* covered in the chapter, with the exception of those listed in Article 9.1.2., *Veterinary Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the acarapisosis status of the honey bee population of the *exporting country or zone*.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 9.1.2.

Safe commodities

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any acarapisosis related conditions, regardless of the acarapisosis status of the honey bee population of the *exporting country or zone*:

- 1) pre-imago (eggs, larvae and pupae) of honey bees;
- 2) honey bee semen;
- 3) honey bee venom;
- 4) used apicultural equipment;
- 5) honey;
- 6) bee-collected pollen;
- 7) propolis;
- 8) beeswax;
- 9) royal jelly.

Article 9.1.3.

Determination of the acarapisosis status of a country or zone

The acarapisosis status of a country or zone can only be determined after considering the following criteria:

- 1) a *risk assessment* has been conducted, identifying all potential factors for acarapisosis occurrence and their historic perspective;
- 2) acarapisosis should be notifiable in the whole country or zone and all clinical signs suggestive of acarapisosis should be subjected to field and *laboratory* investigations;
- 3) an ongoing awareness programme should be in place to encourage reporting of all cases suggestive of acarapisosis;
- 4) the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* with responsibility for reporting and control of *diseases* of honey bees should have current knowledge of, and authority over, all domesticated *apiaries* in the whole country.

Article 9.1.4.

Country or zone free from acarapisosis

1) Historically free status

A country or zone may be considered free from acarapisosis after conducting a *risk assessment* as referred to in Article 9.1.3. but without formally applying a specific *surveillance* programme if the country or zone complies with the provisions of Chapter 1.4.

2) Free status as a result of an eradication programme

A country or zone which does not meet the conditions of point 1 above may be considered free from acarapisosis after conducting a *risk assessment* as referred to in Article 9.1.3. and when:

- a) the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* with responsibility for reporting and control of *diseases* of honey bees has current knowledge of, and authority over, all domesticated *apiaries* existing in the country or zone;
- b) acarapisosis is notifiable in the whole country or zone, and any clinical cases suggestive of acarapisosis are subjected to field and *laboratory* investigations;
- c) for the three years following the past reported case of acarapisosis, annual surveys supervised by the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority*, with no positive results, have been carried out on a representative sample of *apiaries* in the country or zone to provide a confidence level of at least 95% of detecting acarapisosis if at least 1% of the *apiaries* were infected at a within-*apiary* prevalence rate of at least 5% of the hives; such surveys may be targeted towards *apiaries*, areas and seasons with a higher likelihood of *disease*;
- d) to maintain free status, an annual survey supervised by the *Veterinary Authority*, with no positive results, is carried out on a representative sample of *apiaries* in the country or zone to indicate that there has been no new cases; such surveys may be targeted towards areas with a higher likelihood of *disease*;
- e) either there is no wild or self-sustaining feral population of species of the genus *Apis* in the country or zone, or there is an ongoing *surveillance* programme of the wild or self-sustaining feral population of species of the genus *Apis* which demonstrates no evidence of the presence of the *disease* in the country or zone;
- f) the importation of the *commodities* listed in this chapter into the country or zone is carried out in conformity with the recommendations of this chapter.

Article 9.1.5.

Recommendations for the importation of live queen, worker and drone honey bees with or without associated brood combs

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the honey bees come from *apiaries* situated in a country or zone free from acarapisosis or the *apiaries* meet the conditions prescribed in Chapter 4.14. (Article 4.14.5.). With regards to the provisions detailed in point 2 of

Article 4.14.5., this will be achieved by a statistically valid number of honey bees per colony being examined by any method complying with the relevant chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* and found free of all life stages of *A. woodi*.
