GUIDELINES ON THE IMPORTATION OF QUEEN AND ESCORT BEES

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 02, S. 2018, February 09, 2018

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Pursuant to Executive Order No. 292 (1987), Section 5, Act No. 3639 (Animal Quarantine Act of 1929), Presidential Decree No. 1433, also known as "Plant Quarantine Decree of 1978", and DA-Administrative Order no. 09 Series of 2010 and consistent with the Terrestrial Code of the Office International des Epizooties or Word Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the following guidelines are hereby issued for strict compliance by all:

Chapter 1 -Preliminary Provision

Section 1. Definition of terms and phrases - For purposes of this Order, the terms and phrases hereunder listed shall be understood to mean, as follows:

- Acarapis woodi - known as tracheal mites because they infest the tracheal system of bees

- Accredited microbiologist - a person who has passed the examination given by the Philippine Academy of Microbiologist and has conducted and published papers on bee pathology

- Aethina tumida - small hive beetle infesting populations of the honey bee - Apis mellifera and Apis cerana and bumble bee, Bombus terrestris colonies. It also infests tropical fruits.

- Africanized honey bee - a hybrid strain of Apis meliifera introduced into Brazil in the mid - 1950 and distinguished by aggressive traits such as the tendency to mass swarm and sting with great frequency.

- American foulbrood (AFB) - is disease of a larval and pupal stages of the honey bee Apis meliifera and other Apis spp., caused by the bacterium Paenibacillus larvae.

- Animal - refers to vertebrate and invertebrate species whether domestic or wild (exotic or indigenous) animals which maybe food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory including birds, worms, bees and butterflies. The term excludes human and no-mammalian aquatic species

- Apiary - a bee yard, or a place where beehives are kept

- Apiculture - the art and science of raising bees

- Approved - means officially approved, accredited or registered by the Bureau of Animal Industry

- Backyard / hobbyist beekeeper - one who keeps bees for pleasure or below 200 colonies occasional income

- Bumble bee - any member of the bee genus Bombus, in the family Apidae

- Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) - by virtue of Act 3639, BAI was created as the country's competent authority to investigate, study, and report the cause of dangerous communicable animal diseases and the means and prevention, and in general to promote the development in the livestock industry. It is also tasked to determine the

disease status of livestock of the exporting country.

- Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) -specifically National Plant Quarantine Services Division (NPQSD), by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1433, promulgating the Plant Quarantine Law of 1978, thereby revising and consolidating existing plant quarantine laws to further improve and strengthen the Plant Quarantine Service of the Bureau of Pant Industry.

- Bee pathologist/ microbiologist - refers to a licensed pathologist/ microbiologist concerned with diagnosis of bee diseases and identification of causal pathogens

- Beekeeper - a person who keeps bees

- Brood - refers to the embryo or egg, larva, and the pupa of the bees present in the comb

- Carrier - includes any sort or craft or other artificial contrivance used, capable of being used has means of transportation in land, water or air

- Chalk brood - a fungal disease of bees caused by Ascosphaera spp.

- Colony - an aggregate of several thousand worker bees, drones and a queen bee living together in a hive or in any other dwelling as one social unit

- Comb - is the beeswax structure of the cells where the queen bee lays eggs and the workers deposit honey and pollen. It is part of the beehive where a new brood is raised by the colony.

- Colony Collapsed Disorder (CCD) - a recently described multi-factored phenomenon leading to global extensive losses of bee colonies

- Commercial beekeeper - one who operates sufficiently large number of colonies (at least 200 colonies of Apis mellifera) so that his entire time is devoted to beekeeping

- Competent authority - the BAI is the agency mandated by law, having responsibility and competence for ensuring and supervising the implementation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures or other standard codes.

- Disease - means the clinical and/or pathological manifestation of infections such as American Foul Brood, European Foul Brood and Chalk Brood

- Disinfection -a process of cleansing beekeeping tools and associated equipment and facility to destroy infectious and parasitic agents of bee diseases either with the use of chemicals or irradiation

- Entomologist - a person specializing in the study of insects and their relatives

- Escort bees - bees that accompanies the queen bee in the cage, nurse bee

- European foul brood - a disease of the larval and pupal stages of the honey bee Apis melifera and other Apis spp. caused by the non-sporulating bacterium Mellisococcus pluton

- Hive – a man-constructed home for bees

- Mites - are parasites of larvae, pupae, and adult bees

- Nucleus Colony - or nuc, is essentially a smaller hive, sometimes in a smaller box, consisting of bees in all stages of development, as well as food, a laying queen and enough workers to cover from three to five combs.

- National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division (NVQSD) - is a division of BAI mandated to prevent and

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control the entry of dangerous and communicable animal diseases into the country, and govern the transport/shipment of animals, animal products/ by-products, meat and meat products/ by-products, and all other products of animal origin for agricultural or industrial use.

- Nosema - is an adult honey bee disease caused by microsporidian, single- celled protozoan Nosema spp. Spores develop exclusively within the epithelial cells of the ventricular of the adult honey bee. It affects thousands of colonies, resulting to less production of honey.

- Office International des Epizooties/ World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) - is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It is recognized as a reference organization by the Word Trade Organization (WTO) and for the year 2017 had a total of 181 Member Countries, including the Philippines.

- Potential pest - shall compromise certain species of animal that are liable to become agricultural crop pest such as insects, monkeys, rodents, bats, finches, rabbits, snails and other forms of animal life capable of causing injury to agricultural crops

- Quality - totality of characteristics of an entity that bears on its ability to satisfy stated and implied needs (ISO 8402)

- Quarantine site - a laboratory or bee yard where imported bees are kept while under post-quarantine entry inspection.

- Queen - sexually developed female bee.

- Queen bee importer - refers to a Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) recognized institutional or individual who brings into the country queen bees

- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) - document issued prior to importation by the BAI to ensure that the products being imported meet standards to protect human, animal or plant life or health, ensuring that the agricultural and fishery products are safe for consumers and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals or plants. Such document also prescribes the conditions to be complied with by the importer for the maintenance of quality and suitability of the product for the intended purpose.

- Tobacco ring spot virus (TRSV) - a plant pathogenic virus which can also infect and replicate itself in honey bees

- Tropilaelaps spp. -a mite parasite of honey bee Apis mellifera, Apis breviligula and Apis dorsata

- Varroa spp. - a mite parasite of honey bee Apis mellifera and Apis cerana

- Worker bees - sexually undeveloped female bees

- Zone/region - means a clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

- Veterinary health certificate - veterinary health certificate issued by the Government Veterinary Authority of the exporting country.

Chapter II
Importation of Queen Bees

Section 2. Importation of queen bees - the importation of queen bees may be allowed only upon verification that

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they are free from maladies of quarantine significance in accordance with this Order.

Section 3. Registration of commercial beekeepers and apiaries - all commercial beekeepers/apiaries shall be registered with the BAI by providing the following information:

1. Name, address, and description of the apiary
2. Letter of intent addressed to the BAI Director
3. Mayor's Business Permit (certified true copy)
4. DTI or SEC Registration (certified true copy), when applicable
5. BIR- TIN (certified true copy)

Section 4. Accreditation as Importer - All commercial beekeepers and hobbyists who intended to import queen and escort bees are required to apply for accreditation with BAI by submitting the following requirements:

1. Certificate of Registration issued by BAI in accordance with this Order;

2. Certification from the BAI stating that the applicant's bee yard, equipment, and quarantine area have been inspected by a duly authorized representative of BAI immediately after receipt of his application for accreditation.

Section 5. Application for SPSIC for queen bee - Any person who intends to import or bring into the country live queen shall file an application to import with the BAI through the DA Trade System. The DA Trade System is the back-office application of the Department of Agriculture, developed, deployed and maintained by InterCommerce, for the processing of DA TradeTransactions, initially, the SPSIC issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Bureau of Plant Industry. The application for SPSIC is accomplished online.

Section 6. Issuance of SPSIC - BAI, upon approval of the DA Secretary, shall issue the SPS Import Clearance only upon determination that the importation complies with this Order.

Section 7. Confiscation and Destruction - Imported bees without SPSIC is subject for confiscation and destruction, at the expense of the importer.

Section 8. SPSIC may be revoked if the importer violates any of the terms and conditions embodied herein and if the importer had given false or incomplete information relative to the importation.

Chapter III
General Requirements and Conditions for Importation of Queen Bees

Section 9. Port Procedures - Pre-entry Conditions

- Only Apis mellifera queen and escort bees are allowed to be imported.

- Importers shall present to the Quarantine Office the corresponding SPSIC and international veterinary certificate issued for the shipment (transfer to Section 10).

- Queen bees should not be imported from countries zone/region with viral diseases and countries zone/ region with known Africanized honey bees.

- Brood combs, nucleus colonies and packaged bees are not allowed for importation.

- The shipment must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate issued by the Government Veterinary Authority (GVA). The imported queen bees and escort bees should be free from mites (Acarapis spp., Varroa spp. and Tropilaelaps spp. and small hive beetles (Aethina tumida)) and pathogens causing American foul brood, European foul brood, chalk brood, Nosema and sacbrood.

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- The shipment must also be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate certifying free from pollen-carrying plant pathogens and Tobacco Ringspot Virus (TRSV).

- The breeding apiary of origin is officially approved and controlled by the GVA of the country zone/region responsible for the application of the sanitary measures.

- The packing material and accompanying products shall come directly from the exporting breeding apiary and have not been in contact with diseased bees or brood combs nor with any products or equipment which are contaminated or extraneous to the exporting apiary.

- The port of entry shall be the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) only, unless other international airports will be equipped and qualified to accept queen and escort bee importation.

- Exporter should use plastic queen cages during shipment.

Section 10. Condition on Arrival of Port of Entry

- Immediately upon arrival of the shipment, the imported products shall be turned over to the Competent Authority assigned at the port of entry for sampling.

- Importers shall present to the Quarantine Office the corresponding SPSIC, international veterinary certificate and phytosanitary certificate issued for the shipment. Consignments without the required documents shall be subject for confiscation and destruction, returned to origin or shipped to a third country.

- The collected sample escort bees from every queen cage shall be subjected for analysis by Competent Authority.

- The importer shall provide pertinent documents during inspection and escort bees and all queen cage will also be collected for laboratory analyses.

Section 11. Post Entry Conditions

- Collecting one sample escort bees in every queen cage and submit for analysis at NVQSD. After appropriate samples were collected, the shipment will be released immediately to the importer provided that they agree to BAIs quarantine importation terms and conditions.

- BAI-AHWD and NARTDI monitoring team shall assess/evaluate the performance of the imported queens 1 week after the dispersal.

- The result of the analysis shall be released within 3 to 7 days from arrival.Results will be spread in a period of 9 weeks per thousand samples.

- If pathogens and pests are detected, the importer will be notified of the findings within 5 calendar days and the whole of queen and escort bees will be destroyed at the expense of the importing parties. No compensation shall be paid for any bees destroyed.

Section 12. Sanction - Any person who found, after notice and hearing, to have given false or incomplete information relative to the importation of live honey bees or is found to be in violation of this Order shall result in the automatic revocation of the importer’s SPSIC. Any importation made without, or with a revoked SPSIC shall be confiscated and destroyed.

Section 13. All existing administrative orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 14. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general

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circulation and the filling of three (3) certified copies thereof with the National Administrative Register, U.P. Law Center.

Recommending Approval:

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