

# Export Protocol

## *For Honey Exported from Alberta to Japan:*

### **Background:**

In recent years Alberta honey export market has increased. In consultation with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (International Marketing Division, Alberta Trade Office in Japan, Apiculture Program, Food Safety and Animal Health Division) and Alberta beekeepers exporting honey to Japan, the Alberta Beekeepers Commission-Food Safety Committee has designed an 'Export Protocol' for honey shipments exported from the province of Alberta to markets in Japan. With the implementation of this proactive measure, the 'Export Protocol' will...

- Ensure that a 'high quality' food product is exported to Japan to meet market demands and consumer expectations.
- Ensure that tests for exported honey are clear, consistent and accountable, whereby the honey will continually be determined as 'low risk' for contamination.
- Sustain recently created and expanding existing markets in Japan, which currently offer a 'premium market' for Alberta honey.

The exporter of the honey shipment, whether an individual beekeeper or broker will comply with the following:

### **1. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Registration:**

Honey exported from Alberta must have been produced in Alberta by a currently registered beekeeper with Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development according to the Bee Act and its regulations (The Bee Act 1995 cB-2-1 s5).

[http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=B02.cfm&leg\\_type=Acts&isbncln=0779700449](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=B02.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=0779700449)

### **2. CFIA Registration:**

The producer (honey packager, honey producer/grader, etc.) will be required to have their establishment registered with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

### **3. Sampling and Testing:**

The exporter of the honey shipment will be required to show that the honey is a product of Alberta and submit the final chemical analysis results to the Provincial Apiculturist prior to the issuance of the Export Phytocertificate.

***Sampling:***

The exporter shall provide a minimum of three 200 gram of honey samples for each individual honey shipment (approximately 66 barrels) for testing. In the event that a producer has smaller production lot sizes, the exporter shall provide a single 200-gram sample for each production lot contained in the honey shipment.

***Testing:***

The exporter shall submit all honey samples to the Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Agri-Food Laboratories Branch or an accredited laboratory, suggested by the importer, using accepted methods for honey testing. Testing will be conducted on each single honey shipment, whereby each sample from that shipment will be analysed individually (no composite sampling).

Samples will be tested for:

- Colour.
- Moisture content.
- Total sugar content, including fructose, glucose, sucrose, and maltose.
- Tylosin to a detection limit of 5 ppb.
- Tetracycline, Oxytetracycline, and Chlortetracycline, each to a detection limit of 20 ppb.

The Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Agri-Food Laboratories Branch can conduct the above testing for Alberta honey producers for a fee.

***Additional Testing:*** The importer can ask for additional testing at an accredited laboratory as needed.

***Certified Results:***

The Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development Agri-Food Laboratories Branch or an accredited laboratory suggested by the importer will provide test results to the exporter within 10 business days of submission. Sample analysis results will be provided to the exporter in the form of a written laboratory certificate/letter.

**4. Phytocertificate Issuance**

The exporter will submit a request to the Provincial Apiculturist to issue a Phytocertificate for exporting honey to Japan. This request will include the following:

- A document showing that the honey is a product of Alberta including producer's name and address.
- A copy of the final chemical analysis test results.
- Information including exporter name and address, importer name and address, quantity of shipped honey, shipping information including container number and seal number.

The Phytocertificate will be issued in 3 working days and mailed by courier to the exporter on their own expense.

Contact for Phytocertificates:

Dr. Medhat Nasr

Provincial Apiculturist

Crop Diversification Centre North

Agriculture Research Division

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

17507 Fort Rd, Edmonton, AB T5Y 6H3

Phone: 780-415-2314

mailto: [medhat.nasr@gov.ab.ca](mailto:medhat.nasr@gov.ab.ca)

Contact for residue testing of honey samples

Norine Best

Chemistry Section Head

Agri-Food Labs Branch

Food Safety and Animal Health Division

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development

6909-116 St., Edmonton, AB. T6H 4P2

Phone :780-422-0223

[norine.best@gov.ab.ca](mailto:norine.best@gov.ab.ca)