

Small Hive Beetle in Honeybee Queen Shipments from Hawaii
Update: May 10, 2011

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) was informed by provincial apiculturists that an adult small hive beetle (SHB), as well as first and second star larvae, were found on the packing material of queens imported from Hawaii on April 7, 2011, with destinations in Manitoba and Alberta. At that time, additional import measures were put into place for queens originating from Hawaii and the provincial apiculturists began additional inspections of imported shipments at destination, prior to redistribution to beekeepers in their provinces.

Since that time, SHB has been detected in three additional shipments, two by provincial apiculturists during inspection of shipments at destination and one by CFIA at the first point of entry into the country. In each case, shipments were handled in a co-ordinated fashion to help prevent inadvertent introduction of SHB into Canadian colonies. As before, it was recommended that queens in any high risk shipments (i.e. those in which SHB has been detected) be placed into new queens cages prior to introduction to the hives.

Inspections will be ongoing throughout the import season. There has been minimal interruption to the delivery of queens thus far. CFIA has worked with provincial apiculturists to determine a minimum level of inspection that is scientifically justified to reduce the risk of SHB introduction through shipments of queens from Hawaii. However, it is important to note that each individual province may decide that levels of inspection beyond the minimum are required.

We appreciate the cooperation that we have been given by producers to date and wish to reiterate that your ongoing cooperation is critical in allowing the continued importation of queens from Hawaii with as little disruption as possible. Please continue to communicate with your provincial apiculturists regarding upcoming shipments of queens or any concerns that you may have with a shipment.

CFIA will continue to communicate with both the provincial apiculturists and CHC executive as needed throughout the import season. Updates on importation issues will be provided on a regular basis.