

# Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

October 2008

## CHAPTER 9.5.

### **TROPILAEELAPS INFESTATION OF HONEY BEES**

#### Article 9.5.1.

##### **General provisions**

For the purposes of this Chapter, *Tropilaelaps* infestation of the honey bee *Apis mellifera* L. is caused by the mite *Tropilaelaps clareae* and *T. koenigerum*. The mite is an ectoparasite of brood of *Apis mellifera* L., *Apis laboriosa* and *Apis dorsata*, and cannot survive for periods of more than 7 days away from bee brood.

Early signs of *infection* normally go unnoticed, but the growth in the mite population is rapid leading to high hive mortality. The *infection* spreads by direct contact from adult bee to adult bee, and by the movement of infested bees and bee brood. The mite can also act as a vector for viruses of the honey bee.

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

#### Article 9.5.2.

##### **Determination of the *Tropilaelaps* status of a country or zone/compartment**

The *Tropilaelaps* status of a country or *zone/compartment* (under study) can only be determined after considering the following criteria:

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

## Article 9.5.3.

**Country or zone/compartment (under study) free from *Tropilaelaps* spp**1. Historically free status

A country or *zone/compartment* (under study) may be considered free from the *disease* after conducting a *risk assessment* as referred to in Article 9.5.2. but without formally applying a specific *surveillance* programme if the country or *zone/compartment* (under study) complies with the provisions of Chapter 1.4.

2. Free status as a result of an eradication programme

A country or *zone/compartment* (under study) which does not meet the conditions of point 1 above may be considered free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation after conducting a *risk assessment* as referred to in Article 9.5.2. and when:

- a) the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* with responsibility for ~~the health~~ reporting and control of diseases of honey bees has current knowledge of, and authority over, all domesticated *apiaries* existing in the country or *zone/compartment* (under study);
- b) *Tropilaelaps* infestation is notifiable in the whole country or *zone/compartment* (under study), and any clinical cases suggestive of *Tropilaelaps* infestation are subjected to field and *laboratory* investigations;
- c) for the 3 years following the last reported *case* of *Tropilaelaps* infestation, an annual survey supervised by the *Veterinary Authority*, with negative results, have been carried out on a representative sample of *apiaries* in the country or *zone/compartment* (under study) to provide a confidence level of at least 95% of detecting *Tropilaelaps* infestation 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 areas with a higher likelihood of infestation;
- d) to maintain free status, an annual survey supervised by the *Veterinary Authority*, with negative results, is carried out on a representative sample of *apiaries* in the country or *zone/compartment* (under study) to indicate that there has been no new *cases*; such surveys may be targeted towards areas with a higher likelihood of *disease*;
- e) (under study) there is no self-sustaining feral population of *A. mellifera*, *A. dorsata* or *A. laboriosa*, or other possible host species in the country or *zone/compartment* (under study);
- f) the importation of the *commodities* listed in this Chapter into the country or *zone/compartment* (under study) is carried out, in conformity with the recommendations of this Chapter.

## Article 9.5.4.

**Recommendations on safe commodities**

Regardless of the status of the *exporting country* with regard to *Tropilaelaps* infestation, *Veterinary Authorities* should authorise without restriction the import or transit through their territory of the following *commodities*:

1. honey bee semen, honey bee eggs and honey bee venom;
2. extracted honey and beeswax (not in the form of honeycomb).

Article 9.5.5.

**Recommendations for the importation of live queen honey bees, worker bees and drones with associated brood combs**

*Veterinary Authorities of importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the bees come from a country or *zone/compartment* (under study) officially free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation.

Article 9.5.6.

**Recommendations for the importation of live queen honey bees, worker bees and drones without associated brood combs**

*Veterinary Authorities of importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the bees have been held in isolation from brood and bees with access to brood, for a period of at least 7 days.

Article 9.5.7.

**Recommendations for the importation of used equipment associated with beekeeping**

*Veterinary Authorities of importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the equipment:

1. comes from a country or *zone/compartment* (under study) free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation; or
2. contains no live honey bees or bee brood and has been held away from contact with live honey bees for at least 7 days prior to shipment; or
3. has been treated to ensure the destruction of *Tropilaelaps* spp., in conformity with one of the procedures referred to in Chapter X.X. (under study).

Article 9.5.8.

**Recommendations for the importation of honey-bee collected pollen, beeswax (in the form of honeycomb), comb honey and propolis**

*Veterinary Authorities of importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the products:

1. come from a country or *zone/compartment* (under study) free from *Tropilaelaps* infestation; or
2. contain no live honey bees or bee brood and has been held away from contact with live honey bees for at least 7 days prior to shipment; or
3. have been treated to ensure the destruction of *Tropilaelaps* spp., in conformity with one of the procedures referred to in Chapter X.X. (under study).