

# California Voluntary Ant Certification Protocol for Out-of-State Bee Shipments

Revised February 2006

Cleaning, inspection, and certification must take place in the origin state **no more than seven days before the beehives arrive in California**. The origin state is the state where the hives were last placed on the ground.

## Step 1 - Cleaning and Preparation for Inspection, by Beekeeper

1. High-pressure wash or brush all hives and beekeeping equipment completely clean of dirt, plant material, or other debris that could hide ants
2. Remove all beehives colonized by ants from the shipment
3. Remove any rotten or broken beekeeping equipment that could hide ants

### **Inspection Options – Choose one**

#### **Preparation for Truck/Trailers Inspection**

- Place hives and pallets on truck/trailers so the certifying official can see all hives and equipment on vehicle(s)

#### **Preparation for Ground Staging Area Inspection**

- Place hives and pallets in a staging area on an impermeable surface (heavy plastic, or concrete, or other solid surface) no more than two days before shipping
- Solid surface must extend at least 10 feet beyond the beekeeping equipment
- Place hives and pallets so the certifying official can inspect all hives and equipment

## Step 2 – Inspection, by Certifying Official

1. Make sure all hives and equipment are in good condition
2. Remove rotten/broken equipment that could harbor ants
3. Bait the beekeeping equipment as described in the inspection procedures below
4. If ants are found in the first inspection, beehives and equipment may be re-cleaned, re-baited and re-inspected **once**
5. The load cannot be certified if ants are found during a second inspection

### **Truck/Trailer Inspection Procedures**

- Bait each truck and trailer of the shipment with Spam@, in at least four (4) corners of each vehicle
- Wait at least 30 minutes and inspect the bait for ants
- If no ants are found, a certificate of cleanliness may be issued

### **Ground Staging Area Inspection Procedures**

- Bait the staging area with Spam@ at 10-foot intervals around the hives and equipment
- Wait at least 30 minutes and inspect the bait for ants
- If no ants are found, a certificate of cleanliness may be issued

### **Step 3 – Certification, by Approved Official**

The official certificate must include the following information:

1. The statement: “Beehives and equipment in this shipment were inspected and certified free of ants according to the California Voluntary Ant Certification Protocol”
2. The state agricultural seal of the issuing department
3. A unique certificate number
4. Name of state where certification was issued
5. Number of hives certified and shipped
6. Vehicle and trailer license numbers for all vehicles carrying certified shipment
7. Name, address and phone number of owner of beehives and equipment
8. Date of certification
9. Inspector’s name and signature

The original certificate must accompany the bee shipment

- Original Certificate - Kept at the California border station
- Copy One – Kept by Certifying Official
- Copy Two – Kept by the shipper, or person in possession of the certified shipment