



AUSTRALIAN HONEY BEE INDUSTRY COUNCIL INC

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EXPORTS OF HONEY TO CHINA

The Australian Honey Bee Industry Council (AHBIC) has been advised by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) that correspondence has been received from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) advising of proceedings to suspend future imports of honey from an Australian manufacturer. This suspension was due to the positive detection of European foulbrood (EFB) in one consignment imported from this manufacturer. DAWE did not disclose the identity of the manufacturer and were not aware whether the manufacturer had been given any previous warnings.

AHBIC would draw the attention of anyone who may be exporting honey to China to be aware of this. For Chinese import conditions for Australian honey visit:

https://micor.agriculture.gov.au/Eggs/Pages/china/2_non-prescribed_goods/edible_apiculture_products.aspx

Please be aware that if polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is being carried out in China that this test will pick up any dead spores. As EFB does not have spores, only vegetative stages, then it is assumed that the PCR test will also pick up any dead vegetative stages so heat treatment may not be feasible. AHBIC is following up on this with DAWE.

DAWE are keen to hear from anyone who is exporting to China at the present time. Information is required on what is being requested on the import permit regarding testing for EFB and American foulbrood (AFB). If you could send DAWE a copy of your import permit that would be appreciated. Please send details to exportstandards@agriculture.gov.au and mark it attention, Mark Phythian. Any information supplied is treated as commercial in confidence.

AHBIC would also be keen to know what tests are included on the import permit, if any. All AHBIC needs to know is what the tests are, if any. We do not require any other details.

Please treat this information in confidence, not for public consumption, in the interests of managing the risks for the trade and the affected manufacturer. We ask for your discretion regarding this matter.

If you have any questions please contact AHBIC.

Yours sincerely

Helen Goodall
CEO