

Detailed guide: Honey bees: protecting them from pests and diseases

Updated: Minor changes to the guidance under the Asian hornet heading.

There are a number of notifiable pests and diseases in the UK which may affect your bees. If you suspect they are present within your colonies you must tell the National Bee Unit (NBU) or your local [bee inspector](#) immediately. Failure to do so is an offence.

You can find advice on beekeeping on [BeeBase](#).

Asian hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

Vespa velutina, known as the Asian hornet or yellow legged hornet, is a predator of honey bees.

How to spot an Asian hornet

Asian hornets:

- have a dark brown or black velvety body
- have a yellow or orange band on fourth segment of abdomen
- have yellow tipped legs
- are smaller than the native European hornet
- are not active at night

Guidance on how to identify an Asian hornet and report any suspected sightings is available on the [Non-Native Species Secretariat website](#).

American foulbrood

American foulbrood (AFB) is a notifiable disease. If you suspect it is present within your colonies you must tell the [National Bee Unit](#) immediately.

Signs of American foulbrood include:

- wax cappings becoming sunken and perforated
- cappings becoming moist or greasy looking and changing colour
- when looking at the bottom of cells, AFB scales, which resemble a proboscis tongue, can be seen in comb cells
- an unpleasant smell
- when remains are drawn out, the mucus may be ropey

If you suspect your colony has American foulbrood you must:

- contact the NBU office or your local bee inspector immediately

- close the hive
- disinfect beekeeping equipment
- not remove any colonies, equipment or honey from the site until the disease, if confirmed, has been controlled

Find out [more about how American foulbrood is spread and controlled](#).

European foulbrood

European foulbrood is a notifiable disease. If you suspect it is present within your colonies you must tell the [National Bee Unit](#) immediately.

Signs of European foulbrood include:

- dead larva collapse, turning yellowish-brown
- brood pattern appearing patchy and erratic
- an unpleasant sour smell

If you suspect your colony has European foulbrood you must:

- contact the NBU office or your local bee inspector immediately
- close the hive
- disinfect beekeeping equipment before examining other colonies
- not remove any colonies, equipment or honey from the site until the disease, if confirmed, has been controlled

Find out [more about how European foulbrood is spread and controlled](#).

Small hive beetle

Small hive beetle is a notifiable pest. If you suspect it is present within your apiary you must tell the [National Bee Unit](#) immediately.

How to spot a small hive beetle

Small hive beetles:

- are oval in shape, 5 to 7 mm long and 3 to 4.5 mm wide
- are reddish brown in colour but change to dark brown or black as they mature
- have distinctive club shaped antennae
- produce larvae with characteristic rows of spines on the back and 3 pairs of legs near the head

Signs of small hive beetle in a colony include:

- small black beetles running around the comb or hiding in small dark crevices of the hive
- larvae burrowing through the brood combs, consuming brood and stores

- larvae clumping together in corners of frames or combs cells
- clusters of small 'rice grain' eggs in cracks and crevices of the hive
- honey fermenting and dripping out of cells
- combs becoming slimy or smelling of rotten oranges

If you suspect small hive beetle is present within your colonies you must:

- contact the NBU office or your local bee inspector immediately
- not remove any colonies, equipment or honey from the site until approved to do so by the NBU

The small hive beetle is not thought to be present in the UK. Import regulations are the main defence against its introduction.

Find out more about the [small hive beetle, its life cycle and control methods](#).

Tropilaelaps mite

Tropilaelaps mite is a notifiable pest. If you suspect it is present within your colonies you must tell the [National Bee Unit](#) immediately.

How to spot a Tropilaelaps mite

Tropilaelaps mites:

- hide in brood cells rather than on adult bees
- have elongated bodies about 1mm long and 0.5mm wide
- are reddish brown

Signs of Tropilaelaps mite in a colony include:

- irregular or poor brood patterns
- surviving adult bees having a shorter lifespan
- adult bees with shrunk or deformed wings and abdomens

If you suspect the Tropilaelaps mite is present within your colonies you must:

- contact the NBU office or your local bee inspector immediately
- not remove any colonies, equipment or honey from the site until approved to do so by the NBU

Tropilaelaps mite are not currently thought to be present in the UK. Import regulations are the main defence against its introduction.

Find out more about [Tropilaelaps mite, their life cycle and control methods](#).

Importing or exporting bees

Import regulations are the main defence against the introduction of many pests and diseases.

If you want to import bees into the UK, you must follow animal health requirements in line with national and EU law.

If you want to export bees to any country outside the UK you must get a health certificate from your bee inspector.

Read the [BeeBase guidance on importing and exporting bees](#).

Register your beekeeping details

If you're a beekeeper, you should register your details online at [BeeBase](#).

Keeping your records up to date helps the NBU monitor and control pests and diseases and provide relevant information, like local disease alerts.

Contact

Bee health policy helpline

Email: beehealthinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8026 2524 or 020 8026 3576

Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme helpline

Telephone: 0800 321 600

[Statutory guidance: SR2008 No 27: mobile plant for treatment of soils and contaminated material, substances or products](#)

Updated: Added to 'details' section: You can apply online for most standard rules environmental permits.

Before you can use your mobile plant permit, you must complete the [deployment form](#) and send it to the Environment Agency, with any necessary additional

information.

You can apply online for most standard rules environmental permits.

[Apply for a standard rules environmental permit.](#)

Statutory guidance: SR2010 No 12: treatment of waste to produce soil, soil substitutes and aggregate

Updated: Added to 'details' section: You can apply online for most standard rules environmental permits.

Standard rules to allow you to treat waste to produce soil at a specified location.

You can apply online for most standard rules environmental permits.

[Apply for a standard rules environmental permit.](#)

Detailed guide: Duty suspensions and tariff quotas

Updated: Additions to links in current suspensions and quotas section, and addition of new section on European Commission Review for duty suspensions.

The European Union (EU) temporary duty suspensions and tariff quotas regime allows the duty free importation into the EU of raw materials, components and semi-finished products which cannot be supplied (or supplied in sufficient quantities) from EU or Turkish manufacturers and are used in a process to make another product.

Suspensions allow unlimited quantities to be imported into the EU whereas quotas allow limited quantities to be imported. This regime cannot be used simply to import for resale.

Once granted, a suspension or quota can be used by any business in the EU – it is not specific to the company which applied. If your product is covered

by an existing suspension or quota, you do not need to make a new request.

[View the latest list of applications for duty suspensions and tariff quotas.](#)

Application criteria

You can make an application if you are:

- an EU manufacturing user of the component in question
- a distributor applying on behalf of EU manufacturing customers
- EU company subsidiaries outside of the EU or Turkey
- an agent (lawyer, accountant or consultant) representing one of the above – note that applications from agents must also include the name of the EU user to be considered and proof of their agreement to act on behalf of a manufacturer

You can apply for a duty suspension or tariff quota if all of the following apply to you:

- the component you are importing cannot be sourced – or supplied in sufficient quantity – from within the EU or Turkey
- the component you are importing is to be further processed in an EU factory
- the level of import duty saving is at least €15,000 per year

Apply for duty suspension and tariff quota

Complete the

[Request for tariff suspension application form](#)

(MS Word Document, 86.5KB)

. Use the

[guidance notes](#)

(MS Word Document, 103KB)

to help you complete the form.

Email your completed form to phil.walker@trade.gov.uk.

When you can apply

	new/amendment requests 1st application period	new/amendment requests 2nd application period
UK requests deadline	22 February	24 August
EU requests deadline	15 March	15 September
1st EU meeting to discuss requests	May	November

	new/amendment requests 1st application period	new/amendment requests 2nd application period
2nd EU meeting to discuss requests	June	December
3rd EU meeting to discuss requests	July	January
Entry into force of requested tariff suspensions or quotas	1 January	1 July

You can submit a request to increase the volume of an existing tariff quota at any time.

Application process: next steps

The Department for International Trade (DIT) will submit your application to the European Commission. The list is sent to trade associations to check if there is any EU manufacturing of the components for which a duty suspension has been requested. The name of the applicant is not made public nor is any of the information on an application other than the tariff code and description requested.

Requests are discussed at 3 working group meetings in Brussels (Economic Tariff Questions Group – ETQG). We will contact you if we require further information about your request, or if an objection is made.

Successful requests are valid for 5 years, after which time they are reviewed and may be renewed for a further 5 years.

If you make these components already

If you manufacture goods in the EU for which a duty suspension or quota is being requested or is currently in force, you can have it stopped by submitting a

[suspension objection form](#)

(MS Word Document, 38.9KB)

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You will have to prove that you currently make the goods in the EU (for example by making a sales offer to the applicant company). Price is not a consideration when oppositions are considered. Discussions between you and the applicant company should also take place to see if any compromise is possible. You will have to provide a sample to the applicant to prove your product can be replaced.

If you receive an objection to your request, you must contact the objecting company to discuss a compromise solution, as unless their objection is withdrawn your request will not be granted.

The deadline for objections to new requests is by the second EU meeting. The

deadline for objections to current measures is by the first EU meeting.

Current suspensions and quotas

The current tariff quota regulations are [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2389](#), [Council Regulation \(EC\) 2017/1133](#) and [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2466](#).

The current duty suspension regulations are [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2390](#), [Council Regulation \(EC\) 2017/1134](#) and [Council Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2467](#).

European Commission Review for Duty Suspensions

The European Commission has published the list of duty suspensions expiring on 31 December 2018. It has listed suspensions for goods which are being automatically renewed, and those for which a review will be necessary. View the

[European Commission Review for Duty Suspensions list of goods](#)

(MS Excel Spreadsheet, 96.5KB)

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You can submit a [request for renewal of a tariff suspension](#)

(MS Word Document, 57KB)

. Return the completed form to phil.walker@trade.gov.uk at the Department for International Trade. The final date for submissions is 10 April 2018.

Contact phil.walker@trade.gov.uk if you have any enquiries regarding the review, list of goods or requests for renewal of tariff suspensions.

[Guidance: UK fuel mix data: methodology](#)

Updated: Methodology updated to reduce double counting of renewable energy.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) publishes the annual [fuel mix disclosure data](#) as defined in [The Electricity \(Fuel Mix Disclosure\) Regulations 2005](#).

This document sets out the calculations behind the residual fuel mix. The residual fuel mix is used by electricity suppliers to calculate the electricity they supply between fuel type when they do not hold generator declarations or Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGOs).