

**Executive Note**  
**The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (S.S.I. 2007/ 506 )**

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1 of the Bees Act 1980. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

**Policy Objectives**

The purpose of the instrument is to ensure as far as possible that the spread of serious (endemic) bee diseases and the risk of introduction of exotic bee pests is minimised. It will require beekeepers (and others) to notify Scottish Ministers of the suspicion of the presence of the notifiable diseases, American and European foul brood, and of the two new bee pests, the small hive beetle and tropilaelaps mites. Both pests are exotic to the EU but are considered serious threats to the economic sustainability of the apiculture sector.

This instrument also implements the part of Commission Decision 2003/881/EC that applies to consignments of queen bees imported from third countries once they have reached their designated destination.

Honey bees make an important contribution to the sustainability of agriculture and to biodiversity through their pollination role, and it is important therefore to have the powers to intervene in a disease situation.

It requires consignees to transfer queen bees imported from a third country to new (queen) cages at their designated destination before introducing them to new local colonies.

It requires consignees to send the (queen) cages, attendant worker bees and other material that accompanied the queen bees from their third country of origin to a laboratory for examination for the presence of the small hive beetle and tropilaelaps. Following the examination all the material must be destroyed.

It provides a derogation from the measures in articles 1(3) and 1(4) for consignments of bumble bees limited to single colonies of no more than 200 adults, but requires that the container and all the material that accompanied the bumble bees from the third country of origin be destroyed either during or immediately at the end of the life span of the colony.

**Consultation**

The sectors affected by this Instrument have not been consulted as the target audience is very limited and are all aware of the fact that the legislation is to be amended. Advisory letters will be issued in due course.

**Financial Effects**

This instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business. The objective of the instrument is to minimise the risk of economic damage to the beekeeping industry in the event of an outbreak of disease or infestation.