



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



SRUC

LEGISLATION

BEEKEEPING EDUCATION MODULES

These presentations are funded by the Scottish Government as part of Scotland's Honey Bee Health Strategy

This presentation is part of a suite developed by the Scottish Government and SRUC to provide local associations advice and information on statutory beekeeping requirements, best practice, and how the Scottish Government provides support to Scottish beekeepers.



Aims and Objectives

To provide an overview of the legislation which governs honey bee health in Scotland

This presentation sets out the legislation governing the health of honey bees in Scotland, beekeeper's legal obligations in respect of keeping honey bees, and the rules and regulations around selling honey.

Honey Bee Health Legislation

The Bees Act 1980

The Bees Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)

The Bee Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Amendment order 2021



The Bees Act allows ministers to make orders to control pests and diseases affecting honeybees and provides powers of entry to inspectors. The Bee Diseases & Pest Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended) means beekeepers must notify the Bees_Mailbox@gov.scot if they suspect notifiable pest or disease such as AFB, EFB. It also provides the inspectors with authority to take action to destroy, treat or prevent movement of infected hives and any associated equipment. The Amendment Order of 2021 made Varroa reportable. There is a box on BeeBase which you can untick if you know for certain you don't have Varroa.

Legislation

The Civic Government
(Scotland) Act 1982
(Section 49)

The Environmental
Protection Act 1990 as
amended by the Public
Health (Scotland) Act
2008



This means that if your bees cause a nuisance by being aggressive, stinging or swarming then you could be charged with an offence. This means it is really important to be responsible by having good placement for hives away from areas the public habitually access and to have good relations with neighbours. It also means that you should practice responsible swarm control to avoid situations where they could cause a nuisance. If your bees swarm it is your responsibility to collect them. It is an **offence** for any person to allow any creature, including any creature, which includes bees, to cause injury or danger to any other person who is in a public place or to give that person reasonable cause for alarm or annoyance. Any person convicted for such an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding £500.

Section 49(2) of the 1982 Act permits any person to apply for a **court order** in relation to annoyance caused by an animal in the vicinity of where the person resides.

These considerations should be thought about in order to prevent any annoyance or harm to the general public.



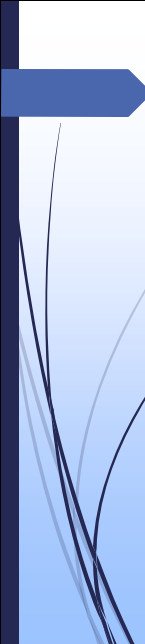
Honey Bee Health Legislation

The Bees Act 1980

- Empowers Ministers to make orders to control diseases and pests affecting honey bees and provides powers of entry for authorised persons (to carry out necessary surveillance, inspection and certification requirements).

There are two key pieces of legislation which enable and inform the activities undertaken by the Scottish Government to prevent the spread of honey bee pests and diseases.

The first is the Bees Act 1980. It empowers Scottish Ministers to make such arrangements as it deems appropriate to protect the health of honey bees in Scotland. In Scotland, these arrangements are carried out by the Scottish Government Honey Bee Health Team.



The Bees Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)

- Requires beekeepers (and others) to **notify** the Scottish Ministers of the **suspicion** of the presence of a notifiable disease or pest, and provides powers for control such as **destruction**, treatment and prevention of movement of infected hives.

The second is The Bees Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended), it sets out what actions and powers are available to authorised persons acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers, as well as setting out the obligations on beekeepers to report any suspicion of notifiable disease or pest, and to comply with any instructions from officials acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

The Bee Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Amendment Order 2021

- Varroa is reportable in Scotland (similar arrangements are in place for England and Wales).



Varroa was added as a **reportable** pest to legislation by the Bee Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Amendment Order 2001. This means that it is a legal obligation to report to the Scottish Government if you suspect you have varroa. On your BeeBase records the box will automatically be ticked. If you know for certain you do not have Varroa, you can untick the box. It is different to Notifiable as you must contact the authorities via the bees mailbox if it is notifiable whereas reportable is not compulsory, but you can record this on BeeBase.

Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (as amended)

Veterinary Medicines Directorate - searchable database of authorised medicines

- Illegal to use any treatment or medicines not on that list: including homemade products or concoctions.
- Records to be kept for **5 years** of the product when:
 - Purchased
 - Administered
 - Disposed ofYou must also include batch/ lot numbers



Veterinary medicines are a reserved issue and are managed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (as amended) govern the administration of medicinal products for food-producing livestock – including bees. It is illegal to use anything that is not approved by the VMD - including homemade remedies such as rhubarb, bananas, and essential oils. Generic or other products from abroad should not be used.

Scottish Bee Inspectors take samples of honey for testing by the VMD and individuals are liable to prosecution should products test positive for residues

This means that you may only use medicines which have been approved for use by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and you must follow the instructions on the product leaflet.

You are legally required to record the purchase of medicines, the use of medicines, and the disposal of medicines and to keep these

records for 5 years, even if you ceased to keep bees in that time.

Bee Health Inspectors may ask to see your records at any time, and you must be able to provide these. There are example record forms on BeeBase.

Imports of bees



Import controls are in place to manage disease and pest risks, with particular focus on Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and Tropilaelaps.

- ▶ These measures are governed by **the Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended)** and **the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)**, both of which aim to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases.
- ▶ You should check the UK Government website for up to date information on any prohibitions which may be in force.

If you are considering importing bees or bee products there are measures in place to manage the risks posed by pests and diseases which are enforced under two key regulations:

- The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended)
- The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (as amended)

Both regulations aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful pests and diseases within Scotland and the wider UK.

Similar regulations are in place in England and Wales.

Specific safeguards have been introduced in response to outbreaks in mainland Europe ensuring extra protections are in place to mitigate risks and maintain bee health across the UK.

Resources Available: Scottish Government

Contact: Bees_Mailbox@gov.scot



Scottish Honey Bee Health Legislation

[Legislation - Honey bee health: guidance - gov.scot](#)

[Veterinary Medicines Directorate: Product Information](#)

[Database - Currently authorised products](#)



Here are some of the Government and SRUC resources available to you. If you have any queries you can contact the Honey Bee Health Team by email. Information about how the Scottish Government supports honey bees in Scotland can be found via the QR codes.



BEEKEEPING EDUCATION MODULES

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Thank you, Questions?