



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary



September 5, 2017

Dr. Faith Kuehn
State Plant Regulatory Official
Delaware Dept. of Agriculture Plant Industries Section
2320 S. DuPont Hwy.
Dover, DE 19901-5515

RE: Apiary shipments destined to California

Dear Dr. Faith Kuehn:

In 2000, CDFA began allowing reconditioning of rejected shipments at the Needles Border Protection Station (BPS) to accommodate reconditioning needs of numerous rejected apiary shipments. This arrangement was intended as a temporary solution to ensure the entry of adequate numbers of colonies to meet California's pollination requirements. The reconditioning of rejected apiary shipments at the Needles BPS, located on Interstate 40 and adjacent properties, has resulted, however, in numerous bee sting incidents, some requiring emergency medical treatment, to CDFA personnel, commercial truck drivers, and the general public. This activity constitutes a public nuisance and as such, will no longer be allowed at the Needles BPS or any other CDFA BPS location.

All apiary shipments will continue to be inspected, and any shipment not meeting CDFA's entry requirements will be rejected. Reconditioning, if opted, must occur at a location not associated with a CDFA BPS facility. All rejected apiary shipments will continue to be subject to inspection after reconditioning and must meet CDFA's entry requirements before being permitted to enter and proceed to destination.

We understand this action may result in inconvenience to beekeepers and California's agricultural producers who rely on out-of-state apiary shipments for pollination services. We are providing this notification now to enable those impacted to develop an alternative, safer site for reconditioning prior to the migratory movement of apiary shipments next season. Although CDFA will not be involved in an effort to procure alternate reconditioning locations, we are willing to assist and encourage communication and cooperation among those affected, including beekeepers, producers, apiary inspectors in other states, and the California county agricultural commissioners' offices to resolve this situation.





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Our goal is to assist the affected industries as much as possible while ensuring that apiary shipments entering California meet all applicable quarantine requirements. As part of our effort to assist stakeholders, staff from our Border Protections Program conducted a detailed analysis of traffic flow to determine the best time for apiary shipments to enter California with the least delay for inspection. Regardless of the Border Station involved, the best time to enter California with apiary shipments is after 3:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Please note that the volume of traffic at the CDFA Border Stations on Sunday is normally high and therefore Sundays are not recommended for entry into California with apiary shipments.

Please remind stakeholders in your state that reconditioning of apiary shipments is no longer allowed at the CDFA BPS and therefore it is more important than ever that apiary shipments are thoroughly cleaned and inspected before being shipped to California in order to avoid unnecessary delays of delivery.

If you have any questions related to this correspondence, please contact Courtney.Albrecht@cdfa.ca.gov or (916) 403-6647

Sincerely,

Stephen Brown, Interim Director
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

cc: National Plant Board Members
Selected State Apiarists
Duane Schnabel, CDFA Pest Exclusion Branch Chief
Roger Cline, CDFA Border Stations, Program Supervisor IV
Courtney Albrecht, Environmental Program Manager 1 (Specialist)

