

**WCBA**  
Western Cape Bee Industry Association



**WKBV**  
Wes-Kaapse Bybedryfsvereniging

## **WCBA POLLINATION STANDARDS 2024**

### **1. COLONY STRENGTH:**

At least 90% of individual bee colonies in a consignment should comprise the following:

- a. An average of at least 4 deep brood frames; each brood frame must have at least 75% of the frame covered in brood, or the equivalent amount of brood covering more than 4 brood frames.
- b. An average of at least 8 deep brood frames covered in bees in a calmed-down condition.
- c. No more than 3 deep frames of stored honey.
- d. No more than 2 deep frames of stored pollen.
- e. No more than 3 frames of honey in a super, should a super be present.

In addition to the above-listed average criteria, no more than 10% of bee colonies in a consignment should comprise the following criteria:

- a. An average of at least 3 deep brood frames; each brood frame must have at least 75% of the frame covered in brood, or the equivalent amount of brood covering more than 4 brood frames.
- b. An average of at least 6 deep brood frames covered in bees in a calmed-down condition.

- c. No more than 3 deep frames of stored honey.
- d. No more than 2 deep frames of stored pollen.
- e. No more than 3 frames of honey in a super, should a super be present.

## **2. QUEEN STATUS:**

- a. The hive should be queen-right.
- b. The queen should be actively laying, as reflected by a normal brood pattern, with a balance between eggs, larvae, and sealed brood.

## **3. DISEASE STATUS:**

The colony should be healthy and properly managed, such that:

- a. No clinical symptoms of AFB, including the dried remains of dead brood, are present.
- b. No more than 50 cells with European Foulbrood are permissible.
- c. No more than 50 cells with chalkbrood are permissible.
- d. No more than 50 small hive beetles are present in the colony.
- e. Varroa mite numbers do not exceed more than 5 mites per 100 adult bees in the colony.

## **4. THE POLLINATION BEEHIVE:**

- a. A standard Langstroth-type beehive with no fewer than 10 individually removable, deep frames.
- b. All frames are to be properly reinforced to prevent collapse during transport.

- c. A honey super is allowed, subject to conditions specified below. The super must have no fewer than 9 individually removable, super frames.
- d. The DALRRD registration number should be clearly visible on all hives.

#### **5. LEAKPROOF:**

- a. The construction and condition of the hive must be such that it can be sealed easily and quickly.
- b. Colonies must be sealed during delivery, transport, or collection, such that few to no bees escape.

#### **6. VENTILATION:**

- a. The hive configuration and closing mechanism must be such that it facilitates sufficient ventilation to the bees and brood at all times and prevents overheating or suffocation during transport.
- b. The colony should forage normally within 24 hours after delivery during normal, dry, and mild weather (above 17 degrees C).
- c. There are few to no dead or dying bees seen in front of the hives.