



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER NICOLE "NIKKI" FRIED

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### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE APIARY INSPECTION LAW

#### **Chapter 586, Florida Statutes and Rule 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code**

The honey bee industry of Florida is of major importance in the pollination of various agricultural crops and in the production of high quality honey and honey bee products. Honey bee pests and unwanted races of honey bees that threaten this important industry must be regulated. To accomplish this, the Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection must register and inspect honey bee colonies in order to certify them as meeting the requirements of freedom or substantial freedom from honey bee pests of regulatory significance and freedom from unwanted races of honey bees. Therefore, the following is required by law, Chapter 586, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code, to assist in the protection of the apiary industry.

**Registration:** Each beekeeper having honey bee colonies within the state must register with the Department using application form FDACS-08176 and pay the proper registration fee (see below for fee scale). Upon approval of the application, the Department will issue to the beekeeper a Certificate of Beekeeping Registration and the local apiary inspector will visit the apiary to conduct a routine apiary inspection. This certificate must be renewed annually on or prior to the anniversary date of the certificate.

Each application for registration or renewal of registration (FDACS-08176) must be accompanied by the proper registration fee based on the total number of colonies operated by the registrant as follows:

<u>Number of Honey Bee Colonies</u>	<u>Fees</u>
1 - 5	\$ 10
6 - 40	\$ 20
41 - 200	\$ 40
201 - 500	\$ 70
501 - over	\$100

The penalty fee for late payments shall be \$10.00. The law makes no provision for exemption from payment of this fee due to a person's disability or age. The certificate of registration must be renewed before the expiration date.

Fees for special inspection services may vary depending on the service requested. For further information contact: The Division of Plant Industry at (352) 395-4600.

**Inspection:** Each apiary shall be inspected by the Department at such intervals as the Department deems best for the detection of honey bee pests and unwanted races of honey bees.

**Inspection Conditions:** Each apiary site shall be maintained in such a manner as to allow reasonable access for inspection. All hives must have movable frames.

**Identification of Honey Bee Hives:** All honey bee hives must be permanently imprinted on the upper left hand corner in letters at least ½ inch in height with the beekeeper's firm number issued by the Department. This number may be applied with paint, permanent ink marker or legible permanent marking method. Commercial beekeepers must post a 5" x 9" placard at each apiary location that is visible to the public with emergency contact information to include owner name and telephone number.

**Certificate of Apiary Registration:** A certificate is required:

- A on each sale or movement of honey bees within the state;
- B on all out-of-state movements; and
- C on all shipments moving into Florida from outside the state, unless accompanied by an inspection certificate from the state of origin.

**Quarantine and Destruction or Treatment of Infested Hives:**

- A All hives found infested with American Foulbrood disease shall be destroyed by burning. Other hives in the bee yard shall be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days. Compensation shall be paid at ½ the estimated equipment value, not to exceed \$25.00 **for the first 10 hives, after which payment will be discounted if the disease rate exceeds 50 percent of the total colony inventory, payment will be discounted 50 percent.**
- B Hives infested with other related honey bee pests and any unwanted races of honey bees shall be quarantined and treated as prescribed by the Department. No compensation will be awarded for such action.

**Abandoned Apiaries:** Any apiary found without proper identification or registration information shall be considered abandoned. Following a reasonable effort to contact the owner, the Department shall dispose of such equipment following guidelines detailed in Rule 5B-54, Florida Administrative Code.

**Penalties:** Any person who violates the provisions of Chapter 586, Florida States, or rules adopted thereunder shall for the first offense be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, and upon a second or subsequent conviction thereof shall be guilty of a felony of the third degree. The Department may, after notice and hearing, impose a fine not exceeding \$5,000 for the violation of any of the provisions of this law or rules thereunder.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT THE DPI-HELPLINE, DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY, POST OFFICE BOX 147100, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32614-7100, 1-888-397-1517, OR EMAIL [DPIHelpline@FDACS.gov](mailto:DPIHelpline@FDACS.gov).**

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