



Production rules for bees Organic reform Delegated act

**Expert Group
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EU harmonized rules for bees

Recital (45) Since organic production is the most developed for bovine animals, ovine animals, caprine animals, equine animals, cervine animals and porcine animals, as well as for poultry, rabbits and **bees, additional detailed production rules should apply to those species. For those species it is necessary for the Commission to lay down certain requirements that are important for the production of those animals**, such as requirements for stocking density, minimum surfaces and characteristics, as well as technical requirements for housing. For other species, such requirements should be laid down once additional detailed production rules apply to those species.



Derogation origin of bees, treatments apiaries, fight against Varroa

Recital (46) In order to ensure quality, traceability, compliance with this Regulation and adaptation to technical developments, the power to adopt certain acts should be delegated to the Commission in respect of the reduction of the **derogations concerning the origin of animals**, limits on organic nitrogen linked to the total stocking density, **the feeding of bee colonies, acceptable treatments for the disinfection of apiaries, methods and treatments to fight against Varroa destructor**, and detailed livestock production rules for further species.





Empowerments Delegated act Derogation origin of bees, treatments apiaries, fight against Varroa

Article 14 Livestock production rules

2. The Commission is empowered to adopt **delegated acts** in accordance with Article 54 **amending**:

- (a) points **1.3.4.2 (renovation of apiaries)**, 1.3.4.4.2 and 1.3.4.4.3 of Part II of Annex II **by reducing the percentages as regards the origin of animals**, once sufficient availability on the Union market of organic animals has been established;
- (c) point 1.9.6.2(b) of Part II of Annex II as regards the **feeding of bee colonies**;
- (d) points 1.9.6.3(b) and (e) of Part II of Annex II as regards the **acceptable treatments for the disinfection of apiaries and the methods and treatments to fight against Varroa destructor**;

Need to activate IA Art 14(2)(c) to add pollen

Empowerments Implementing act

Livestock production rules

Article 14 Livestock production rules

3. The Commission shall, where appropriate, adopt implementing acts regarding Part II of Annex II providing rules on:

(b) the stocking density and the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas that are to be complied with for specific livestock species to ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met in accordance with points 1.6.3, 1.6.4 and 1.7.2,

(c) the characteristics of and technical requirements for the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas;

(d) the characteristics of and technical requirements for buildings and pens for all livestock species **other than bees**, to ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met in accordance with point 1.7.2;

(e) requirements for vegetation and the characteristics of protected facilities and open air areas.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 55(2).



Scope

ANNEX I

OTHER PRODUCTS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 2(1)

Beeswax included in the scope

Comment change from current rules



Livestock production rules

General requirements

1. General requirements

1.1 **Except in the case of beekeeping**, landless livestock production, where the farmer intending to produce organic livestock does not manage agricultural land and has not established a written cooperation agreement with a farmer as regards the use of organic production units or in-conversion production units for that livestock, shall be prohibited.





Livestock production rules

Conversion period

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.2 Conversion

1.2.2 Conversion periods specific to the type of animal production are set out as follows:

(f) **12 months for bees.**

During the conversion period, the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping.

However, non-organic beeswax may be used:

- (i) where beeswax from organic beekeeping is not available on the market;
- (ii) where it is proven free of contamination with products or substances not authorised for use in organic production; and
- (iii) provided that it comes from the cap;

ES comment Honey caps, in principle, are more free of residues than the brood caps. They should be prioritized as much as possible

No change compared to Art 44 Reg 889/2008

Livestock production rules

Origin of animals

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.3 Origin of animals

1.3.1 Without prejudice to the rules on conversion, organic livestock shall be born or hatched and raised on organic production units.



Livestock production rules

Derogation non-organic animals



Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.3.4 Use of non-organic animals

1.3.4.2 By way of derogation from point 1.3.1, for the **renovation of apiaries**, 20 % per year of the queen bees and swarms may be replaced by non-organic queen bees and swarms in the organic production unit, provided that the queen bees and swarms are placed in hives with combs or comb foundations coming from organic production units. In any case, one swarm or queen bee may be replaced per year by a non-organic swarm or a queen bee.

Comment changes compared to Art 9 (5) Reg 889/2008 10%

Livestock production rules

Nutrition



Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.4 Nutrition

1.4.1 General nutrition requirements

(e) with the exception of porcine animals, poultry and bees, livestock shall have permanent access to pasture whenever conditions allow or shall have permanent access to roughage;

Comment no change compared to Art 14(1)(d)(iii) Reg 834/2007

Livestock production rules

Additional general rules for bees

Origin of animals

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.9.6 For bees

1.9.6.1 Origin of animals

For beekeeping, preference shall be given to the use of *Apis mellifera* and their local ecotypes.

Comment no change compared to Art 8(2) Reg 889/2008



Livestock production rules

Additional general rules for bees

Nutrition

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.9.6.2 Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) at the end of the production season hives shall be left with sufficient reserves of honey and pollen for the bees to survive the winter;
- (b) bee colonies may only be fed where the survival of the colony is endangered due to climatic conditions. In such case, bee colonies shall be fed with organic honey, organic sugar syrups, or organic sugar.



Comment no change compared to Art 19(3)

ES dearth period instead of winter

ES to insert adverse conditions



Livestock production rules

Additional general rules for bees

Health care

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.9.6.3 Health care

With regard to health care, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) for the purposes of protecting frames, hives and combs, in particular from pests, only rodenticides used in traps, and appropriate products and substances authorised pursuant to Articles 9 and 24 for use in organic production shall be permitted;
- (b) physical treatments for disinfection of apiaries such as steam or direct flame shall be permitted;
- (c) the practice of destroying the **male** brood shall only be permitted for the purpose of isolating the infestation of Varroa destructor;
- (d) if, despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately and, if necessary, may be placed in isolation apiaries;
- (e) formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid, as well as menthol, thymol, eucalyptol or camphor, may be used in cases of infestation with Varroa destructor;
- (f) if a treatment is applied with chemically synthesised allopathic products, including antibiotics, other than products and substances authorised pursuant to Articles 9 and 24 for use in organic production, for the duration of that treatment, the treated colonies shall be placed in isolation apiaries and all the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping. Subsequently, the conversion period of 12 months laid down in point 1.2.2 shall apply to those colonies.

Comment no change compared to Article 25 of Reg 889/2008

~~ES~~ drone brood without male

Livestock production rules

Additional general rules for bees

Animal welfare

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.9.6.4 Animal welfare

With regard to beekeeping, the following additional general rules shall apply:

- (a) the destruction of bees in the combs as a method associated with the harvesting of apiculture products shall be prohibited;
- (b) mutilation such as clipping the wings of queen bees shall be prohibited.

Comment no change compared to Art 14(1)(b)(xi) Reg 834/2007 and to Art 18 Reg 889/2008





Livestock production rules

Additional general rules for bees

Housing and husbandry practices (1)

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.9.6.5 Housing and husbandry practices

With regard to housing and husbandry practices, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) apiaries shall be placed in areas which ensure the availability of nectar and pollen sources consisting essentially of organically produced crops or, where appropriate, of spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops that are only treated with low environmental impact methods;
- (b) apiaries shall be kept at sufficient distance from sources that may lead to the contamination of apiculture products or to the poor health of the bees;
- (c) the siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops or spontaneous vegetation or crops treated with low environmental impact methods equivalent to those provided for in Articles 28 and 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic. That requirement does not apply where flowering is not taking place, or the bee colonies are dormant;

Comment no change compared to Art 14(1)(b)(ix) and (x) Reg 834/2007 and Art 13 Reg 889/2008

Livestock production rules

Additional general rules for bees

Housing and husbandry practices (2)

Annex II Part II Livestock production rules

1.9.6.5 Housing and husbandry practices

- (d) the hives and materials used in beekeeping shall be made basically of natural materials presenting no risk of contamination to the environment or the apiculture products;
- (e) the beeswax for new foundations shall come from organic production units;
- (f) only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils may be used in the hives;
- (g) synthetic chemical repellents shall not be used during honey extraction operations;
- (h) brood combs shall not be used for honey extraction;
- (i) beekeeping shall not be considered as organic when practiced in regions or areas designated by Member States as regions or areas where organic beekeeping is not practicable.

Comment no changes compared to Art 14(1)(b) (ix) and (x) Reg 834/2007 and Art 13 Reg 889/2008



Basis for technical discussions

No Implementing acts for bees

Delegated act Article 14(2) amending point 1.9.6.2(b) of Part II of Annex II as regards the **feeding of bee colonies**

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

(b) bee colonies may only be fed where the survival of the colony is endangered due to climatic conditions. In such case, bee colonies shall be fed with organic honey, **organic pollen**, organic sugar syrups, or organic sugar.

Comments received from AT, ES, NO to add organic ES possibility of administering other organic protein sources such as beer yeast or chickpea flour could be considered