

EN

E-003572/2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.11.2025)

The EU specific animal health requirements for the movements of honeybees are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688¹ (Article 48 thereof). Among those there are no requirements related to sampling and testing of brood. Those requirements are related to the animal health situation in the apiaries of dispatch and to the situation in the surroundings. It is appropriate that those requirements are certified within a defined time frame before each movement between Member States.

Validity of the animal health certificates is also laid down in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 (Article 91(3) thereof) and applies to all certificates for every species. That validity period is to cater for one movement of consignments with one certificate but not for several. Derogations from the standard validity period and from the one movement rules are currently limited to very specific cases where those derogations are necessary and possible (e.g., for certain individual equine animals participating in races, etc.).

This Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 which includes the above requirements for honeybees, was laid down after due discussions with experts from the Member States. These are based on scientific risks assessments by the European Food Safety Authority and they also confirm to international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health. The Commission considers that the current requirements ensure safe movements of honeybees between Member States and does not plan any amendment for migratory beekeeping movements between Member States or to regulate a movement from an establishment together with a return movement to the same establishment.

¹ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/688/oj.