

# Are you intending to sell honey and mixtures of bee products in South Africa?

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is urging all the producers, packers and importers of honey or mixtures of bee products in South Africa to comply with the regulations relating to the grading, packing and marking of honey or mixture of bee products. Compliance with the requirements of the relevant regulations is quite instrumental to enhancing market access for smallholder and commercial beekeepers and or processors.

The sale of honey and mixtures of bee products is regulated in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), Regulation No. R.835 dated 25 August 2000. The regulation prescribes that honey and mixtures of bee products shall comply with the key elements which include, among others, grading, packing and marking requirements. Producers, packers and importers of honey and mixtures of bee products are advised to comply with the local market requirements enshrined in the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) and its regulations in order to produce good quality honey and mixtures of bee products that can compete in the formal markets. Food safety and quality measures should be a priority in all honey and mixtures of bee products producers/ packers and importers.

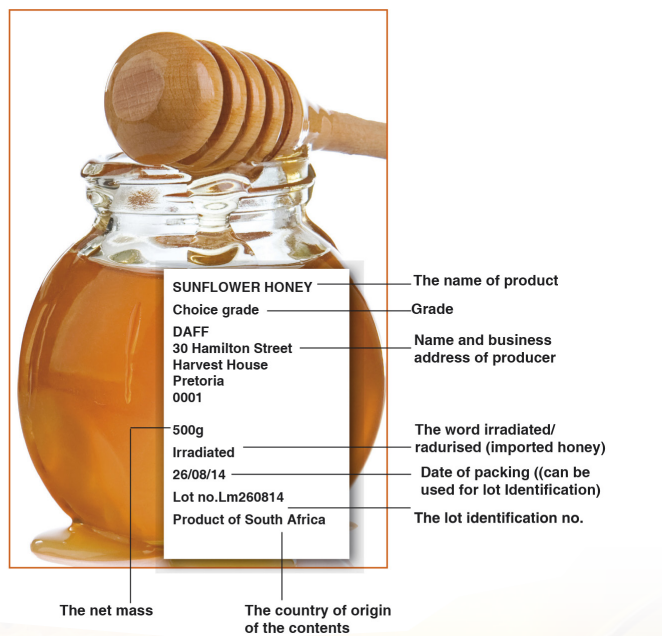
It is important to note that honey may be subjected to laboratory tests to determine the composition, quality and ripeness. If the honey does not comply with any one of these selected tests, then it shall be deemed as not complying with standards for grades of honey. The ability to comply is quite instrumental to the attainment of, among others, the objectives of the National Development Plan and the Agricultural Policy Action Plan relative to fighting unemployment, alleviating poverty, ensuring economic growth and positioning South Africa in the world through marketing and supplying the world with honey and mixtures of bee products that meets market requirements, i.e. marked and packaged properly, good quality and healthy and safe for human consumption.

The apiculture industry plays an important role in generating employment and in increasing family income. Amid the complexities in the apiculture industry, like many developing countries, South Africa is striving to improve the quality of the honey and mixtures of bee products. Amongst the challenges in question, control of regulated diseases and pests of honey bees has been one of the fundamental priorities. American

foul brood is currently a challenge to certain parts of the Western Cape Province resulting in major economic damage to the industry. In essence, Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices are critical in order to sustain this crucial industry.

As part of preventing and minimizing the potential introduction of exotic pests of honey bees, it is crucial that imported honey and mixtures of bee products must comply with the import conditions as stipulated by the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) of the DAFF and applicable food safety requirements as prescribed by the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectant Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972) of the Department of Health. An Import Permit is required to import honey and mixtures of bee products in the Republic of South Africa, and that can be obtained from DAFF.

For further information on other regulations for local produce such as agronomy, deciduous fruit, animal products, processed products, local vegetables and local citrus and subtropical fruit, please contact the Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards on 012 319 6118.



Honey container properly marked as per regulation.



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Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA