



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS Note 2020/19

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### IMPORTS OF HONEY FROM THIRD COUNTRIES - SPECIES OF BEE

#### Purpose

1. To inform OVSs that imported honey from a third country to the UK may only originate from the bee species *Apis mellifera*.

#### Background

2. On the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the Official Controls Regulation (OCR) introduced a new certificate for imported honey in Regulation (EU) [2019/628](#).
  - In Article 2 of that Regulation “honey” is defined in point 1 of Part IX of Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013: “*Honey shall be understood as honey within the meaning of Council Directive 2001/110/EC including as regards to the main types of honey.*”
  - Annex I, point 1 of Council Directive 2001/110/EC defines honey as: “*Honey is the natural sweet substance produced by Apis mellifera bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant-sucking insects on the living parts of plants, which the bees collect, transform by*



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*combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in honeycombs to ripen and mature.”*

3. TRACES only provides one option in Part I of the Common Veterinary Entry Document/Common Health Entry Document (CVED/CHED) regarding the species of bee for honey imports. We recommend that OVSs check the bee species entered in the Export Health Certificate (EHC) to ensure it is declared as *Apis mellifera* even if reported as such in the CVED/CHED Part I. If any species other than *Apis mellifera* are entered in the EHC, the consignment cannot enter the UK or EU as it does not meet the legal definition of honey and therefore the honey marketing rules.

### **Action for OVSs**

To note the above information.

### **Contact point for enquiries**

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