



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/47

31 October 2024

OUTBREAK OF SMALL HIVE BEETLE IN SICILY, ITALY

Purpose

1. To inform you that imports of the following commodities are prohibited from the region of Sicily in Italy due to outbreaks of Small Hive Beetle:
 - a. honeybees
 - b. bumblebees
 - c. unprocessed apiculture by-products
 - d. used beekeeping equipment
 - e. apiculture products in honeycomb intended for human consumption.

Background

1. Small Hive Beetle (SHB) was first discovered in Italy in 2014 and safeguard declarations restricting imports into GB of affected bee and apiculture commodities from the region of Calabria have been in force since January 2023. The following safeguard declarations give effect to these prohibitions:
 - [Small hive beetle in Calabria, Italy: declaration of special measures \(England\)](#)
 - [Small hive beetle in Calabria, Italy: declaration of special measures \(Scotland\)](#)
 - [Small hive beetle in Calabria, Italy: declaration of special measures \(Wales\)](#)
2. Italy reported a new outbreak of SHB to [WAHIS](#) on 16 October 2024. The outbreak was detected in the region of Sicily.

3. To mitigate the risk posed by these products, the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance has determined that further safeguard measures under the [Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations \(2011\)](#) are necessary to temporarily suspend imports of the following commodities from the region of Sicily:
 1. honeybees
 2. bumblebees
 3. unprocessed apiculture by-products
 4. used beekeeping equipment
 5. apiculture products in honeycomb intended for human consumption.

4. The following safeguards give effect to these prohibitions:
 - [Small hive beetle in Sicily, Italy: declaration of special measures \(England\)](#)
 - [Small hive beetle in Sicily, Italy: declaration of special measures \(Scotland\)](#)
 - [Small hive beetle in Sicily, Italy: declaration of special measures \(Wales\)](#)

5. The special measures will apply from 1 November 2024 and will continue to apply until they are revoked or amended.

Action for OVSs

6. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team