



COLONY STRENGTH INSPECTION REQUEST

Grower Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Beekeeper Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Colony Information: Total No. Colonies: _____ Maximum Frames/Colony: _____

Site Address: _____

Description of Colonies (Color, Markings, etc): _____

****Maps of drop locations MUST be provided before inspection!****

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| <p>Please Indicate Requestor:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Grower</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Beekeeper</p> <p>Invoice:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mail</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Fax</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Email</p> |
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I have read the colony strength information provided and request that the above-listed colonies be inspected for strength and hereby agree to pay the cost of the inspection at the time the certificate is issued. Inspection costs will be based upon the established hourly rates for the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Signature of Requestor Date

Rev. 12/22 AL





COLONY STRENGTH INSPECTION INFORMATION

Requesting Inspection: Beekeepers or growers can make strength inspections during pollination season. The beekeeper shall be notified, to the greatest extent possible, and allowed to observe and/or assist in making the colonies available for inspection. The following information is required to expedite inspections:

- o Requestor name, address and contact phone number
- o Beekeeper name, address and contact phone number
- o Quantity of colonies per location & maximum number of physical frames per hive
- o Physical address and map of colony drop locations

All colonies shall be made available for inspection and NOT double stacked, banded or presented in such a fashion as to prevent inspection.

Timing: Inspections will be made when the outside temperature at the location is a minimum of 60 degrees Fahrenheit, or when most colonies in the apiary have bee flight as determined by the inspector. Wind speed must be less than 10 miles per hour. Inspections are scheduled in the order received.

Number of Hives Inspected: For every 100 colonies, 15 are selected randomly (15%). Apiaries of less than 100 colonies will have a minimum of 15 hives inspected. Apiaries with less than 15 colonies will have all colonies inspected. Dead out or diseased colonies occurring in the official random sample shall be recorded as part of the inspection.

Method of Inspection: The cluster count method will be utilized. A populated frame is defined as two sides of a standard 8" x 17" frame at least 75% covered by bees at a density of four or more bees per square inch. Standard frames with less than 75% coverage shall be combined and counted toward a populated frame of bees. Non-standard frames shall be converted to the equivalency of a standard frame. For example: three populated medium frames equal two standard frames. Three populated shallow or small frames equal one standard frame.

Fees: The requestor shall pay all fees as established by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors BEFORE receiving the certification form with results of the inspection. Current rates are \$87.00 per hour per inspector. Additionally, a quarter-hour travel time for each inspector, per non-contiguous location/site, per day of inspection will be charged at the \$87.00 per hour rate.

Rev 12/22 AL

