
Live Bees



Contents must be either queen honeybees or honeybees. Bees must be securely packaged (see DMM 601.9.3.11) to provide adequate air and they must be kept within a tolerable temperature range at 40° to 100° F.

The use of insecticides must be eliminated in Postal Service areas that will be occupied by bee shipments.

Air Transportation

- Only queen honeybees may be shipped by air transportation (i.e., Express Mail, Priority Mail, or First-Class Mail rates).
- Alert personnel to ensure the queen honeybees' timely and safe dispatch to, and arrival at, the destination.
- Equipment must be available for transportation up to the 4th zone. Advance arrangements must be made for shipment to addresses beyond the 4th zone.

Surface Transportation

- Any type of live honeybees may be shipped in the continental United States by surface transportation at Parcel Post rates.
- Alert personnel to ensure the honeybees' timely and safe dispatch to, and arrival at, the destination.
- Equipment must be available for transportation up to the 4th zone. Advance arrangement must be made for shipment beyond the 4th zone.

526.22 Claims for Bee Shipments

Indemnity claims (see DMM 609) for damage, partial loss, and loss of insured shipments of mailable bees are accepted only in the following situations:

- a. Death of the bees resulted from Postal Service handling after conditions for mailability were met and when there was strong likelihood that the shipment could have been safely transported.
- b. Contents were lost because of damage to the container while in Postal Service custody.
- c. The complete package was lost in the mail.

Special handling was purchased as required under DMM 601.9.3.8.

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