

CRITERIA FOR THE INCLUSION OF DISEASES, INFECTIONS AND INFESTATIONS IN THE OIE LIST

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The OIE list is a list of terrestrial and aquatic animal diseases, infections or infestations of compulsory notification by Member Countries to the OIE (181 as of 2017). Once a disease, infection or infestation is listed, the OIE: (I) verifies, validates and disseminates the information reported by each Member Country to other countries, which can take the necessary preventive action, and (II) can develop standards for harmonising disease detection, prevention and control, and for safe international trade in animals and their products. The OIE standards are recognised by the World Trade Organisation as reference international sanitary rules for animal health.

In order to be included in the list, a disease, infection or infestation has to fulfil 4 criteria. For terrestrial animals, the criteria are as follows:

1. International spread of the pathogenic agent has been proven.
2. At least one country has demonstrated freedom or impending freedom from the disease, infection or infestation in populations of susceptible animals.
3. Reliable means of detection and diagnosis exist, and a precise case definition is available so that an affected animal can be clearly identified and distinguished from other diseases, infections or infestations.
4. Significant impact on the health of either humans or domestic animals or wildlife.

The list is reviewed regularly by the OIE Specialist Commissions. Modifications (addition of new pathogenic agents or removal of diseases, infections or infestations already listed) can be proposed by Member Countries, experts from OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, International Organisations with which the OIE has cooperation agreements, or the Specialist Commissions themselves. If modifications are adopted by the annual World Assembly of Delegates (the highest authority of the OIE), the new list comes into force on 1 January of the following year.

For year 2017, the OIE list is comprised of 116 animal diseases, infections and infestations, including 6 that affect bees. These are: infection with *Melissococcus plutonius* (European foulbrood), infection with *Paenibacillus larvae* (American foulbrood), infestation with *Acarapis woodi*, infestation with *Tropilaelaps* spp., infestation with *Varroa* spp. (Varroosis) and infestation with *Aethina tumida* (Small hive beetle).

Key words: OIE list; criteria; inclusion; diseases; bees