



Honey Directive Review

CDG Animal Production 22 April 2024

Final text voted in EP plenary on 10 April

6 main areas:

- Origin labelling (Art. 2(4))
- Removal of the term “filtered honey” (Art. 2, 3 & Annex I (2)b(viii))
- Analysis methods (Art. 4) – implementing act within 4 years
- Traceability for authenticity & origin (Art. 4a) – delegated acts within 5 years
- Honey Platform (Art. 4b)
- Transposition, application, stock exhaustion

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Country of origin labelling (Art. 2(4)):

- Countries of origin (where the honey has been harvested) must appear on the label **in the principal field of vision, in descending order, together with the % of each origin – 5% tolerance**
- **Option for MS:** list all countries of origin but require % **for the 4 largest shares** only if they represent more than 50%
- For packs containing **less than 30 g**, the names of the countries of origin may be indicated on the label using the **ISO 3166-1 two-letter code (alfa-2)**

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Product names:

- The term “**filtered honey**” is removed (Art. 2, 3, Annex I (2)b(viii))

Analysis methods (Art. 4 – implementing powers):

- The Commission must **within 4 years** from the date of entry into force of the amending Directive adopt **implementing acts** laying down methods of analysis to **detect adulterated honey**

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Traceability for authenticity & origin (new **Art. 4a** – delegated powers):

- The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts laying down:
 - a) the criterion of ‘mainly’ as regards the floral or vegetable origin of honey (unchanged);
 - b) **composition criteria** to ensure that honey (except for baker’s honey) has **not been heated** or treated in such a way that the natural enzymes have been either destroyed or significantly deactivated, taking into account the **invertase index**;
 - c) the criteria to ensure and verify that **pollen is not removed** and that the absolute pollen content and pollen spectrum are not modified (except for baker’s honey), taking into account the **pollen content, minimal size of pollen and mesh size of filters**;
 - d) the minimal pollen content in baker’s honey following the removal of foreign inorganic or organic matter (unchanged);
 - e) the methods and criteria to determine the **place where honey has been harvested** and Union-wide traceability requirements for honey from the harvesting producer or importer to the consumer.
- The Commission must adopt delegated acts under (b) to (e) within **5 years**
- Before, the Commission must carry out **feasibility studies** (including for (e) an analysis of available digital solutions or methods, including, where appropriate, a **unique identifier code** or similar techniques)
- The Commission must provide for appropriate **transitional arrangements** for products placed on the market before the date of application of those delegated acts
- The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts to **amend Annex II adapting composition criteria** to the upcoming delegated act under (b)

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Honey Platform (new **Art. 4b** – expert group):

- composition:
 - **Member States**, competent authorities and designated laboratories;
 - **stakeholders** in the honey supply chain;
 - **civil society**;
 - experts appointed in a personal capacity who have proven **knowledge and experience** in the areas covered by the Directive;
 - **academia, including universities, research institutes and other scientific** organisations
- tasks:
 - gather data for **methods to improve authenticity** controls, in particular methods for the **detection of adulteration** in honey, with a view to possibly harmonising them;
 - provide recommendations for a **Union traceability system**, tracing honey back to the harvesting producer or importer;
 - provide recommendations on the possible need to update **composition criteria** and other quality parameters laid down in the Directive;
 - provide recommendations with a view to establishing a **Union reference laboratory**.
- **chaired by the Commission**, which will adopt rules on the composition and working methods of the platform.
The Commission may invite experts with **specific expertise on an ad hoc basis**

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Transposition, application, stock exhaustion:

- **Transposition** by MS: **18 months**
- **Application** for operators: **24 months**
- Honey products labelled before **24 months** after entry into force can continue to be marketed until stock exhaustion.

Thank you



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