COMMISSION DECISION

of 15 September 2000

on certain protection measures with regard to equidae coming from certain parts of the United States of America affected by West Nile fever

(notified under document number C(2000) 2711)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/551/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/496/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC [1], as last amended by Directive 96/43/EC [2], and in particular Article 18(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Council Directive 90/426/EEC of 26 June 1990 lays down the animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae [3].

(2) In certain states of the United States of America cases of West Nile fever, a non-contagious vector-transmitted viral disease accompanied by clinical signs of encephalitis, have been reported in horses.

(3) The presence of this disease is liable to constitute a danger for humans and equidae.

(4) Pending the meeting of the Standing Veterinary Committee the Commission should take interim protective measures with regard to equidae coming from the affected parts of the territory of the United States of America,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. In addition to the animal health certificate required in accordance with Council Directive 90/426/EEC for the temporary admission of registered horses, the re-entry after temporary export of registered horses and the imports and transit of equidae, coming from areas in the United States of America specified in Annex I to this Decision, a supplementary certificate in accordance with the specimen in Annex II to this Decision, duly completed and signed by the central competent veterinary authorities of the United States, shall be required for individual equidae.

2. The provisions in paragraph 1 shall not apply to equidae coming from areas outside those specified in Annex I and which are transported on main roads in transit without stopping through the areas specified in Annex I directly to an airport situated within the areas specified in Annex I for subsequent air transport to the Community. During the transit and transhipment operations suitable measures must be taken to protect the equidae from vector insects.

Article 2

Member States shall amend the measures they apply with regard to the United States of America to bring them into line with this Decision.

They shall inform the Commission thereof.

Article 3

This Decision shall apply until 31 October 2000.

Article 4

This Decision is adressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 15 September 2000.

For the Commission

David BYRNE

Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 268, 24.9.1991, p. 56.
[2] OJ L 162, 1.7.1996, p. 149.
[3] OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 42.

ANNEX I

In the United States of America the States of:

— New York, including New York City
— New Jersey
— Massachusetts
— Connecticut
— Rhode Island

ANNEX II

Supplementary Certificate

Reference Number of Animal Health Certificate: .....

The equine animal described in the above mentioned animal health certificate complies with one of the following conditions:

(1) Either it comes from a holding situated in the centre of an area of at least 50 km radius around that holding where there was no case of West Nile fever reported in equidae during the past 15 days, and had no contact during the preceding 15 days with equidae which have been resident on holdings where West Nile fever was confirmed during the previous 30 days (1),

or

(2) it comes from a holding situated within an area of 50 km radius around a holding on which West Nile fever was confirmed in equidae during the previous 30 days and has prior to dispatch

— either undergone pre-movement isolation under vector-protected conditions for a period of at least 21 days and during that period the body temperature taken daily remained within the normal physiological range and has been subjected to a IG-M capture ELISA test for the detection of antibodies against West Nile virus with negative result, carried out on a blood sample taken not earlier than 17 days from the date the isolation commenced (1),

or

— been subjected to two capture ELISA tests for the detection of antibodies against West Nile virus, with negative result in the case of IG-M capture ELISA, and with positive result at a serum dilution of 1 in 100 in the case of IG-G caputre ELISA, carried out on a blood sample taken within 21 days of dispatch (1).

Date and place	Name and function	Signature of the official veterinarian

(1) Delete as appropriate