COMMISSION DECISION

of 31 October 2000

amending Decision 2000/551/EC 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) 3161)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2000/695/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(7) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) 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.

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

(3) The Commission therefore adopted Decision 2000/551/EC 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 [3].

(4) In order to adapt the measures to the current epidemiological situation and the test requirements to the technique used in the exporting country, it is necessary to amend Commission Decision 2000/551/EC on certain protection measures with regard to equidae coming from the United States of America.

(5) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Veterinary Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Annex II to Decision 2000/551/EC is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

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 30 November 2000.

Article 4

This Decision is adressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 31 October 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. 1.
[3] OJ L 234, 16.9.2000, p. 46.

ANNEX

'ANNEX II

Supplementary certificate

Reference No of animal health certificate:……

The equine animal described in the abovementioned 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 30 km radius around that holding where no case of West Nile fever has been reported in equidae during the past 15 days, and has had no contact during the preceding 15 days with equidae which have been resident on holdings where West Nile fever has been confirmed during the previous 30 days (1),

or

(2) it comes from a holding situated within an area of 30 km radious around a holding on which West Nile fever has been 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, or since entry from a Member State of the European Community, 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 not more than five days prior to dispatch if entered from a Member State of the European Community for a period of less than 21 days (1),

or

— been subjected to two tests for the detection of antibodies against West Nile virus, with negative result in the case of IG-M capture ELISA, and with positive reuslt at a serum dilution of 1 in 100 in the case of either a IG-G capture ELISA (1), or a plaque-reduction neutralisation test (1), 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'