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## ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/15

### AMENDED CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM JAPAN – ADOPTION OF NEW PIROPLASMOSIS POLICY

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) advises amended quarantine requirements for the permanent and temporary importation of horses from Japan to take effect immediately.

On 7 January 2000 quarantine requirements for the temporary importation of horses that are serologically positive for piroplasmosis for competition, exhibition or racing purposes were promulgated (Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 2000/02). Quarantine requirements for the temporary importation of horses from Japan have been amended to permit the importation of seropositive horses. Moreover the final import risk analysis (IRA) report on the temporary importation of piroplasmosis seropositive horses (AQPM 1999/81) recommended that the existing conditions for the permanent importation of horses be amended with regard to testing requirements for piroplasmosis and tick inspection of horses.

Quarantine requirements for the permanent and temporary importation of horses from Japan have been amended to include testing all horses for *Babesia equi* and *Babesia caballi* with the indirect fluorescent antibody test, increased inspection of horses for ticks both during pre-export and post-arrival quarantine, and washing of horses with a parasiticide effective for ticks in pre-export quarantine (Attachments 1 and 2). Provision has been made for the temporary import of horses serologically positive for piroplasmosis. It should be noted that the conditions now require that the horse has resided in an establishment where no case of equine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia risticii* and *Ehrlichia equi*), previously Potomac fever, has occurred during the previous 3 months (Clause 2.1). Conditions for the permanent importation of horses from Japan have also been amended to state that the horse received no vaccinations during pre-export quarantine (2.1 vi) and specifies that the sample collected from the endometrium of mares for contagious equine metritis testing be done during oestrus (clause 2.1 viii). These conditions take effect immediately. Conditions for the importation of horses from other countries will be amended shortly and circulated to stakeholders for information.

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