



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

JUN 19 2008

Washington, DC 20534

EJ Hurst II  
550M Ritchie Highway  
PMB 124  
Severna Park, MD 21146

For Further Inquiry Contact:  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street, N.W.  
Room 841, HOLC Building  
Washington, D.C. 20534  
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Office

RE: Request for Information, FOIA Request No. 2008-06491

Dear Mr. Hurst:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request for a copy of any/all documents or information regarding the Bureau of Prisons suspension of the use of the Ion Spectrometry device at any facility, regional, or national level. We have located and are providing four (4) pages of information that are responsive to your request. No pages have been excised or withheld.

I trust this has been responsive to your request. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Wilson J. Moorer, Paralegal at 202-353-4879.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson J. Moorer", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish at the end.

Wilson J. Moorer, Paralegal  
Wanda M. Hunt  
Chief, FOIA/PA Section

Enclosures: 4 pages

cc: File



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, DC 20534

April 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FROM:

*Joyce K. Conley*  
JOYCE K. CONLEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

*Thomas R. Kane*  
THOMAS R. KANE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
INFORMATION, POLICY, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

SUBJECT: Suspension of Use of Ion Spectrometry Equipment

This memorandum is to advise you that you are to immediately suspend all use of any ion spectrometry drug detection equipment. The software for these machines requires correction, and we have contacted the manufacturers to ensure they make the necessary modifications. After the problems associated with these machines are resolved, we will notify you regarding bringing the equipment back online.

Any visitor whose visiting privileges are currently suspended as a result of the use of ion spectrometry drug detection equipment may request the Warden consider reinstatement of visiting privileges. In addition, inmates can make requests to unit staff to have such a visitor considered for reinstatement of visiting privileges. Inmates are to be advised through normal staff-to-inmate communications channels (such as, town hall meetings) that they can make such a request.

Appropriate staff will review each request from an inmate or a visitor and make a written recommendation to the Warden as to whether privileges should be reinstated. Reinstatement of visiting privileges should not occur in those instances where the basis of the suspension was not due to the use of ion spectrometry drug detection equipment (e.g., the suspension is based on inappropriate behavior in the visiting room).

In addition, ion spectrometry drug detection equipment may not be used to test for the presence of illegal substances on inmates, on inmates' personal belongings, in housing units, or in work areas.

Please maintain all ion spectrometry drug detection equipment and all relevant documentation until further notice.

We have attached talking points for use by staff in addressing questions from inmates and visitors and for posting as a notice to inmates.

Attachment

## Ion Spectrometry Drug Detection Equipment

We have discovered that our ion spectrometry drug detection equipment has software problems.

The Office of Security Technology (OST) has notified the manufacturers of these problems and they are working on corrective action.

The Bureau of Prisons is suspending the use of ion spectrometry drug detection equipment until the problems are corrected by the manufacturers and the results are confirmed by OST.

Inmates can make a request to unit staff that the Warden consider reinstating a visitor's visiting privileges if the visitor is currently under suspension based solely on a positive test by ion spectrometry drug detection equipment.

Likewise, the suspended visitor can make a written request to the Warden to consider reinstating his or her visiting privileges if the visitor is currently under suspension based solely on a positive test by ion spectrometry drug detection equipment.

The Warden will designate specific staff to investigate and confirm whether the suspension currently in effect on a specific visitor was based on the use of ion spectrometry drug detection equipment and was not taken because of a violation of the institution's rules or practices.

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## Use of Ion Spectrometry Equipment Suspended

On April 10, 2008, Assistant Directors Joyce K. Conley, CPD, and Thomas R. Kane, IPPA, issued a joint memorandum to all BOP CEOs advising that the use of any ion spectrometry drug detection equipment has been suspended effective immediately Bureau-wide due to problems with the machines' software. The manufacturers have been asked to make all necessary corrections/modifications. After the problems have been fixed and confirmed by the BOP's Office of Security Technology, CEOs will be contacted with respect to bringing the equipment back online. Until further notice, institutions will retain all ion spectrometry drug detection equipment and all relevant documentation.

In those cases where a visitor's visiting privileges are currently suspended as a result of the use of ion spectrometry drug detection equipment, the visitor may request the Warden consider reinstatement of visiting privileges, and/or an inmate can make requests for reinstatement of visiting privileges for such a visitor directly to unit staff. Inmates are to be informed via normal staff-to-inmate communications channels (e.g., town hall meetings) that they can make such requests. Talking points are available for staff use with inmates or visitors and for posting notices to inmates.

Appropriate staff will review each request from an inmate or a visitor and make a written recommendation to the Warden as to whether privileges should be reinstated. Visiting privileges should not be reinstated in those cases where the use of ion spectrometry drug detection equipment **was not** the basis for the suspension (e.g., the suspension is based instead on inappropriate behavior in the visiting room).

Additionally, at this time, ion spectrometry drug detection devices **may not** be used to test for the presence of illegal substances on inmates, on inmates' personal belongings, in housing units, or in work areas.

Date last updated: 04-23-2008

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