FedCure FOIA Litigation
2005-03326

Instructions for the provision of requested documents

Your institution responded that it maintains documents in one or more of the following categories:

A. Manufacturing documents or studies stating the accuracy of the ion spectrometer scanning methods
B. Documents identifying the number of visitors turned away because of the scanning method
C. Information related to the training methods used for operators
D. Staff comments regarding training methods used for operators
E. Records of equipment failure and repairs

Please forward all responsive documents on or before August 21, 2009. If you need additional time, contact Wilson Moorer via email.

The copies should be submitted in electronic format to WMoorer@bop.gov. If you are unable to provide electronic copies, please let Wilson know.

To ensure that the records are processed properly, either:
1. Include the enclosed cover sheets at the front of each category of responsive documents when scanning, or

2. Send the documents in separate emails that clearly specify the category of records you are sending.

If you have questions, please call Wilson Moorer at 202.514.6655.
DATE: May 1, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: (b)(7)c

FROM: (b)(7)c

SUBJECT: ION Track Instruments Program

As per our conversation, the following information is a synopsis of all staff training at FCI Otisville regarding the ION Track equipment, as well as maintenance problems, and persons we have contacted at ION Track Instruments regarding the effect of hand creams during the testing of visitors to the institution.

On October 22, 1998, FCI Otisville staff received training on the basic functions/operations of the ION Track Instruments - “Itemiser” but at the time gave the training. We are not sure of the exact date of the arrival of the ION track at FCI Otisville, or when its use was implemented as a pilot program. On October 22, 1998, the following staff were given the basic training for an 8 hour period:

On April 27, 1999, the SIS office received further training on the ION Track equipment because it would not work on a consistent basis. ION Track Instruments sent a representative to FCI Otisville to train the following staff on basic ION Track maintenance:

The purpose of training all of these staff was to ensure that the machine could be serviced on any given day/shift, as it consistently was inoperable.
On February 20, 2001, the ION Track machine was again not working correctly, and it was sent out for repair, free of charge. In March 2001, the (b)(7)c contacted ION Track Instruments to request training for staff of ION Track Instruments, and she stated training was not available to individual institutions, but FCI Otisville could send a staff member(s) to Boston for 3-days of training, but we would have to pay for the lodging of any staff sent for training (no name given) was on the road, would not be back for 2 weeks, but she would get back to us regarding any training opportunities never did contact the SIS office.

Prior to his departure to FCI Coleman gave basic training to who was the A-1 Lobby Officer. The ION Track machine is located in the A1 Lobby. administrative rights to the ION Track machine in the Lobby so that could conduct daily and monthly maintenance. On his own time, became familiar with the ION Track equipment, and is presently the only staff member with thorough knowledge of maintenance regarding this equipment.

NOTE: At no time were any certificates given to any staff receiving training of the ION Track “Itemizer”, but training was documented.

On April 23, 2002, it was brought to the attention that the ION Track machine was testing positive for THC and other narcotics after the application of different hand lotions. Mr. Nelson Jelders, Technical Support Division of the ION Track Company, was contacted by the SIS Office, and he stated they are aware that certain types of lotions and creams do test positive for various drugs. We were then transferred to the Chemist and left a voice mail message requesting him to contact our office.

On April 25, 2002, spoke, on behalf of the SIS Office, to Ed Geraghty, the Chemist on staff at ION Track Instruments, and told him of the positive testings from hand creams. Mr. Geraghty stated they are aware that some lotions may provide a false positive reading, but they do not have a definite list of all the different lotions that will cause a those readings. Mr. Geraghty stated that he believes that the problem with false positive readings could be operator related. Mr. Geraghty explained that the machine is designed to lightly glide over a surface as it vacuums molecules, and not to be rubbed over a surface like a vacuum cleaner. Mr. Geraghty explained the ION Track machine operates by testing the molecular weight of substances, and when staff are testing visitors, they might be over-loading the machine if the staff member was rubbing the vacuum across the person being tested. He explained the sample taken will be overloaded and could produce a false reading.

Furthermore, if the person being tested has just applied an excessive amount of perfumes or lotions, the sample could then be overloaded, which can also produce a false positive reading. Either way, the machine is sampling a minimum of 1,000 x more than it was designed to sample.

If documentation regarding the training of staff is needed, please contact the SIS Office.

If you have any further questions please contact me at 845-386-5855, ext. 202.
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Cover Sheet

This Section Contains:

C. Information related to the training methods used for operators

Location: FCI Otisville

Name and phone number of person conducting search: Carla Tomasetti 845-386-6700