MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FROM: JOYCE K. CONLEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
       CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS DIVISION

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.