

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

The following constitutes an agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, National Veterans Affairs Council #53 (AFGE-NVAC) concerning VHA Directive 2007-XXX, "Smoke-Free Policy for VA Health Care Facilities."

1. The national parties agree that bargaining unit employees will continue to be provided with reasonably accessible designated smoking areas.
2. Whenever practicable, smoking areas should not be within 35 feet of an entrance to a VA health care building or office building that is routinely used by patients, residents, employees or staff.
3. Where an established smoking area has been located within 35 feet of an entrance due to space constraints or other logistical limitations, such smoking area need not be relocated to comply with this provision or the subject Directive.
4. Bargaining unit employees will be permitted to smoke outside on the grounds so long as they avoid smoking around routinely used building entrances.
5. Appropriate signage will be installed to clarify where smoking is not permitted.
6. The appropriate management official shall provide the local Union President with a copy of this MOU upon receipt.



For the Department (VHA)



For National VA Council # 53

7-30-08
Date

7/28/08
Date