

August 22, 2005

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR MANAGING VHA HEALTH CARE FACILITIES  
ENGINEERING PROGRAMS**

- 1. PURPOSE:** This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive establishes policy for qualifications for managing Health Care Facilities Engineering Programs.
- 2. BACKGROUND:** A comprehensive review of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Facility Condition Assessments and other relevant information presented a need to prospectively reconsider the qualifications of managers of Health Care Facilities Engineering Programs. In consideration of the highly complex technical nature of today's health care facilities, the overall age of the infrastructure in which VHA delivers care and the available infrastructure-related resources, increased professional surveillance and technical management are prudent measures to help prevent untoward and potentially catastrophic events.
- 3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that managers with responsibility for the physical plant utility systems (nominally the Chief Engineer) must qualify as Engineers within the 800 series of the Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.
- 4. ACTION:** Facility Directors are responsible for ensuring:
  - a. That all vacancies are filled in compliance with this policy.
  - b. That those positions encumbered must be in compliance no later than January 1, 2006.
  - c. The managing officer of the Service or Service Line (Engineering, Facilities Management, et. al.) reports directly to Executive Leadership (i.e., the Associate Director or equivalent Chief Operating Officer).
  - d. That an individual who qualifies as an Engineer within the 800 series of the Office of Personnel Management qualification standards is the responsible for the facility management.
- 5. REFERENCES:** Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.
- 6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITIES:** The Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N) is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions may be addressed to 202-273-5844.

**VHA DIRECTIVE 2005-035**  
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**7. RESCISSIONS:** None. This VHA directive expires August 31, 2010.

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