

**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: **MAY 03 2007**

From: Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

Subj: VA Directive 6601, Removable Storage Media, Compliance Extension (WebCIMS 379391)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. VA Directive 6601, *Removable Storage Media*, mandates that only thumb drives certified as compliant with Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 140-2, *Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules*, and approved by VA, may be used.

2. VA tests have determined that some thumb drives described by vendors as FIPS 140-2 compliant do not, in fact, use the certified version of the software. In addition, some of the newer versions of thumb drive software sold by vendors have not been certified as FIPS 140-2 compliant. The Office of Information and Technology is working with thumb drive vendors to ensure that only certified and approved thumb drives are provided to VA. Furthermore, vendors providing FIPS 140-2 certified thumb drives have informed VA that they are experiencing production delays.

3. In order to allow adequate time to prepare and distribute certified and approved thumb drives, the mandatory implementation date for Department-wide use of certified and approved thumb drives has been extended to 90 days from the date of this memorandum. The Office of Information and Technology is responsible for distributing certified and approved thumb drives to ensure their business use complies with the requirements of VA Directive 6601. After the 90 day period, only VA-issued thumb drives that are certified and approved may be used. Thumb drives will not be removed from employees until certified and approved thumb drives have been issued to replace them.

4. Detailed operational guidance will be made available by the Office of IT Field Operations (005OP1). If there are any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Jennifer B. Duncan, Office of IT Field Security Operations (005OP1G), at (202) 273-8236.



Robert T. Howard