

OM 020-2003 (5360) HOLY DAYS CALLING FOR WORK PROSCRIPTION &
PUBLIC FAST DAYS FOR INMATES, RECOGNITION OF



Operations Memorandum

NUMBER: 020-2004 (5360)
DATE: 12/23/2003
SUBJECT: Holy Days Calling for
Work Proscription and
Public Fast Days for
Inmates, Recognition of

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/23/2004

1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.** To establish a list of appropriate days of work proscription for inmate members of religious groups within the Bureau. At the December 1990 Executive Staff meeting, approval was given for the development of a uniform list of recognized holy days on which inmates may be excused from work or school for religious reasons.

The days listed below are commonly observed legitimate holy days in their respective religions, but this is not an exhaustive list. The Warden may authorize other local requests after verifying the religious nature of the observance.

This list of commonly observed public fast days by inmate members of religious groups within the Bureau will assist in:

- planning for the fasts and
- coordinating with Food Service for meals for participants at the conclusion of the fasts.

A three year overview is included in this Operations Memorandum to encourage long range planning.

2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED**

a. **Directive Rescinded**

OM 042-2002 (5360) Holy Days Calling for Work Proscription
and Public Fast Days for Inmates,
Recognition of (12/13/2002)

b. Directive Referenced

PS 5360.08 Religious Beliefs and Practices of Committed Offenders (5/25/01)

3. **EXCUSING INMATES FROM WORK AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.** The Central Office Chaplaincy Services Branch, Correctional Programs Division (CPD), maintains a general list of recognized holy days to identify days on which inmates of various faith groups may seek to be excused from work and school attendance. Due to the changing nature of religious observances, the list published in this Operations Memorandum is not exhaustive.

Requests for days off work and school by members of religions not included in this OM are to be given due consideration and authorized by the Warden when appropriate.

Days free from work or school attendance are determined by the religious community standard and ordinances of faith groups. The number of days free from work for religious holy day observances is not limited to one per year.

Inmates who personally request to observe holy days should be authorized to do so. Group requests for work proscription are not acceptable.

When an inmate submits a written request to staff and staff verify the request's legitimacy, the inmate should not be required to work or attend school. The Warden may require inmates who are authorized to miss work on a holy day to make up for the missed work time or take "vacation" days if feasible. Holydays occurring on weekends or national holidays are observed on the exact date and not moved to a week day.

4. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.** The following considerations must be taken into account when planning for proper observances of religious holy days.

- a. **Christianity.** Religious Holy Days noted with an (*) require Mass accommodation for Roman Catholic adherents.

While Good Friday is not a mandatory day of work proscription according to any one Christian tradition, it is considered most sacred, especially by Hispanic Christians. At a minimum, requesting inmates should be allowed to attend services in the Chapel on Good Friday afternoon, as would be the normal practice in the community.

- b. **Hinduism.** Actual dates may vary due to the slight variations in calculating the Hindu calendar.
- c. **Judaism.** All Jewish holy days begin at sundown of the previous day and end approximately one hour after sundown on the holy day.
- d. **Native American.** A number of ceremonies and observances occur at the change of the seasons (spring and fall equinoxes, and summer and winter solstices). These observances vary from tribe to tribe and nation to nation. Local tribal consultation is the best reference for each institution.

5. **RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS**

	2004	2005	2006
a. Buddhism			
--New Year's Day	1 Jan	1 Jan	1 Jan
--Buddha Day	4 May	24 Apr	13 May
--Bodhi Day	8 Dec	8 Dec	8 Dec
b. Christianity (* Mass Required)			
--Good Friday	9 Apr	25 Mar	14 Apr
--Easter*	11 Apr	27 Mar	16 Apr
--Christmas*	25 Dec	25 Dec	25 Dec
Roman Catholic Christians also observe these additional holy days:			
--Octave of Christmas,* (Mary Mother of God)	1 Jan	1 Jan	1 Jan
--Ascension Thursday*	20 May	5 May	25 May
--Assumption of Mary*	15 Aug	15 Aug	15 Aug
--All Saints' Day*	1 Nov	1 Nov	1 Nov
--Immaculate Conception*	8 Dec	8 Dec	8 Dec
c. Hinduism			
--Dashera	22 Oct	12 Oct	2 Oct
--Diwali	12 Nov	1 Nov	21 Oct
d. Islam			
--Eid-ul-Adha	2 Feb	21 Jan	10 Jan
--Eid-ul-Fitr	14 Nov	3 Nov	24 Oct

	2004	2005	2006
e. Judaism			
--Passover, 1st day	6 Apr	24 Apr	13 Apr
--Passover, 2nd day	7 Apr	25 Apr	14 Apr
--Passover, 7th day	12 Apr	30 Apr	19 Apr
--Passover, 8th day	13 Apr	1 May	20 Apr
--Shavuot, 1st day	26 May	13 Jun	2 Jun
--Shavuot, 2nd day	27 May	14 Jun	3 Jun
--Rosh Hashanah, 1st day	16 Sep	4 Oct	23 Sep
--Rosh Hashanah, 2nd day	17 Sep	5 Oct	24 Sep
--Yom Kippur	25 Sep	13 Oct	2 Oct
--Sukkot, 1st day	30 Sep	18 Oct	7 Oct
--Sukkot, 2nd day	1 Oct	19 Oct	8 Oct
--Sukkot, 8th day (Shemini Atzeret)	7 Oct	25 Oct	14 Oct
--Sukkot, 9th day (Simchat Torah)	8 Oct	26 Oct	15 Oct
f. Moorish Science Temple of America			
--Noble Drew Ali's Birthday	8 Jan	8 Jan	8 Jan
--Moorish New Year	15 Jan	15 Jan	15 Jan
g. Nation of Islam			
--Savior's Day	26 Feb	26 Feb	26 Feb
--Savior's Day	7 Oct	7 Oct	7 Oct
--Holy Day of Atonement	16 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct
h. Native American Religion			
--American Indian Days	24-25 Sep	24-25 Sep	24-25 Sep
i. Rastafarianism			
--Birthday of Haile Selassie	23 Jul	23 Jul	23 Jul
--Rastafarian New Year	11 Sep	11 Sep	11 Sep
--Crowning of Haile Selassie	2 Nov	2 Nov	2 Nov
j. Sikhism			
--Baisakhi (New Year)	13 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr
--Founder's Birthday (Guru Nanak)	26 Nov	8 Nov	tba

6. **PUBLIC FAST DAYS.** There are generally two types of religious fasts, a public, and a private or personal fast. When inmates observe a public fast, i.e. one which is regulated by law or custom for all the faith adherents, Food Service will provide a meal nutritionally equivalent to the meal(s) missed. Public fasts usually begin and end at specific times. Accommodations may also be made for bagged meals at times when Food Service is normally closed.

When an inmate fasts for personal, religious reasons, no special accommodation needs to be made for the meal(s) missed. Requests for meals after a personal fast should be determined on a case-by-case basis, applying sound correctional and pastoral judgment.

- a. **Islam.** Ramadan is observed by the members of **Islam** and the **Nation of Islam**. Actual Western hemisphere moon sightings may occur a day later, but never earlier, than these dates reflect. The fast will last 29 or 30 days, but not longer than 30 days.

	2004	2005	2006
--Ramadan begins	16 Oct	4 Oct	24 Sep

b. **Judaism**

--Fast of Tevet	4 Jan	22 Dec	10 Jan
--Fast of Esther	4 Mar	24 Mar	13 Mar
--Fast of Tammuz	6 Jul	24 Jul	13 Jul
--Tish B'Av	27 Jul	14 Aug	3 Aug
--Fast of Gedeliah	19 Sep	6 Oct	25 Sep
--Yom Kippur	25 Sep	13 Oct	2 Oct

c. **Nation of Islam**

--Holy Day of Atonement	16 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct
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d. **Roman Catholicism**

--Ash Wednesday	25 Feb	9 Feb	1 Mar
--Good Friday	9 Apr	25 Mar	14 Apr

/s/John Vanyur for
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Division