

Memorandum

Date : October 29, 2014

To : Michael Beaber
Associate Director
Design, Environmental Standards and Services

Subject: PYRACELL SUICIDE DETERRENT SECURITY GRILL

In April 2013, DESS evaluated the Pyracell Suicide Deterrent Security Grill, developed by Yousef Marmosh, retired employee of CDCR.

The Pyracell is a replacement security grill that is designed to retrofit into existing ventilation ductwork, with the added benefit of a pyramid shaped insert that allows maximum airflow, but is shaped in a way that does not allow an inmate to "fish" a line through the pyramid insert to make a ligature point.

Some of the concerns DESS has with this product are:

- CDCR already has a court approved grill system, any change to the approved grill may open us to litigation
- The pyramid insert, once filled with toilet paper, feces, or any material that hardens will be very labor intensive to clean
- Pyracell offers a device that uses water pressure to flush out any debris in the pyramid inserts, but the entire grill system must be removed from the ventilation system, or debris and water will be flushed into the duct work

While DESS believes this device is nearly impossible to thread a ligature into it, the cleaning and labor involved, when clogged, does not make this a feasible product for CDCR.

As always, we encourage vendors to reach out to us, when improvements are made to original designs or as new products are developed.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 916-255-2230.



BILL BARELLA
Captain
Design, Environmental Standards and Services

cc: Yousef Marmosh