

ARTICLE 28 - NO DISCRIMINATION, AND RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS AND COMPLIANCE

(a) The Company and the Union agree to make it a matter of record in this Agreement that in accordance with the established policy of the Company and the Union, the provisions of this Agreement will apply equally to all employees regardless of sex, color, race, creed, age, religious preferences, status as a veteran or military reservist, disability or national origin.

(b) Except as provided herein, it is the exclusive duty and right of management to manage and direct the employees, including the right to hire, promote, demote, transfer, assign, discipline, discharge and to perform all other inherent rights and duties of management, provided these rights are not used for the purpose of discriminating against any employee because of membership or non-membership in the Union or in violation of any of the terms of this Agreement.

(c) Any decisions or agreements relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement made jointly by the Company and the Union will be binding on every individual employee claiming or entitled to the benefits of this Agreement.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, all letters of discipline whether warning or suspension will be removed after a period of two (2) years from date of issuance, unless the Company and the Union agree to a shorter period.

(e) Copies of the Peak Performance Through Commitment (PPC) Program will be available to all employees upon request. Any changes to the PPC Program will be provided and explained to the Union prior to implementation.

(f) If the Company documents records of discussion or counseling held with an employee, the documentation will be on a form designed to ensure that the record accurately reflects the facts and the nature of the discussion or counseling held with the employee. The employee will indicate his acknowledgement of the discussion or counseling in the actual record or at his option he may place a rebuttal or statement in the actual record. The employee will be provided a copy of the final actual record.

(g) Each employee will have a right to meet with his supervisor at a mutually agreeable time to discuss his performance and to review his personnel file. At that time, the supervisor and the employee will review the personnel file to ensure that the provisions of this Article have been complied with. Should the supervisor and the employee agree to modifications or deletions to the counseling records, their request and recommendation will be forwarded to the supervisor's immediate manager, who will review the matter and respond to the supervisor and the employee.

(h) If there is an investigation of sexual harassment and the charged employee is exonerated of the charges, no entry regarding the charge or investigation will be made in the counseling records. Any entry previously made will be deleted from the counseling records. In other cases, a counseling record entry, if any, will reflect only the nature of the discussion with the employee. As always, the employee has the right to review the counseling record entry and provide any additional information desired.