

ARTICLE 12 EXTENSION OF SICK LEAVE

Section 1.

Five (5) working days after a unit member has exhausted all of his/her sick leave, vacation leave, and personal leave, s/he shall be eligible for an extension of sick leave; provided that such unit member has been employed a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months (or twelve (12) months for those subject to a periodic layoff) prior to the commencement of such extension of sick leave.

In anticipation of the exhaustion of all paid leave, a unit member shall forward a request to the CEO on the form entitled Request for Extension of Sick Leave. S/he shall act upon such request and forward the decision, in writing, to both the unit member and the appropriate union official of the member's unit within ten (10) days of receipt. The approval of such request will be effective at the beginning of the sixth (6th) day of unpaid leave. The granting of an extension of sick leave shall be subject to the sole discretion of the CEO.

All requests for an extension of such leave shall be given due consideration and shall not be grievable.

Such extensions shall be available only for illness of the unit member and not for illness of his/her immediate family. Further, an employee on an industrial accident leave shall not be eligible for an extension of sick leave.

Section 2.

Extensions may be available for a period of up to sixty (60) days annually beginning on the date of the first extension. Unit members, having been granted an extension of sick leave, shall be required to submit a physician's statement after each twenty (20) calendar days of granted leave.

Notwithstanding the above, in extraordinary circumstances and in accordance with the terms and conditions governing the application and granting of leaves as such are set forth in section 1 of this Article, a unit member may be granted an additional fifteen (15) days of extension of sick leave during the twelve (12) month period commencing upon the granting of the first such extension. Such additional extension of sick leave may commence immediately upon the conclusion of an earlier extension of sick leave or may be granted at any time during the remainder of the applicable twelve (12) month annual period. A unit member need not serve a period of unpaid leave prior to being eligible for this fifteen (15) days additional extension of sick leave.

Section 3.

Understanding that the health and welfare of unit members is of mutual concern, the CEO, in evaluating a request, shall consider the following:

Cost: Consideration shall be given to the projected cost incurred to implement the request, including the temporary filling of the position, if necessary.

History of sick leave usage: Consideration shall be given to the previous use and/or abuse of leave benefits. Input must be sought from the employee's supervisor(s) and pertinent attendance or personnel records.

Length of request: The provision is not intended to provide for long term or permanent disabilities. There should be a reasonable expectation of return to full-time duties as evidenced by a physician's statement.

Section 4.

During the period of an extension of sick leave, an employee shall not be entitled to accrual of vacation or sick leave as provided for in Articles 10 and 12 of this Agreement.