

§ 2637.205 Limitation of restrictions of 18 U.S.C. 207(c) to less than that whole of a department or agency.

(a) *Authority.* There are two methods by which the application of the one-year “cooling-off” prohibition of 18 U.S.C. 207(c) may be limited to less than the entirety of a department or agency. First, 18 U.S.C. 207(e) provides that the Director may by rule designate as “separate” a statutory agency or bureau which exercises functions that are distinct and separate from the remaining functions of the parent department or agency of which it is part. (see § 2637.214) Second, under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 207(d)(1)(C), the Director may restrict the application of the prohibition as to a former employee (other than one who served in an Executive Level position or at a uniformed service grade level of 0–9 and above) insofar as it affects his or her communications with persons in an unrelated agency or bureau within his former parent department or agency which has separate and distinct subject matter jurisdiction from the agency or bureau in which he or she served. (see § 2637.215)

(b) *Distinctions between the 18 U.S.C. 207(e) and 207(d)(1)(C) provisions.* (1) The authority granted by 18 U.S.C. 207(e) is applicable solely to a separate *statutory* agency or bureau, that is, one created by statute or the functions of which are expressly referred to by statute in such a way that it appears that Congress intended that its functions were to be separable. A determination made under this 18 U.S.C. 207(e) does not, however, benefit former heads of the separate statutory agency or bureau. Such a determination does, however, work to the benefit of other employees at Executive Level or at uniformed service grade level of 0–9 or above.

(2) The determination made pursuant to section 207(d)(1)(C) is intended to provide similar recognition of separability where the subordinate agency or bureau has been *administratively* created. A determination of such separability does inure to the benefit of the head of the separate component if he is a Senior Employee designated by the Director. However, the determination is not beneficial to persons, including the head of a separate component, in

positions at Executive Level or serving at uniformed service grade level of 0–9 above.

(c) *Separate Statutory Components—(1) Procedure.* Each agency shall notify the Director, in writing, of any separate statutory agency or bureau which it desires to submit for such designation under 18 U.S.C. 207(e), providing:

(i) A description of the functions of the agency or bureau, indicating the basis on which such functions are claimed to be distinct and separate from the parent organization;

(ii) The separate statutory basis of the agency or bureau; and

(iii) Identification of those positions in the parent agency with official responsibility for supervision of such separate statutory agency or bureau.

(2) *Standards.* A parent agency may propose as a “separate” statutory agency an agency or bureau (i) created specifically by statute, (ii) the functions of which are expressly referred to by statute in such a way as to indicate that a separate component was intended or (iii) which is the successor to either of the foregoing; but a decision as to the sufficiency of the statutory authority as well as the separability of functions shall be reserved to the Director, OGE.

(3) *Effect of designation.* If a subordinate part of an agency is designated as “separate” by the Director, then Senior Employees of such separate agency and those of the parent agency are not subject to the restrictions of section 207(c) as to each others’ agencies—except that the prohibition of section 207(c) remains applicable to the former head of a “separate” subordinate agency and to former Senior Employees of the parent agency whose official responsibility included supervision of the subordinate agency.

Example 1: A former Senior Employee of the Product Agency in Executive Department leaves and joins a law firm which represents Q Corporation. Product Agency has been designated by the Director as separate from Executive Department. The former employee is not restricted from representing the Q Corporation on a new matter before the Executive Department.

(d) *Separate Nonstatutory Components—(1) Procedure.* Each agency notify the Director, in writing, of a

component agency, bureau or office having separate and distinct subject matter jurisdiction which it desires to submit for designation under 18 U.S.C. 207(d)(1)(C), providing:

(i) A description of the subject matter jurisdiction of such component, indicating the basis on which such jurisdiction is claimed to be separate and distinct from certain other agencies, bureaus and offices of the parent agency;

(ii) A description of the nature of the connections and interactions between such component and certain other agencies, bureaus or offices of the parent agency indicating the basis on which the component is claimed to be unrelated;

(iii) A statement of the basis on which it is claimed that no potential exists for use by former Senior Employees of such component of undue influence or unfair advantage with respect to the named other agencies, bureaus or offices of the parent agency, based on past Government service; and

(iv) Identification of those organizational units of the parent agency having administrative or operational authority over such component agency, bureau or office.

(2) *Standards.* (i) A parent agency may propose as “separate” from other parts of a department or agency any agency or bureau having subject matter jurisdiction separate and distinct from one or more other portions of the department or agency accompanied by a showing that there would be no potential for use of undue influence or unfair advantage based upon past Government service if a former employee of one such subordinate agency or bureau communicated with employees of such other portions of the department or agency.

(ii) A determination under this section rests solely with the Director, OGE, and is available only for those subordinate components which would, but for the lack of a statutory basis, qualify for separate agency treatment under 18 U.S.C. 207(e).

(iii) Where one component has supervisory authority over another, the two components may not be considered separate and distinct for purposes of this section.

(iv) The requirement of “separate and distinct subject matter jurisdiction” may be met in at least two ways. First, the substantive areas of coverage may be distinct. For example, an office or bureau within the parent agency may handle only maritime matters. Second, the regional area of coverage may be different. For example, one regional office may, on appropriate facts, be considered separate and distinct from other regional offices and from the parent agency—except for the bureau or office in the parent agency which is responsible for its supervision.

(v) It is necessary to specify the “unrelated agency or bureau within the same department or agency” as to which it is recommended that post employment communication be permitted. For example, one bureau may involve a subject matter distinct from some, but not all, parts of the parent department. Attempts to fractionalize a department could, however, become deeply complicated and involve difficult judgments and fact-finding. OGE will not usually act on such cases, and submissions should be confined to relatively clear cases.

(3) *Effect of determination.* If a component agency, bureau or office is determined to be separate by the Director, then Senior Employees of such component are not subject to the restrictions of 18 U.S.C. 207(c) and § 2637.204 as to the remaining agencies, bureaus or offices of the parent agency (except certain such agencies, bureaus or offices as specified in § 2637.215)—except that the prohibition of section 207(c) and § 2637.204 shall remain applicable (i) to those former Senior Employees of such component who served in positions designated by 18 U.S.C. 207(d)(1)(A) and (B) and (ii) to former Senior Employees of such component with respect to the parent agency (as defined in § 2637.205(e)). Such limited application of 18 U.S.C. 207(c) may be available for the head of a separate component, unlike the limitation of 18 U.S.C. 207(e), as determined by the Director.

Example 1: In the Department of Justice, while the Antitrust Division may be “separate” from other Divisions, it is not separate from the immediate office of the Attorney General.