

# Correctional Industries

## Teaching Offenders Job Skills and Work Ethics



### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Department of Corrections is to improve public safety.

### **What We Do**

The Department of Corrections is responsible for administering adult corrections programs operated by the State of Washington. This includes state correctional institutions and programs for offenders supervised in the community.

Washington State Correctional Industries is a unique blend of business and government, using private industry tools and techniques to provide a public service. Operations within the state correctional facilities are supported by sales to state agencies, county and local governments, and not-for-profit organizations. Thousands of offenders gain work experience and training as they produce high quality, competitively priced products, which translates into enormous benefits for taxpayers, the offenders who work and learn in CI, and for its customers.



In the early 1990's, Washington State's prison population exploded due to changes in law reflecting the public's increasing concern with crime. Incarceration rates far exceed the state's overall population growth, and costs continue to increase as new prisons are required. In addition to rising costs, one of the most difficult problems facing the criminal justice system is the number of repeat offenders. In Washington State, approximately one third of all offenders released will recidivate — commit a new crime or violate conditions of their release — within five years and be back inside the correctional system.

## Offenders at Work

The idea of putting offenders to work in Washington is as old as the first territorial penitentiary built in Walla Walla in 1886. Over one hundred years later, Correctional Industries operates over 45 service, manufacturing, and agricultural industries at 15 prisons throughout the state. Correctional Industries contributes approximately \$30 million per year to the Washington economy through purchase from local suppliers and payment of staff salaries.

## Correctional Industries' Programs

### Class I - Private Sector Partnerships

Class I industries allow private sector companies to operate within state correctional facilities. The company provides management, on-site supervision, on-the-job training, and all machinery and equipment. Private industry staff interview and hire offenders at wages comparable to those in the community. The Department of Corrections provides industrial space, vocational training, a CI representative to coordinate the program, and custody supervision according to the needs of the institution and the employer.

### Correctional Industries Class II - Tax Reduction Industries

Class II industries are businesses owned and operated by the state. They produce goods and services for tax-supported and non-profit organizations. The programs provide job training and work experience for offenders. Class II manufacturing and service operations generate funds from the sale of their goods and services to support their activities.

### Class III - Institutional Support Industries

Class III operations are directed by the Prisons Division personnel at each institution. Offenders who work in Institutional Support Industries may be assigned jobs in food service, grounds keeping, maintenance, or as office clerks. The CI Board of Directors sets policy for these Class III offender work crews.

### Class IV - Community Work Industries

Community Work Industries are supervised by Department of Corrections' personnel. The Class IV program is designed to provide services to institutions' host communities at a reduced cost. Public and non-profit agencies may hire Class IV workers. The CI Board of Directors sets policy for these Class IV offender work crews.

## Class V - Community Restitution Programs

The Community Restitution Program arose from the Sentencing Reform Act of 1981 to allow for alternatives to confinement for nonviolent offenders. The purpose of this class of industries is to enable an offender, placed on community supervision, to work off all or part of a community restitution order as ordered by the sentencing court.

## An Effective Re-entry Program

In order to qualify to work in a correctional industries program, offenders must have the minimum of a GED. Correctional Industries' Class II operations provide productive work assignments for approximately 2,000 offenders in Washington's adult correctional institutions. In conjunction with the Department of Corrections' Vocational Education Program and the Department of Employment Security, skilled workers are getting connected with private industry. Utilizing CI as a foundation for skills development, offenders have the opportunity to earn industry-accredited skill certifications that can be used to assist them in obtaining meaningful employment upon release. Offenders trained through working for CI will not only have money to help them survive once they are released; they will also have skills to assist them in finding a job, learn valuable life skills such as pride in accomplishment, understanding of quality, and proper work ethics.

### Correctional Industries Mission Statement

As a business, Correctional Industries is committed to maintain and expand offender work training programs which develop marketable skills, instill and promote positive work ethics, and reduce the tax burden of corrections.



## Paying Their Way

With ninety-seven percent (97%) of all incarcerated offenders returning to local communities, Correctional Industries plays an important role in their transition. These work opportunities provide the means for them to pay court-ordered financial obligations, victim restitution, a portion of the costs of incarceration, help support their families, and build a mandatory savings account. Without savings, a released offender receives a transportation allowance and as little as \$40 “gate money.” With no savings or job skills, the cycle will most likely begin — again. Offender work programs are also an important element in managing a safe, efficient correctional system — reducing idleness, decreasing anxiety, and giving offenders an opportunity to be productive.

## Doing Our Share

Washington State Correctional Industries is committed to meeting both its customers' needs and those of taxpaying citizens. CI examines its processes and strives to do things right for the earth as well. CI has developed partnerships with vendors offering products made of both recycled materials and those that can be recycled at the end of use in order to keep its commitment to environmental excellence.



In addition, CI strives to minimize the environmental impact of our distribution process by using returnable packaging when shipping. Use of recycled content paper and double-sided printing to include the print shop at the Monroe Correctional Complex, is another sustainable practice of CI. Paper purchased for daily operations is made from forty percent (40%) consumer waste.



Through sustainable practices, processes and partnerships, CI is committed to providing its customers, employees, staff, workers and offenders with sustainable solutions. Our goal is to provide our stakeholders with long-lasting, safe, effective and efficient products utilizing the best methods with current technology and sustainable practices available.

To learn more about Washington State Correctional Industries, its programs, products and services, visit the web site at [www.washingtonci.com](http://www.washingtonci.com).

For more information:  
Lyle Morse, Director  
Telephone: (360) 725-9101  
Email: [ltmorse@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:ltmorse@doc1.wa.gov)