Class I Partnerships

January 2016

MISSION STATEMENT

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

What is Class I?

Correctional Industries is certified by the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to administer Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Certification Programs, which provide exemptions from interstate commerce restrictions of prisoner-made goods. The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 72.09.100 defines PIE programs as Class I: Free Venture Industries.

Simply put, Class I operations are an opportunity for private businesses to partner with CI in the production of goods and services for sale to both the public and private sector.

Partnership Opportunity

Whether your business is seeking growth opportunities or looking to bring back offshore manufacturing, a Class I partnership may be the workforce solution you need. As a Class I partner, your business will benefit from a skilled and dependable workforce while maintaining the high level of quality your customers expect. CI’s skilled workforce can provide manufacturing support in any one of our existing trades or we can adapt production to meet your specific business demand.

When you partner with Correctional Industries, not only does your business receive a valuable product or service, you are also helping to reduce recidivism. When offenders release from prison as well-trained and employment ready individuals they have a higher chance of successful reentry within their community.

Training for Reentry

As a Division of the Washington State Department of Corrections, Correctional Industries (CI) provides work training opportunities to offenders. Correctional Industries training programs enhance prison safety by reducing idleness and increase public safety by providing offenders with much needed job skills. The goal is simple: prepare offenders for successful reentry and post-release employment through on-the-job and essential skills training.

JUST THE FACTS:

Approximate number of offenders returning to Washington State counties each year ➤ 7,800

▲ The number of CI offenders working three years after release is four times higher than the number of offenders who did not participate in CI programs.

▲ Percentage of offenders that will be released to their community.

▲ Percentage* of offenders with CI or vocational education experience who are employed post release. This is 13.8% higher than the overall offender post release employment percentage.


Employer Model

This Class I model is operated and managed in total or in part by any profit or nonprofit organization in accordance with an agreement between the organization and Correctional Industries.

Customer Model

Under this model, the industry is operated and managed by Correctional Industries and provides the partner organization with products or services.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT WAGE IS THE OFFENDER WORKER PAID?
A: The wage paid to the Class I offender worker is comparable to the wage paid for similar work in the private sector within that same geographic region as determined by a wage review conducted by the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD).

Q: ARE THE OFFENDERS CONSIDERED EMPLOYEES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER?
A: No, the offenders are not considered employees of the private enterprise.

Q: WILL THE WORKERS BE ON WORK-RELEASE, OR STILL INCARCERATED?
A: There are no active Class I partnerships in the state of Washington. Nationally, 46 states offer private partnership opportunities, please contact:

Wes Marcum, Class I Manager
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Skilled Workforce

Correctional Industries provides offenders with relevant job training opportunities and a diverse set of work development experiences. From classroom training to on-the-job training, they learn skills ranging from basic social skills to highly technical computer skills.

In addition to learning technical skills, offenders are expected to successfully complete a 20-hour cognitive behavioral training. Focused on workplace behaviors and expectations, offenders learn how to deal with change, self-control, choices and consequences, and dealing with criticism. These skills help ensure success while they are working for Correctional Industries, as well as in their transition into the community.

Everyone Benefits

Benefits go beyond the skills offenders learn and the products and services provided. Your Class I partnership also offers economic benefits to the public. While working for Class I operations, offenders earn at least minimum wage. Not only do offenders pay state and federal taxes, they also contribute to a crime victims fund, cost of incarceration, child support, and mandatory savings account.

TECHNICAL SKILLS
• Assembly
• Fabrication
• Carpentry
• Food packaging
• Paint and powder coating
• Upholstery
• Sewing machine operation
• Welding

SOFT SKILLS
• Positive attitude
• Critical thinking
• Problem solving
• Good communication
• Teamwork
• Accept criticism
• Work ethic
• Flexible/adaptable

CONTACT INFORMATION

Correctional Industries is currently seeking private sector companies to operate within state correctional facilities. The Department of Corrections provides industrial space, vocational training, a Correctional Industries representative to coordinate the program, and custody supervision according to the needs of the institution and the employer. If you are interested in learning more about our private partnership opportunities, please contact:

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Corrections Industries
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