



MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES

HISTORY:

Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE), formerly State Use Industries, came into existence in the early 1940s. The modern era of MCE started in 1982 through the State Use Industries Act. In 1999, that Act was replaced by Correctional Services Article §3-501 through §3-528 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

MISSION:

Maryland Correctional Enterprises is the prison industry arm of the Division of Correction within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The mission of MCE is to provide structured employment and training activities for offenders in order to improve employability upon release, to enhance safety and security, to reduce prison idleness, to produce quality goods and services and to be a financially self-supporting State agency.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

Maryland Correctional Enterprises is committed to improving the state economy. Because it is financially self-supporting, MCE is not funded by taxpayer dollars through General Fund appropriations. All operational costs are assumed by MCE through the production and sale of quality products and services. The resulting revenue and profit is used to fund daily operations and train inmate employees, as well as support additional Maryland programs and initiatives. Since FY 2002, MCE has transferred \$13.5 million to the State's General Fund. MCE has also actively worked with small businesses throughout the state and purchases raw materials and goods and services from Maryland businesses whenever possible.

SAFETY BENEFITS:

MCE has a profound impact on Maryland safety. The training and employment of inmates substantially reduces recidivism, the relapse into previous criminal behavior. Because of the work skills and ethical training it provides, almost 80% of MCE's inmate workforce is able to become safe and productive citizens upon release, creating safer communities across the State.

To further increase safety, MCE has created the Continuing Allocation of Reentry Services (CARES) program. CARES provides offenders with the tools they need to create a smooth transition into society. It offers one-on-one counseling, employment consultation and financial training. This MCE funded program has over 300 graduates and offers a 13% recidivism rate.

MCE also contributes to increased safety inside correctional facilities. Idleness, a leading cause of violence and disruption in penal institutions, is greatly reduced, resulting in a safer work environment for DOC correctional staff. The prospect of obtaining employment with MCE serves as a deterrent to disruptive behavior in the institutions, as employment eligibility requires inmates to be infraction free for the preceding three-month period.

PURCHASING GUIDELINES:

Correctional Services Article §3-515 states that a unit of State government shall purchase from Maryland Correctional Enterprises any goods or services that are available from Maryland Correctional Enterprises and that Maryland Correctional Enterprises can provide at a price not exceeding the prevailing average market price as determined by the Department of General Services. Quarterly, each unit that requires goods or services for its operations shall inform Maryland Correctional Enterprises of its anticipated orders during the next three (3) month period. This mandate is also referenced in State Finance and Procurement Article §14-103 of the Annotated Code of Maryland with the provision that a State or a State aided or controlled entity shall buy supplies and services from Maryland Correctional Enterprises, as provided in Title 3, Subtitle 5 of the Correctional Services Article, if Maryland Correctional Enterprises provides the supplies or services.

According to Correctional Services Article §3-511, MCE may develop programs to provide services or produce goods used by:

- Units of State government
- Political subdivisions of the State
- Units of the federal government
- Units of other states
- Political subdivisions of other states.

As outlined in Correctional Services Article §3-516, goods and services of Maryland Correctional Enterprises may not be sold on the open market unless:

- They are produced or provided by an individual on parole or in a work release program
- The sale is made to a charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, or religious agency, association, or institution for its own use and not for resale within 1 year of the purchase
- The sale is made to a person for national defense purposes if not prohibited by an act of Congress
- The items being sold are surplus goods remaining after meeting the forecasted requirements of units of State government and political subdivisions and the goods remain unsold 1 year after being produced
- The items are for use by a contractor or subcontractor in performance of a contract with a unit of State government or any other governmental unit in the State
- It is allowed under the Private Sector/Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program of the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance
- They are related to the preparation or distribution of food or services related to agriculture or seafood processing, when the State labor pools are diminished and it has been determined that inmate labor is the available source.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Maryland Correctional Enterprises Products and Services Catalog serves as the MCE Master List. This catalog is available online at www.mce.md.gov.