

SCDC INDUSTRIES PRISON INDUSTRIES ENHANCEMENT (PIE) PROGRAM

PIECP SUMMARY

SCDC Industries employs incarcerated offenders, through certification of the United States Bureau of Justice to build products for sale. Incarcerated offenders work voluntarily with prevailing wages and have deductions taken from gross wages to include taxes, victim restitution, court-ordered child support, room and board and mandatory savings.¹

BENEFITS OF PROGRAM

PIECP allows private industry to establish joint ventures with state and local correctional agencies to produce goods, using inmate labor (per criteria above and certified). The program benefits include tax payer relief for a portion of the cost for housing incarcerated offenders; partial repayment to victims of crime, regular child support payments; incarcerated offenders have less idle time, they earn job skills towards release as well as a chance to meet financial obligations while imprisoned; and lastly, the program provides the private sector an alternative work-force as well as manufacturing space.

AUTHORITY

The program was initially authorized in 1979: Public Law 96-157 – Justice System Improvement Act, was expanded in 1984: Public Law 98-473, Sec. 819 – Justice Assistance Act, and through the Crime Control Act of 1990: Public Law 101-647, the program is authorized to continue indefinitely.

PIE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM CRITERIA

PIECP exempts certified state and local departments of corrections from normal restrictions on the sale of inmate-made goods in interstate commerce. In addition, the program lifts restrictions on these certified corrections departments, permitting them to sell inmate-made goods to the federal government in amounts exceeding the \$10,000 maximum, normally imposed on such transactions.

PIECP was created by Congress in 1979 to encourage states and units of local government to establish employment opportunities for incarcerated offenders that approximate private-sector work opportunities.²

¹Deductions not exceeding 80% of gross wages

²Bureau of Justice Assistance Program Brief, March 2004