



Issue Brief

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Commissary

Overview

The commissary is a store operation available for inmates within any Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) facility. The commissary offers more than 1,200 items, including hygiene products, snacks, art supplies, and clothing.

All adults in custody with money in their general trust accounts are permitted to purchase from the commissary once per week. Purchases made by inmates housed in disciplinary segregation, death row, mental health infirmaries, the Intensive Management Unit, or medical infirmaries are limited by department rules.

The commissary contributes to the safe and secure operations of DOC facilities by offering incentive items aimed to encourage good behavior. Tracking sales of targeted products also helps institution staff gauge potential unrest within the inmate population.

Commissary Statewide Operations

The commissary system consists of two bagging operations and two storefront operations to service all 14 DOC institutions:

- Snake River Commissary (Ontario) – Bagging operation for Snake River Correctional Institution and Powder River Correctional Facility.
- North Warehouse Commissary (Salem) – Bagging operation for ten DOC facilities on the west side of the state.
- Two Rivers Correctional Institution (Umatilla) – Storefront operation.
- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (Pendleton) – Storefront operation.

Bagging operations work similarly to catalog ordering. Inmates submit an order form, which is

then processed at one of two DOC bagging sites. The orders are pulled, scanned, and bagged by inmate workers with staff oversight. Once an order is scanned, funds are immediately deducted from the individual's trust account. The orders are delivered to the institution and distributed the following week.

Storefront operations operate much like a convenience store. Inmates go to the commissary once per week with a completed order form. While waiting at the storefront window, their order is pulled, scanned, and bagged by inmate workers with staff oversight. Once an order is scanned, funds are immediately deducted from the individual's trust account.

Vendors

The majority of commissary purchasing is conducted through approved Department of Administrative Services' price agreement contracts with 16 major vendors. These vendors offer more than 1,200 products for purchase including food, snacks, hygiene items, health aids, nutritional supplements, shoes, undergarments, art supplies, religious articles, musical instruments and accessories, electronic devices, envelopes, writing supplies, and other miscellaneous products. The commissary includes products that are specific to certain ethnic groups and religious groups, as well as products for special dietary needs.

The majority of commissary sales include:

- Food items (58 percent)
- Electronics (12 percent)
- Nutritional supplements (4.5 percent)

Revenue

The commissary is self-supporting and does not use any General Fund dollars. After covering operating expenses, all profits are deposited into the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF), which is a dedicated account that benefits the inmate population by enhancing activities and programs. The commissary nets approximately 9 percent in profit, which goes directly into the IWF. This aids in reducing DOC operating expenses, and ultimately the cost to Oregon taxpayers.

Other Benefits

The commissary also provides marketable employment, skills training, and educational opportunities to approximately 160 male and female inmates. Through developing positive work ethics and job skills, DOC assists adults in custody in their transition to productive, tax-paying citizens who contribute to society and to their families.

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by holding
offenders accountable for their actions
and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



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