



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

United States Penitentiary - Atwater

Office of the Associate Warden (I&E)

*1 Federal Way
P.O. Box 19000
Atwater, CA 95301-0900
(209) 386-4870*

November 10, 2008

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
1010 10th Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear County Board of Supervisors:

With the ever increasing vast emphasis on ensuring that our environment is properly conserved to ensure that all future generations enjoy life on this planet to the fullest, there has been a call to change our methods of waste disposal and protect our precious environment. I would like to take a moment and introduce you to an extremely valuable program here at the United States Penitentiary in Atwater, CA. The program known as Federal Prison Industries, also as UNICOR, locally operates an electronic recycling factory.

UNICOR has been in operation since 1934, and does not cost the government tax payer a single penny. There are no appropriated funds for UNICOR to operate. It is a government-owned, self-sustaining corporation. The law enforcement staff assigned to work in the factory are Federal Bureau of Prisons employees. However, UNICOR must pay their salaries and benefit packages, along with all other associated expenses normally accrued by a business, i.e., building expenses, utilities, staff and inmate salaries, equipment, and supplies. All of these expenditures are paid from the funds generated through the sales and earnings of all the factories, within the Corporation. This program provides inmates with an opportunity to learn some valuable skills, most important of which is that of holding down a job, while becoming a contributing member to society. We are able to drastically reduce the amount of product that is placed into landfills, while providing an opportunity for the inmates to participate in a service to the community at the same time. The inmates assigned to UNICOR are required to report to work each scheduled day and must maintain adequate production levels to retain their desired UNICOR work assignment. UNICOR pays the inmates at a higher pay rate than those inmates assigned to other areas of the Institution. The rate of pay starts out at \$.23 (23 cents) per hour and goes up to \$1.45 per hour. Out of their earnings, the inmates are required to pay for personal items purchased from the commissary, after satisfying mandatory obligations. We require the inmates assigned to UNICOR to pay 50% of their earnings toward any court-mandated fines, victim restitution and/or child support. They are allowed the opportunity to send any money they desire home or into a savings account, once all obligations are paid each month. They are also afforded the opportunity to pay for any college correspondence courses in which they wish to participate. They are required to obtain prior approval from the Education Department, for such courses.

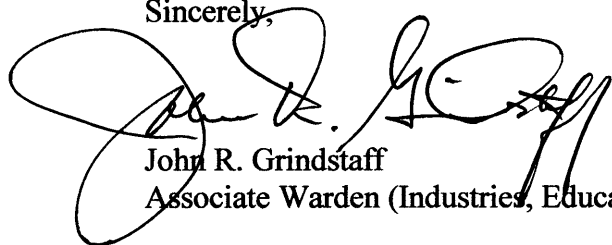
UNICOR is a life changing experience for those who wish to participate. Our goal is to employ at a minimum 25% of the inmate population here at U.S.P. Atwater. In doing so, we will greatly reduce inmate idleness, provide the inmates an opportunity to learn valuable skills which are vital to adequately preparing an inmate for reentry back into society, as well as improve the safety of staff. Research has shown, that inmates who actively participate in UNICOR, are more than 30% less likely to recidivate back into prison, than those who do not participate.

I would like to propose that we join together and create a mutually beneficial venture for each entity. UNICOR is able to provide for the safe and proper method of disposal of electronic equipment that any agency, and/or private citizen may wish to discard. We would establish a mobile drop-off location within your county, and this site would be your discretion. We would provide this service at a minimum of once a month. We will provide the transportation for the discarded electronic equipment to our facility at no charge to the county or citizens. I have attached some information on some of the electronic equipment we are able to recycle.

UNICOR at U.S.P. Atwater is ISO 9001:2000 registered and IAER (International Association of Electronic Recyclers) certified, which ensures you that we are compliant with all regulations for the proper disposal of electronic equipment. We have established approved methods for de-manufacturing and recycling of electronic equipment, which ensures the occupational safety of our staff, the inmates and the environment. We are currently striving to obtain ISO 14001 registration, which is a very high standard for environmental protection practices and record keeping.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may wish to present in either, a written format or to make myself available for a personal presentation. I look forward to meeting you and establishing a working relationship that will benefit both UNICOR and Stanislaus County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Grindstaff", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

John R. Grindstaff
Associate Warden (Industries, Education & Vocational Training)

ENCL.: Three

**FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES
UNICOR
U.S. PENITENTIARY
ATWATER, CALIFORNIA**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **10 Facts about UNICOR**
- **Reuse your resources pamphlet**
- **Stewards of the Environment**
- **ISO 9000-2001 Certification**
- **IAER (International Association of Electronic Recyclers)**
- **Electronic items that UNICOR will handle for you**

Contact Information

**U.S. Penitentiary
Attn: Federal Prison Industries
1 Federal Way
P.O. Box 019001
Atwater, CA 95301**

**Associate Warden – John R. Grindstaff (209)386-4870
Factory Manager – Henry (Hank) Jackson (209)386-4806
FPI/UNICOR Warehouse (209)386-4895
UNICOR FAX (209)386-4696**

**Ten Facts
Everyone
Should Know
About**

unicor[™]

unicor[™]
we're life changing

UNICOR Federal Prison Industries, Inc.
(800) 827-3168 • unicor.gov

Ten Facts Everyone Should Know About Federal Prison Industries

FPI is a program, not a business. Although FPI produces products and performs services, the program's real output is inmates who are more likely to return to society as law-abiding taxpayers because of the job skills training and work experience they received in FPI.

FPI has a positive impact on recidivism. Inmates who work in FPI are less likely to return to a life of crime after they are released. Research shows that inmates in FPI are 24% less likely to recidivate than their counterparts who did not participate in FPI. Working in FPI has an even greater positive impact on minority offenders who are at the greatest statistical risk of recidivism.

FPI has a positive impact on employment success. Research shows that inmates in FPI are 14% more likely to find and maintain a job than those without FPI experience.

FPI is focused on serious offenders. 76% of inmates working in FPI have been convicted of drug trafficking, weapons, and violent offenses. FPI provides a program of constructive industrial work, providing sound job skills and positive work habits to inmates.

Inmates gain work skills and experience in FPI. Many inmates in FPI have never before held a job. FPI teaches a basic work ethic. In addition to working on the factory floor, inmates also acquire computer and business skills working in the business office.

FPI operates at no cost to the taxpayers. FPI is entirely self sustaining and receives no appropriated funds from Congress.

Inmates in FPI put money toward courts, crime victims and inmate families. In FY 2007, inmates in FPI contributed more than \$2.7 million of their earnings toward meeting their financial obligations (court-ordered fines, child support, and/or victim restitution). Many also contributed toward family support and welfare by sending home a portion of their earnings.

FPI supports private vendors, especially small business. 77% of FPI's revenues go toward the purchase of raw materials, supplies, equipment, and services from private vendors. In FY 2007, small business procurement (businesses owned by women, minorities, and those who are disadvantaged) accounted for more than 60% of FPI's purchases – nearly three times the SBA goal for Federal agencies.

FPI is one of the BOP's critical correctional programs. The FPI program is an essential correctional management tool. It provides constructive job skills training and work experience, eliminating inmate idleness, greatly assisting in the safe and efficient operation of the institution. Inmates in FPI are less likely to be involved in misconduct while incarcerated.

FPI "walks the talk" in green manufacturing. FPI is committed to a corporate-wide effort to be a leader in eco-sensitive manufacturing, from the finishes, fabrics and materials it uses, to the refurbishment, re-manufacture, and recycling operations in place among its core products and services.

Find many more good reasons to buy from UNICOR
when you visit www.unicor.gov



UNICOR Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

shop @ unicolor.gov

Not sure what you are looking for?

ORDER STATUS

CONTACT A SALES REP

HELP

HOME

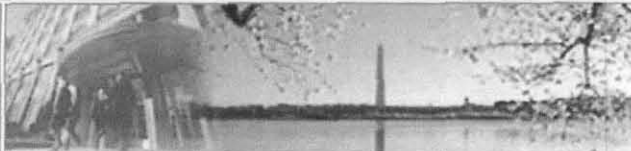
SEARCH

[Advanced Search]

Events/Tradeshows

There are no events at this time.

About



Home » About UNICOR » About FPI Programs

- Corporate Overview
- FPI Inmate Programs
- Contracting Opportunities
- Small Business Goals
- Purchase/Waiver Procedures & Policies
- Ordering/Payment Options
- Catalogs & Publications
- Forms
- Schedule of Products & Services
- Board Members
- Partnerships
- Ombudsman/Constituent Relations
- Sales Representatives/Contacts

About Bureau of Prisons Programs

- [Inmate Transition](#)
- [Education & Vocational Training](#)

FPI is, first and foremost, a correctional program. The whole impetus behind Federal Prison Industries is not about business, but instead, about inmate release preparation.... helping offenders acquire the skills necessary to successfully make that transition from prison to law-abiding, contributing members of society. The production of items and provision of services are merely by-products of those efforts.

FPI Program Benefits.....

to society - Rigorous research demonstrates that participation in prison industries and vocational training programs has a positive effect on post-release employment and recidivism for up to 12 years following release. Inmates who worked in prison industries or completed vocational apprenticeship programs were 24 percent less likely to recidivate than non-program participants and 14 percent more likely to be gainfully employed. These programs had an even greater positive impact on minority offenders, who are at the greatest risk of recidivism.

to the courts, crime victims, and inmate families - In FY 2006, inmates who worked in FPI factories contributed almost \$2.6 million of their earnings toward meeting their financial obligations, e.g., court-ordered fines, child support, and/or restitution. Many inmates also contributed to the support and welfare of their families by sending home a portion of their earnings.

to thousands of incarcerated men and women in federal prisons - For many inmates, working in Federal Prison Industries represents an opportunity to learn a marketable skill and gain valuable work experience that will substantially enhance their ability to successfully reintegrate into society following release from prison. The program teaches inmates pro-social values including the value of work, responsibility, and the need to respect and work with others. Many inmates gain a sense of dignity and self-worth that they had lost or never before experienced.

to private sector businesses - During FY 2006, FPI purchased more than \$552 million in raw materials, supplies, equipment, and services from private sector businesses. Over 74 percent of these purchases were from small businesses, including women and minority owned and disadvantaged businesses.

to the Bureau of Prisons - FPI contributes significantly to the safety and security of federal correctional facilities by keeping inmates constructively occupied. Inmates who participate in work programs and vocational training are less likely to engage in institutional misconduct, thereby enhancing the safety of staff and other inmates.

FPI is an integral component of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau or BOP), and the Director of the Bureau serves as Chief Executive Officer "of FPI." The Assistant Director for the BOP's Industries, Education and Vocational Training Division serves as Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Secretary for FPI.

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USA.gov

Reuse Your Resources



by **UNICOR**



Recycle

UNICOR can find a use for your unwanted electronic equipment.



Recover

We can arrange to pick up your donation.



Redistribute

No part goes to waste. If we cannot recycle it we will break it down into useful components.



Resell

Our recycled electronic components are resold at competitive prices.



Reuse

Reuse of all recycled material benefits the customer, the recycling vendor and the earth.

Question: What type of material can be recycled?

Answer: UNICOR accepts most electronic items for recycling. If an item cannot be reused or made functional, we break it down into its component parts that are sold for other uses. Our goal is to make sure all residual materials are recycled or resold.

Question: Who can donate and who do I contact?

Answer: We accept donations from public agencies and private entities. Please contact UNICOR's Recycling Representatives at 202 305-3768, ckeidel@central.unicor.gov or 202 305-3884, vasmith@central.unicor.gov.

Question: Is the process documented?

Answer: Yes, UNICOR can provide cradle to grave documentation on recycled materials if required.

Question: Why recycle computers?

Answer: Computers contain many potentially hazardous materials (lead, mercury, cadmium, etc.) Landfilling your computer poses a threat to the environment, along with potential health concerns.

Question: Who can buy recycled materials and where can I see an inventory?

Answer: Public organizations, private companies and government agencies can purchase recycled materials. Call UNICOR at 202 305-3768, ckeidel@central.unicor.gov or 202 305-3884, vasmith@central.unicor.gov.

Question: How much does UNICOR's recycling program cost the public?

Answer: As a self-sustaining government-owned corporation, UNICOR receives no congressional appropriations for their operating funds. Therefore the sale of recycled components and materials fully fund this environmentally sound program.



UNICOR

An Environmentally Compliant Way to Properly Dispose of Obsolete Electronics.

**Benefitting Others, Helping
the Environment ... and You!**

Everyone benefits when government agencies and private sector companies use the Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR) recycling program. UNICOR's inmate labor force is trained to provide recycling activities that are an asset to both public and private sectors, in protecting our environment. As a self-sustaining federal government corporation, all income earned by UNICOR is reinvested in the corporation's operations and programs.

We provide competitively priced electronic recycling activities that meet all federal, state and local regulations. If an item cannot be reused we demanufacture it into components that will be recycled. We make sure every part and component gets reused or recycled.

Upon request, UNICOR can provide complete documentation of the recycling process used on your electronic equipment.



Discovering Potential...

Since UNICOR accepts various electronic items for recycling, we offer a wide variety of items for sale after we de-manufacture the electronic equipment.

Put old, broken or surplus computer or electronic equipment to good use—let UNICOR recycle it.

We can arrange to pick up significant quantities. Your donation may even qualify for a tax deduction.

We accept donations from public organizations, private companies and government agencies.

Please contact UNICOR at 202-305-3768 or 202-305-3884. Visit our website at www.unicor.gov

to find out more about how to take advantage of this opportunity.

Note: Item availability changes due to variety of items collected.

Question:

How does recycling benefit you?

Answer:

Federal Government agencies, as well as private companies are encouraged to be part of the environmental solution by reducing their trash sent to landfills, therefore saving money and potential environmental liabilities.

Electronics

Recycling

Activities

In 1999, UNICOR's Electronic Recycling Program was the recipient of the White House Task Force "Closing the Circle Award" for recycling non-hazardous waste. In 2003, UNICOR's Elkton, OH facility was the recipient of the Waste/Pollution Prevention Award.

Stewards of the Environment



Within the next five years, more than 250 million computers will become obsolete, producing nearly 9 billion pounds of e-scrap and posing enormous environmental concerns. Nationwide, more than 400 recyclers have begun the task of managing this waste, but it could take them 50 years to recycle these materials at current rates of recycling. UNICOR wants to be part of the solution.

Responding to the challenge.

In lieu of continued abandonment and destruction, UNICOR's Recycling Business Group provides an environmentally sound way to handle



e-scrap materials in a cost-competitive manner on a nationwide basis.

Since 1994, UNICOR has responded to the challenge with a federal inmate-staffed approach to managing e-scrap. In just ten years, the inmate worker population has grown to include nearly 1,200 highly trained workers. With seven electronics recycling operations across the United States, UNICOR is truly a national program.

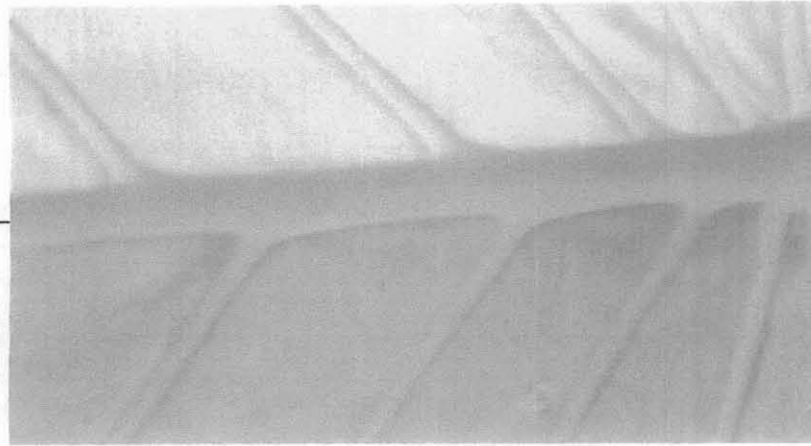
Forming Strategic Alliances

Agencies and businesses that team with UNICOR understand the benefits of working with an organization that provides recycling activities at a competitive price, in a timely fashion. UNICOR customers include not only federal, state, and local governments but also public entities, nonprofit organizations, and private-sector businesses. UNICOR's program is labor-intensive, so capital machinery and equipment expenses are minimized, this helps keep costs down. UNICOR has nationwide coverage, which greatly reduces the transportation costs for those in need of e-cycling activities.

Teaming with the Private Sector

In 2002 alone, UNICOR spent more than \$332 million on private-sector purchases, supporting numerous private-sector jobs. UNICOR's commitment to the environment extends to its vendors, who are required to sign no-landfill

UNICOR meets all EPA and OSHA regulations...



Fresh Start

"UNICOR was able to teach me the skills to think and plan a career. I knew I could hold my own and not embarrass myself."

certifications, follow a restrictive export policy, and agree to site inspections.

Earning Prestigious Recognition

The efforts of the Recycling Business Group were acknowledged in 1999. The recycling centers in Elkton, Ohio, and Marianna, Florida, were the recipients of the prestigious "Closing the Circle Award" from the White House for their electronics recycling activities. The Elkton facility also received a 2003 Department of Justice Energy and Environmental Management Award in the category of waste/pollution prevention for their electronic recycling activities.

Benefiting from a Federal Program that Really Works

- Reduced transportation costs
- Improved e-scrap processes
- Environmental compliance
- Nationwide coverage

Participating IN A GREEN SOLUTION

UNICOR's unique, full-service recycling program is an integrated part of a national e-scrap solution. UNICOR's processing methods begin with receiving, testing, and auditing the equipment. Equipment is first assessed to determine whether it can be used for its original purpose. If reuse is not an option, the equipment is then demanufactured for recycling. To ensure that donors are not open to liability, functioning equipment is cleaned and asset tags/property

stickers are removed before the equipment is sold for reuse or donated to local schools.

Turning Waste into a Commodity

Nonfunctional equipment is mined for functional components such as memory, mice, and Ethernet cards before it is demanufactured. Using a method called single-stream recycling, non-functioning equipment is broken down into residual materials, which are segregated and sold to approved reprocessors. These commodities, in turn, are sold to carefully screened buyers who use the recycled material to produce new products.

Pledging TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

UNICOR factories are regulated by the same agencies that regulate commercial e-cycling facilities. These facilities operate in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local EPA regulations. In addition to UNICOR's strict no-landfill policy of electrical components, the Recycling Business Group complies with OSHA standards and each factory is staffed with a full-time Safety Manager. UNICOR locations are fully permitted, where required, by state EPA regulations.

The Recycling Business Group has written standards that clearly delineate procedures for all of our operations. UNICOR is committed to operational procedures that:

UNICOR supports a restrictive export policy...



- Comply with all laws and regulations
- Demonstrate commitment to pollution prevention
- Are environmentally sound
- Conserve resources
- Are continually improved

Demonstrating Compliance

UNICOR has engaged highly reputable outside agencies to conduct third-party inspections and verify its compliance efforts. UNICOR factories have undergone intensive technical reviews of their ability to perform effective recycling activities, including safety procedures, evacuation procedures, and material handling and disposition. Additionally, environmental and medical tests are provided as necessary to insure the health and safety of all workers.

Ensuring Security and Traceability

UNICOR ensures security and integrity through traceability. All hard drives are cleaned in accordance with Department of Defense high-level security wiping procedures.



opportunity to voluntarily participate in an employment and work program. While developing job skills and earning stipends, these inmates improve their self-worth and prepare for release. Inmates use their earnings to pay victim restitution and court-ordered fines, as well as family and child support.

Teaching Essential Job Skills

The Recycling Business Group provides essential training to its inmate workers. This valuable training includes A+ certification training, and also hazardous materials handling, identification, and segregation. To further ensure safe work practices, all staff attend outside OSHA Compliance and Workplace Safety training.

Benefiting Taxpayers

UNICOR receives no tax dollars to operate. All revenue earned goes back into the Corporation as operating funds. Rather than draining the federal budget, these inmates contribute to a program that benefits not only the environment but also taxpayers. While incarcerated, these inmate workers require fewer correctional officers, present fewer problems, and experience less stress, which improves institutional safety and reduces the cost of incarceration. Upon release, these inmates are ready to enter the workforce prepared with real skills. Inmates who participate in these programs are less likely to commit crimes and return to the prison system, lowering recidivism.

UNICOR: Recycling computers and electronics while giving individuals another chance.

Recycling
VALUABLE LIVES

UNICOR views employment as a human right. UNICOR's recycling program gives more than 1,200 federal inmates an

Electronics Recycling

Within the next five years, more than 250 million computers will be obsolete, producing nearly 9 billion pounds of e-scrap and posing enormous environmental concerns. More than 400 organizations have begun the task of managing electronic waste, but it could take them 50 years to recycle these materials at current rates of reclamation...

Stewards of the Environment

UNICOR Recycling Business Group

www.unicor.gov ☎ 202 305-3884/3768

UNICOR

Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

Recycling Business Group

U.S. Department of Justice

320 First Street, NW

Washington, DC 20534

For more information contact:

Aaron Aragon

Phone: 202 307-6037

Fax: 202 305-3557

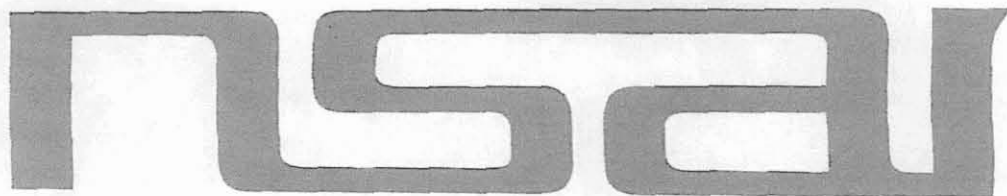
Email: aaragon@central.unicor.gov

Varney Smith, Program Manager

Phone: 202 305-3884

Fax: 202 305-3557

Email: vasmith@central.unicor.gov



Certificate of Registration of Quality System to I.S. EN ISO 9001:2000

The National Standards Authority of Ireland certifies that
UNICOR Federal Prison Industries, Inc.
USP Atwater
#1 Federal Way
Atwater, CA 95301

has been assessed and deemed to comply with the requirements of the
above standard in respect of the scope of operations given below.

Scope of Registration

The recycle and refurbishing of electronic equipment



Certificate number: 19.4218
Original Registration: Jun 13, 2006
Last amended on: Jun 13, 2006
Certificate valid to: Jun 12, 2009



Signed:

Simon Kelly – Chief Executive Officer

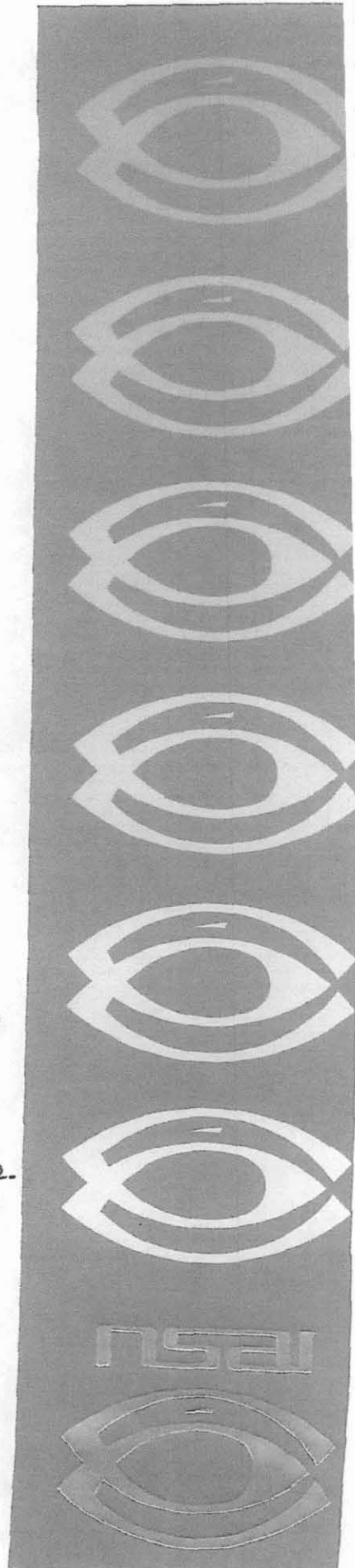
Signed:

Daniel Tierney – Chairperson of the Board

NSAI is a partner of IQNet – the international certification network (www.iqnet-certification.com)
The validity of this certificate is maintained through on-going surveillance inspections

Issued on June 14, 2006

National Standards Authority of Ireland, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland
9001:2000-NL-US(4.2)





***International Association
of Electronics Recyclers***



***Bureau Veritas Quality International
Your Certification Partner Worldwide***

The IAER, through the services of BVQI, has evaluated the operations and management systems of:

Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR)

and found them to be consistent with the expected business practices of a high quality company in the electronics recycling industry, and therefore awards the designation of:

CERTIFIED ELECTRONICS RECYCLER®

Audited in accordance with the certification criteria of the International Association of Electronics Recyclers.

The SCOPE of the certification encompasses:

Facilities located at Atwater, California

Original date of Certification approval June 18, 2008

Subject to continued satisfactory operation of the audited management systems and maintained by biennial reviews


Peter R. Muscanelli – IAER President



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[SEARCH](#) [PACKAGING INFORMATION](#)

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Home » Recycling » **Acceptable Items and Materials**

What's Hot

- ▶ [Leavenworth, KS First E-scrap in Kansas](#)
- ▶ [Certified Facilities - ISO-9001:2000 Certification and/or IAER Certification Achieved](#)

Events/Tradeshows

There are no events at this time.

Overview

- [News](#)
- [Factory Contacts](#)
- [Program Contacts](#)
- [Why Recycle?](#)
- [Recycling Process](#)
- [Accepted Items & Materials](#)
- [Packaging Information](#)
- [Vendor Registration](#)
- [Environmental Compliance](#)
- [EPA Regulations](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [Permits](#)
- [Refurbished Item Directory](#)
- [GREEN-FED II](#)
- [National Capital Recycling Center](#)
- [Recycling Inquiry Form](#)
- [Catalogs & Publications](#)
- [Partnerships](#)

Acceptable Items and Materials - Working & Non-Working

Send...us your worn out, obsolete, computers
Recycle...your electronic scrap keeping it out of landfills
Buy...our reconditioned equipment and recycled materials.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ● Audio/Visual Equipment | ● Fax Machines | ● PDAs |
| ● Bar Coding Equipment | ● Floppy Drives | ● Peripherals |
| ● Blackberrys | ● Game Boys | ● Play Stations |
| ● Cable TV Boxes | ● Hard Drives | ● Plotters |
| ● Calculators | ● Laptops | ● Power Supplies |
| ● Cameras | ● Mainframes/Servers | ● Printers |
| ● CD ROM Drives | ● Memory | ● Tape Drives |
| ● Cell Phones | ● Microfiche Readers | ● Telephone/Systems |
| ● Circuit Boards | ● Microscopes | ● Telescopes |
| ● Communication Systems | ● Modems | ● Test Equipment |
| ● Computer Equipment | ● Monitors | ● TiVo DVRs |
| ● Computer Scrap (copper) | ● MP3 Players | ● TV's |
| ● Computer Scrap (metal) | ● Nintendo | ● UPS |
| ● Computer Scrap (plastic) | ● Oscilloscopes | ● X-Boxes |
| ● Copiers | | |

Packaging Info

Please give us a call regarding all other questions or items you may have that are not listed.

****** NO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ACCEPTED ******

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| ● Refrigerants | ● Acids |
| ● Paints/Liquids of any kind | ● Radioactive Material |
| ● Oils/PCB's | ● Car Batteries |

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