

With criminal justice reform a part of the national dialog, preparing prisoners with meaningful employment skills is a growing priority within the corrections environment. Among the many initiatives to address this issue in Michigan, Michigan State Industries (MSI) is a manufacturer operating within the Michigan Department of Corrections that has been providing work opportunities to prisoners since 1943, one of fifty such programs in the country.

MSI is regulated under the Correctional Industries Act of 1968 and is authorized to engage in manufacturing, sales and service to 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, governmental institutions, the federal government and tribal nations. MSI frequently turns down projects where they would compete with private sector businesses.

Michigan State Industries (MSI) provides products and services to customers as provided by law at prices that meet or exceed customer expectations, while providing professional growth opportunities for staff and marketable job skills to prisoners detained by the Department of Corrections.

MSI provides prisoners an opportunity to improve their workplace skills through employment assessments and certifications, and to participate in continuous quality improvement. MSI's focus is successful prisoner employment upon parole or release within Michigan with the goal to realize 0% recidivism through 100% employment for MSI parolees within 30 days.

MSI is self-supporting. It receives no funds from sources other than its own sales. Thus, MSI's success depends on producing quality goods and services delivered in a timely fashion to our customers at a fair price.

By decreasing recidivism rates, MSI's programs reduce costs to Michigan citizens, resulting in savings for both the judicial and corrections systems. And when adults in custody have productive activities to occupy their time, our prisons are safer. Perfecting marketable skills and being recognized for positive job performance are important components in rebuilding a person's character.



**MICHIGAN STATE INDUSTRIES**  
*Building Bridges to Success*

**Michigan State Industries**  
206 East Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

Sales: 517-335-3771

[www.michigan.gov/msi](http://www.michigan.gov/msi)



**MICHIGAN STATE INDUSTRIES**  
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# License Plate Factory

**In addition to producing over 1.5 million license plates annually, MSI's License Plate Factory's creative designers and craftsmen produce a wide range of promotional items such as awards, business boosters and employee incentives.**

The production of automotive license plates has traditionally been an operation carried out by prisoners in the various states. With the advent of specialty and vanity plates, MSI's License Plate Factory hired graphic designers to address the needs of various groups seeking unique plate designs.

Those same designers also develop solutions for a wide range of promotional items produced at the factory. These include such things as school and business booster and fundraising plates, novelty bird houses, and laser-cut wood products such as desk nameplates, kitchen cutting boards, mitten clocks and lazy-susans. The operation also offers custom vinyl products, acrylic awards, plaques and nametags for business or institutional needs.

Because of our varied design and construction capabilities, we are always open to considering new and unique requests from our customers for special solutions that meet their needs.

Thus, we welcome the opportunity to discuss any special items our customers might want that would align with our capabilities. Consider that by engaging with the services of the MSI License Plate Factory you will be helping individuals develop life skills that will prepare them to become successful, productive members of society.

For more information about the MSI License Plate Factory's capabilities visit the MSI web site at [www.michigan.gov/msi](http://www.michigan.gov/msi).

**MSI is "Building Bridges to Success"** by providing real opportunities for Michigan adults in custody, educating and empowering them to become law-abiding, tax paying citizens through successful work skills.

- *We instill and promote a positive work ethic.*
- *We provide opportunities for prisoners to learn marketable skills and gain from experience.*
- *We contribute to the economic self-sufficiency of working prisoners and their families.*

Through employment with MSI, prisoners at the License Plate Factory develop both hard (industry-specific) and soft (social) skills, preparing them for employment after incarceration.

**Soft Skills:**

Decision Making  
Communication  
Teamwork  
Reliability  
Accountability  
Punctuality  
Adaptability  
Listening  
Literacy/Numeracy

**Hard Skills:**

Machine Operation  
Machine Maintenance & Repair  
Office Clerk  
Shipping & Receiving  
Basic Forklift Operation  
Silkscreen Processing  
Computer Design  
Machine Setting  
Carpentry  
Stock Handling

