

Virginia Corrections Enterprises (VCE)

The Purchasing Department is making some changes and is implementing some new procedures that have been allowed by the restructuring process. One thing that has not changed are the rules regarding state law requiring us to purchase furniture from VCE on a right of first-refusal basis (meaning that we are obliged to consider their product line first). There was a strong attempt made during the restructuring negotiations to obtain some relief from this process, but it was unsuccessful.

In short, the same rules that have been in place remain so. You must obtain a release from VCE before purchasing furniture items from commercial sources. Our view is that in recent years VCE has been rather obliging in granting releases, however, obtaining a release is a step that we must follow in accordance with Virginia Code.

Release forms and instructions are provided on the Purchasing website:
<http://www.purch.vt.edu/html.docs/furniture.html>

Completed release forms should be maintained on file in the department. For those now using the HokieMart electronic procurement system, we recommend that you scan the authorized VCE release and attach it as an internal note to your HokieMart requisition. That way, all the documentation will be together in one electronic file.

The future: we are working with VCE to have their punch-out catalog enabled in the HokieMart. This will make access to their product lines and ordering from them an easier process.