

# "ITW Gema's new OptiFlex™ unit saved us over \$17,000 last year!"



## The Company

The Kentucky State Reformatory, located in LaGrange, Kentucky, is a medium security facility, and is the state's second largest institution in terms of inmate population. An important goal of the reformatory is providing opportunities for offenders to acquire skills which facilitate non-criminal behavior. To assist in achieving that goal, the Kentucky Correctional Industries (KCI) program was created. KCI helps inmates obtain real-world skills and work experience to improve their chances of securing gainful employment upon release. At the LaGrange facility, inmates fabricate metal file cabinets, office furniture, shelving, and other products, which are sold throughout Kentucky. The finishing department at KCI had always been a liquid operation; however, management became convinced they could save money by switching to powder.

## The Results

In 2005, KCI purchased a used powder coating system and was disappointed to discover the system contained extremely damaged guns. After receiving a consultation from ITW Gema's local distributor, American Industrial Corporation, KCI opted to purchase a brand new powder coating unit. For maximum efficiency, KCI chose a two-gun OptiFlex Box Unit, part of the new OptiFlex Manual Powder Coating Series from ITW Gema. "The guys are very proud of the work they do here," related Rick Lacefield, Production Coordinator, "and they could see right away that the OptiFlex was providing a much better finish than the old liquid system." Inmates working in the KCI shops come from all walks of life and all educational backgrounds, yet all of them have been able to easily adapt to the OptiFlex unit and achieve optimum results. "Our time from cure to assembly is so much faster and color changes are quick and easy," Rick commented, "The guys love the new technology, our customers love the improved quality, and KCI loves the money we're saving!"



**"The guys in the powder coating shop take a lot of pride in working with the latest technology the OptiFlex provides."**

**- Rick Lacefield,  
Kentucky Correctional  
Industries**

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