

**Vermont Department of Corrections
Out of State Unit
Memo**

To: All Staff and Inmates

From: Dominic Damato, Facility Operations & Out of State Manager

Date: May 30, 2017

Re: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) #4

Some of the questions below have been answered on subsequent FAQ's – Please see them for reference when mentioned.

<p>1. Can the VTDOC arrange for instate storage for property that's allowable in VT facilities but not allowed by the PADOCC?</p>	<p>This is a violation of the VTDOC property directive and the VTDOC does not have adequate storage space for this if it were permissible.</p> <p>Additionally, there are numerous items that are not allowed by the VTDOC that need to be sent to an outside address.</p> <p>More than one address can be provided for non-allowable property. If no address can be provided, the property can be donated or disposed of.</p>
<p>2. Do the living units in Pennsylvania contain hotpots or microwaves to make coffee, tea, soup etc.? If not, are personal hotpots allowed?</p>	<p>There are no hotpots or microwaves provided or permitted with the PADOCC. This includes personal hotpots – they are not allowed.</p>
<p>3. How come we don't have to willingly sign interstate compact paperwork like is often done before an inmate can be transferred?</p>	<p>There is no such process for inmates to willingly sign for their own transfer.</p>

<p>4. How come OOS inmates aren't being issued free GTL tablets like in-state inmates received in April (if they owned GTL tablets)? How come JPay tablets are not allowed" PADOc allows tablets and JPay has removed the mortality locks from our tablets so they can be used in Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>Previously answered in FAQ#3.</p> <p>It is important to note that regardless of JPay's memo, they have no authority to allow anything at any prison in any state.</p> <p>It is believed that their statement was that the player would work in a system that did not have JPay as a vendor.</p>
<p>5. Can the VTDOC inmate recreation fund be used to provide OOS inmates with GTL tablets, 7 stamps per week or cable packages since we all contributed into this fund while in-state?</p>	<p>Previously answered in FAQ#3.</p>
<p>6. Can clocks and clear clamp-on lamps be allowed since they're available for sale in PA?</p>	<p>The allowable property list has been vetted by PADOc staff – the list has made some exceptions for non-clear items. The fans, clocks and lamps are not on the exceptions.</p>
<p>7. How can VTDOC inmates be forced/required to work when VT law doesn't allow for forced labor in its correctional facilities?</p>	<p>Utilizing inmates as a workforce is part of everyday life in most prisons – like in Vermont's. This is part of the day-to-day operations which are authorized by a receiving state under the interstate corrections compact.</p> <p>Additionally, if an inmate cannot have a job, to no fault of his own, there is a "labor pool" of inmate who still receive compensation.</p> <p>See – Inmate Handbook (pages 50-52)</p>

<p>8. FAQ#2 states, “exceptions have been made so that you are permitted to have some non-transparent items”. Can you elaborate on what these exceptions are? We haven’t been given a list.</p>	<p>The exceptions are listed on the allowable property list that is posted in the living units at NLCF. The exceptions are TV’s, Walkman and headphones.</p>
<p>9. VT OOS inmates only have 8” fans purchased through the vendors in NLCF. Can an exception be made to allow these fans? 6” fans were not an option.</p>	<p>No. The fans at NLCF are not transparent. They did not make the exception list for non-transparent items.</p>
<p>10. Can “cocoa brown” bath towels be permitted since everything else for PADOCC is cocoa brown?</p>	<p>Yes. Cocoa brown bath towels will be permitted in the PADOCC.</p>
<p>11. According to a Pennsylvania newspaper article, MP3 players could be kept in the past as an exception for a group of out-of-state inmates who had purchased them in another state. How come this exception can’t be made for us? At least half of this VT population owns these small, secure MP3 players.</p>	<p>No MP3 players are permitted in the PADOCC.</p>
<p>12. What specific vocational opportunities does each facility offer?</p>	<p>There are no vocational opportunities unless directly related to facility employment.</p>

<p>13. What are the property allowances for religious items?</p>	<p>Religious articles/property is addressed in the DC-ADM 819, Section 3. Reference Attachment 3-A for the Religious Articles Catalog, to see specific approved articles and accoutrements. Religious property is also addressed in the 2017 version of the Inmate Handbook, on pages 16 and 17. The amount of religious property would be included within the total maximum amount of allowable property, which is the equivalent of four records center boxes.</p>
<p>14. The numbers for allowable hygiene on the property list dated 5/9/17 are too low. One bar of soap, one deodorant, etc. is inadequate. Can expectations be made to allow for more hygiene products?</p>	<p>No. These limits may fall below personal preference but are reasonable. The limits on hygiene products are the same for 47,000 Pennsylvania inmates.</p> <p>Most hygiene items, 2 is the allowable limit.</p>
<p>15. When we left Kentucky, we could bring a change of clothes (t-shirts, boxers, socks) in our carry-on. Can these items be included this time as well? Also, can shower shoes and one towel be added to the allowable carry-on item list?</p>	<p>No. All items listed in this request will be provided during the intake, classification and orientation process.</p> <p>The items listed on the “carry-on” for each inmate in FAQ#1 were the exact item approved for the move from Kentucky.</p>
<p>16. Will Vermont inmates have specific jobs that are exclusive to VT or will there be a long waiting list and competition between PADOC inmates and VTDOC inmates for jobs?</p>	<p>No, jobs will be specific to VT inmates. However, there will be some limited job opportunities for VT inmates.</p>

<p>17. Will “cocoa brown” be added to the allowable clothing colors in Vermont in-state facilities? (sweat suits, t-shirts etc.) We will be all returned to Vermont eventually and would like to be able to keep any brown clothing we purchase while in Pennsylvania. Currently, VTDOC only allows white and grey.</p>	<p>That would be a questions/comment for the policy development unit.</p>
<p>18. The allowable property list dated 5/9/17 is missing many items completely. GEO staff doing property pack-up need direction on these missing items: *Surge protectors, TV cables/accessories, extension cords *hobby craft supplies (in storage at NLCF) *personal sheets and blankets *disposable razors *CD player with CD’s *Gym Shorts *Work-out gloves</p>	<p>These items were not listed on the allowable property list as they are not allowable.</p>

<p>19. Will video visits be available in the future?</p>	<p>PADOC is introducing a video visitation program. It is not at all facilities at this time.</p> <p>The PADOC will announce when this system is available to VTDOC inmates.</p> <p>Please note: it is not a system that is used in the living units by inmates and is not used at home by friends and family.</p> <p>More information will be provided as it is available.</p>
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For more information:

See [PADOC Handbook English](#) or [PADOC Handbook Spanish](#)