

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION ALERT

A complimentary service of the McCandlish Holton Immigration Practice Group

U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Initiates Broader Employer Audits

On July 1, 2009, U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced what it termed a bold, new initiative to crack down on employers who hire unauthorized workers. As part of a new emphasis on workplace enforcement, ICE has issued 652 Notices of Inspection (NOI) to businesses nationwide, more than it issued throughout the entirety of Fiscal Year 2008. The NOIs announced ICE's intention to inspect the Form I-9 hiring records of the identified businesses to ensure compliance with federal employment eligibility verification laws. ICE indicated that the targeted businesses were chosen for audit "as a result of leads and information obtained through other investigative means." The ICE press release regarding the new initiative may be accessed [here](#).

Federal law prohibits employers from knowingly hiring or continuing to employ unauthorized workers. All U.S. employers are required to complete an I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification Form within three days of hiring any worker, including U.S. citizens. More information about the I-9 form may be downloaded [here](#).

ICE's new initiative is in keeping with the Obama administration's stated focus on preventing illegal immigration through increased workplace enforcement activities and employer sanctions. The McCandlish Holton Immigration Practice Group routinely offers I-9 Compliance Seminars to assist employers in correctly verifying employment eligibility for all workers, thus avoiding costly fines and penalties in the increasingly likely event of an ICE audit. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the next offered I-9 seminar, please send an email to spachmayr@lawmh.com, with the phrase "I-9 seminar mailing list" in the subject title.

This Alert is a summary of important developments in business immigration law for clients and friends of McCandlish Holton's Immigration Practice Group. This publication does not constitute legal advice. Please consult with an attorney before acting on any information in this Alert. Information about the Immigration Practice Group and additional immigration-related information is located on our website at: www.lawmh.com/practice_areas/immigration.htm

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This email was sent to you by:

Mark B. Rhoads
Helen L. Konrad
Andrea F. Rahal
Jennifer A. Minear
Michael H. Gladstone
McCandlish Holton, P.C.
1111 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, VA 23219
804.775.3822
804.775.7295 (facsimile)
jminear@lawmh.com
Practice Limited to Federal Immigration Law