

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION ALERT

A complimentary service of the McCandlish Holton Immigration Practice Group

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New Rule Amends the I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification Process

The December 15, 2008 issue of the [Business Immigration Alert](#) stated that USCIS was planning to issue a new rule amending the I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification process. The rule has now been published in the Federal Register with a February 2, 2009 effective date. As of that date, the current I-9 form will no longer be acceptable. The rule reduces the number of acceptable documents and prohibits the use of expired documents. The new rule and I-9 form can be downloaded [here](#).

US-VISIT Program Expanded to Include U.S. "Green Card" Holders

DHS recently announced that persons holding U.S. "green cards" will now be subject to the US-VISIT program. US-VISIT involves the taking of fingerprint scans and photographs of arriving and departing foreign nationals. The fingerprints and photographs are checked against a list of known criminals and suspected terrorists, and are also used to verify the identity of the person applying for entry into the U.S. Until now, only certain non-immigrant visitors were subject to US-VISIT.

Although U.S. "green card" holders have already been subjected to extensive identity, security and background checks, DHS stated that it expanded US-VISIT to permanent residents in order to help prevent document fraud by creating a biometric link between the "green card" holders and their documents, and to help DHS identify "green card" holders who might have become inadmissible or deportable since obtaining permanent residence.

Company Agrees to \$20.7 Million Settlement for Employing Illegal Workers

IFCO Systems North America (IFCO), the largest pallet management services company in the U.S., has agreed to pay a record \$20.7 million dollars in civil forfeitures and penalties for employing illegal workers.

On April 19, 2006, immigration agents raided over 40 IFCO plants in 26 states, which resulted in the detention of 1,182 illegal workers. Several IFCO managers have been charged with criminal offenses associated with the employment of the illegal workers. The IFCO settlement agreement concerns only the liability of the corporation and does not address the criminal charges against the individual IFCO employees.

Register Now for the E-Verify, I-9 Compliance, and Social Security "No Match" Workshop on January 22, 2009

Helen Konrad and Mark Rhoads of the McCandlish Holton Immigration Practice Group will be presenting a workshop on the latest developments in E-Verify, I-9 Compliance, and Social Security "No Match" issues on January 22, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information, please download the workshop brochure [here](#).

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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