Trends in Immigration Enforcement: Hiring Preferences, Virtual I-9s, and More

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Agenda

- Form I-9 updates
- E-Verify updates
- Immigrant and employee rights updates



Did you rely on virtual I-9 verification when it was first announced in March 2020?

A - Yes

B - No

Are you still relying on virtual I-9 verification?

A - Yes

B - No

- Covid-19 relaxation of in-person document review policy extension
 - What does it mean?
 - Who is covered?
 - Who is not covered?
 - What should I do now?



- Permanent virtual?
 - How likely are we to get it?
 - What would it look like?



- Expiration of Covid-19 policy on List B identity documents
 - Which cases does it apply to?
 - What do I have to do?
 - Timeline to do it



- List of acceptable documents (LOAD)
 - Not the full universe of acceptable documents
 - Expired vs. unexpired
 - Receipts and temporary documents
 - C7 and other mysteries
 - Consequences for NOT accepting one of the "other" acceptable documents not listed on LOAD



- Proposed new I-9 form
 - Comment period closes May 31
 - Anything new?



E-Verify Updates

- What is E-Verify?
- Is it mandatory (state and federal contractors)?
- Account compliance
- What have they been focusing on?
 - Closing open TNCs
 - Noncompliance—enrolling but not using
 - Misuse—using it, but using it incorrectly
 - Risk of having account terminated
 - What should your company be doing?



IER Updates

What do they do?

- The Immigrant and Employee Rights Section enforces the antidiscrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act
- This federal law prohibits 1) citizenship status discrimination in hiring, firing, or recruitment or referral for a fee; 2) national origin discrimination in hiring, firing, or recruitment or referral for a fee; 3) unfair documentary practices during the employment eligibility verification, Form I-9, and E-Verify; 4) retaliation or intimidation
- Protected class includes
 - U.S. citizens
 - U.S. nationals
 - Lawful permanent residents
 - Asylees and refugees



IER Updates

- What triggers an IER investigation?
 - Standard does not need to be intentional
 - Document abuse—asking for more or different documents than law requires
 - New issues relating to electronic systems
 - Discriminatory hiring practices:
 - U.S. citizens only
 - "Preference" for foreign workers

