U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

August 10, 2007

Dear DHS Vendor:

The mission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is to preserve our freedoms, protect America, and secure the homeland. Inherent in that mission is the duty to enforce our immigration and customs laws and ensure a legal and authorized workforce in the United States.

DHS is dedicated to enforcing federal immigration and customs laws. In that regard, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have developed and are currently operating a joint program previously known as the Employment Eligibility Verification (EEV) program which has been renamed E-Verify. E-Verify is a free program that allows employers electronically to verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees—both U.S. citizens and non-citizens.

E-Verify greatly limits subjectivity otherwise required in employer review during the Form I-9 process, virtually eliminates Social Security mismatch letters, improves the accuracy of wage and tax reporting, protects jobs for authorized U.S. workers, and helps U.S employers maintain a legal workforce. Through the use of the E-Verify program, employers will better ensure the legality of their workforce and face a lower risk of a worksite audit by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In fiscal year 2006, ICE has expanded its efforts to identify employers who are non-compliant with immigration laws. ICE has concluded many criminal investigations that have resulted in 716 criminal arrests and the arrest of 3,667 aliens working in this country illegally. Many of those arrested were charged with illegally employing unauthorized workers. Penalties for these violations include prison sentences, forfeiture of assets and civil fines.

DHS would like to invite employers to participate in the E-Verify program. Employers can register on-line at https://www.vis-dhs.com/employerregistration/, which provides instructions for completing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required for official registration for the program. If you would like additional information about the program, please visit the E-Verify website at www.dhs.gov/E-Verify, or call the E-Verify program at 1-888-464-4218.

The Administration has initiated action to change the Federal Acquisition Regulation to address the use of E-Verify by Federal Contractors. In the interim, the E-Verify Program can help you comply with the law and help us protect America.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Schneider
Under Secretary for Management