Immigration Compliance Under Pressure: Preparing for Audits and ICE Enforcement Actions in the Life Sciences Sector

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Trump Administration's Immigration Actions:

What You Need To Know

The Trump Administration confirmed that increased immigration enforcement actions will begin within the first several weeks of the administration.

These enforcement actions may be taken against any individual in the United States without proper documentation and individuals with final orders of removal.





Expanded Locations

The Department of Homeland Security has expanded the locations at which enforcement actions may occur. ICE Officers are now authorized to conduct enforcement actions in the workplace and in previously designated sensitive areas, which include:

- Schools
- Medical facilities
- Places of worship
- Social establishments
- Childrens' gathering places
- Places for disaster or emergency response and relief
- Wedding and/or funeral sites
- Public demonstrations (parades, marches, rallies)



What Employers Should Do Now

Ensure You Are Following the Law

- The Immigration Reform and Control Act requires employers to verify all job candidates' identity and employment eligibility.
- Along with having employees fill out the Form I-9, employers must also "examine the employment eligibility documents and identity document(s) an employee presents to determine whether the document(s) reasonably appear to be genuine and to relate to the employee record the document information on the Form I-9"



FORM I-9

What Employers Should Do Now

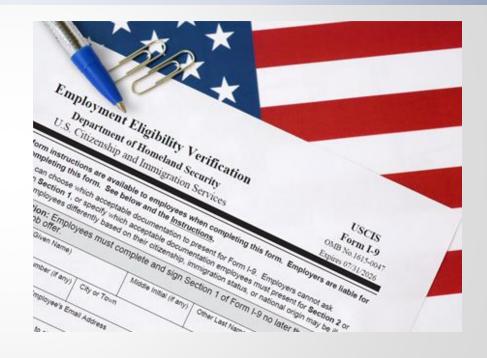
■ Two Important Implications:

- First, employers cannot overlook discrepancies between job candidates' I-9 disclosures and immigration documents. Employers must review job candidates' I-9 forms. If the information on an I-9 is inconsistent with the information contained in a job candidate's immigration documents, employers cannot assume this is a mistake. Instead, they must investigate and make an informed decision regarding the job candidate's immigration status.
- Second, employers cannot accept questionable immigration documents.
 If a job candidate's documents appear to be forged or altered, this requires additional scrutiny.



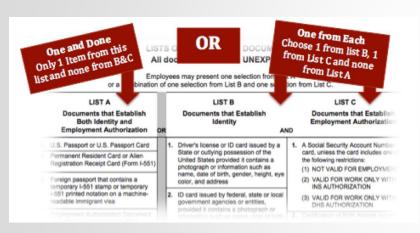
The Form I-9

- Employees must complete and sign the Form I-9 no later than the first day of employment, but not before accepting a job offer.
- Employers or their authorized representative must complete and sign the Form I-9 within three business days after the employee's first day of employment; and
- Must physically examine, or examine consistent with a procedure authorized by the Secretary of DHS, documents listed on the Form I-9





Acceptable Documents



Employees may present one from List A or a combination of one selection from List B and one selection from List C on Form I-9.

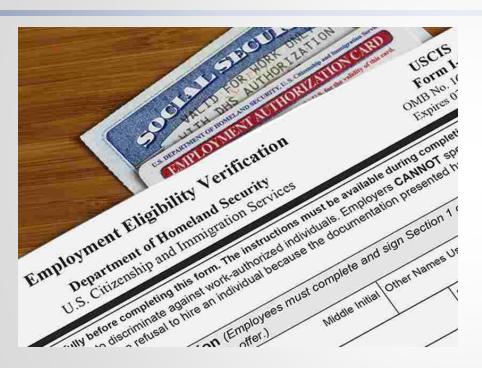
 All documents containing an expiration date must be unexpired.

LISTS OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS All documents must be UNEXPIRED

Employees may present one selection from List A or a combination of one selection from List B and one selection from List C.

	LIST A Documents that Establish Both Identity and Employment Authorization	OR	LIST B Documents that Establish Identity AN	I D	LIST C Documents that Establish Employment Authorization
2.	U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551) Foreign passport that contains a temporary I-551 stamp or temporary	2.5	Driver's license or ID card issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address	1.	A Social Security Account Number card, unless the card includes one the following restrictions: (1) NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMER (2) VALID FOR WORK ONLY WIT INS AUTHORIZATION
	I-551 printed notation on a machine- readable immigrant visa	inted notation on a machine- e immigrant visa ment Authorization Document	ID card issued by federal, state or local government agencies or entities, provided it contains a photograph or		(3) VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION
4.	Employment Authorization Document that contains a photograph (Form I-766)	22	information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address	2.	Certification of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (Form FS-545)
5	For a nonimmigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer because of his or her status: a. Foreign passport; and b. Form I-94 or Form I-94A that has	4. 5.	. School ID card with a photograph	3.	Certification of Report of Birth issued by the Department of State (Form DS-1350)
J.			. Voter's registration card		
			. U.S. Military card or draft record	Λ	Original or certified copy of birth certificate issued by a State,
			. Military dependent's ID card	4.	
	the following: (1) The same name as the passport;		U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card		county, municipal authority, or territory of the United States bearing an official seal
	and (2) An endorsement of the alien's	8	. Native American tribal document	5.	Native American tribal document
	nonimmigrant status as long as that period of endorsement has	9	Driver's license issued by a Canadian government authority	6.	U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197)
	not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified on the form.	Ö3-	For persons under age 18 who are unable to present a document listed above:	7.	Identification Card for Use of Resident Citizen in the United States (Form I-179)
6	Passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-944 indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the FSM or RMI				Employment authorization document issued by the
		0	School record or report card		epartment of Homeland Security
		- 4	Clinic, doctor, or hospital record		
		12	Day-care or nursery school record		

A Word of Caution: The Interplay Between The I-9 and Discrimination



- Generally, employers are required to accept facially-valid documents from the list of the I-9 acceptable documents list without further inquiry.
- Duty to inquire further under government's "constructive knowledge" standards.
- But, if employer terminates employee, could implicate discrimination concerns.



Tips



- You're not a document expert. Apply common sense.
- Carefully review original documents.
- Ensure documents "reasonably appear" to be genuine (free of typos, obviously altered, cut and paste).
- Ensure documents reasonable appear to relate to the person presenting them (age, appearance).
- Check the document's expiration date.
- If you are unsure, make a clear copy and have an immigration attorney review the document.
- Sign up for E-Verify, which can be helpful.



- Federal: Voluntary federal program allows employers to submit information from employees' I-9 forms to the U.S. government for confirmation that the employee is work-authorized.
- Utah: A private employer who employs 150 or more employees on or after May 4, 2022, may not hire a new employee on or after May 4, 2022, unless the employer is registered with and uses a status verification system such as E-Verify to verify the federal legal working status of any new employee.
 - https://corporations.utah.gov/business-entities/verifyutah/



What Employers Should Do Now

Conduct I-9 Audits and Remediation

- Initial Inventory Audit—Document Your Audit
 - Identify missing I-9s
 - Address lingering gaps from the COVID-19 era, such as incomplete remote-work documentation and the original virtual process
 - Ensure you have retained a completed Form I-9 for all active employees. Keep separately from personnel records.
 - Be sure to retain I-9s for the mandatory period. The later of:
 - Three years after the date of hire.
 - One year after the date employment ends. for terminated employees.





What Employers Should Do Now

Review and Strengthen Policies

- Track re-verifications and temporary visas that will expire.
- Develop robust employment verification policies that integrate state and federal contract E-Verify requirements.
- Establish protocols for addressing SSA number mismatches.
- Develop escalation SOPs for fraudulent documents or unknown document concerns.
- Reinforce the importance of avoiding discrimination while adhering to federal and state laws.





Monitor Third Party Labor and Service Providers



Check Your Agreements with Staffing Companies, PEOs, Vendors, etc.

- Review the language and ensure reasonable representations and warranties are in place.
- Staffing agencies should consider and adopt best practices and be fully compliant with the I-9 laws and other relevant immigration laws.
- Vendors who provide contractors should have contract language ensuring they provide contractors legally authorized to work in the U.S.

Unannounced Visits

Visa Sponsorship Verification (employers who have sponsored certain visa types, such as H-1B, L-1, or F-1 STEMP Opt).

> Does not require a subpoena or warrant. Visits are to ensure compliance with employer-sponsored visa program.





Unannounced Visits



Form I-9 Audit

- An immigration agent may visit and request the employer produce Form I-9 and supporting documents.
- Typically, the agent will deliver a written request for documents, often in conjunction with a subpoena.
- Agents are not permitted to ask questions or search the premises and must leave after delivering the government's written request.

Unannounced Visits



Warrant

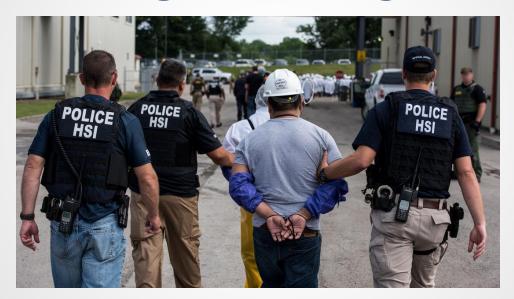
- An immigration agent may present an arrest warrant or search warrant.
- A judicial warrant is signed by the judge and is the only type of document that authorizes government agents to enter private areas of a business and must specifically describe the areas that may be accessed.

ICE Workforce Enforcement Actions: Considerations for Employers

- ICE agents may arrive at a worksite without prior notice as part of an investigation.
- ICE agents are not police officers, but their uniforms may display "Police" or "Federal Agent."
- They may be armed.
- Occasionally, local police officers may accompany ICE agents during these actions.
- ICE agents may visit your business to locate a specific individual or individuals. During their visit, they may attempt to question, detain, or arrest other individuals present.



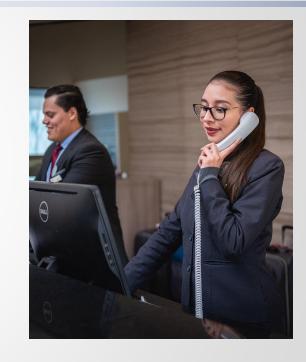
How Employers Can Prepare for Immigration Agents





Develop a Written Response Plan in Advance

- Create a response plan, including a Front Desk Procedure.
- Designate Points of Contact within the legal and management team. These individuals will be responsible for coordinating the response to any government request and/or search warrant.
- The Points of Contact should have the name and phone number of the company's counsel and management team.
- Contact the company's counsel and management team immediately should a search warrant be presented at the facility.





Front Desk Procedure and Steps to Follow if Immigration Arrives at the Work Site

- Request identification and contact information of the government agent (name, phone, email, business card, badge number) and calmly ask the agent to wait while the appropriate contacts are notified and consulted.
- Immediately reach out to the Company's designated Points of Contact.
- Confirm whether the government agent has a search warrant.
- If the agent does <u>not</u> have a search warrant, the agent's access should be limited to a reception area or adjacent conference room, and the agent should always be accompanied.
 - The agent should not be given access to inspect the facility or worksite, nor be allowed to interview employees until after a discussion between the agent and the Company.



Train Your Staff to Avoid Interaction with ICE Agents



- An agent will serve the search warrant on a receptionist or company representative and alert other agents to enter.
- Your company can accept the warrant but not consent to the search. If you do not consent to the search, the search will proceed anyway but you can later challenge it if there are grounds to do so.
 - Employees may respond with,
 "I can't give you permission to enter. You must speak with my employer."
- Agents may demand that equipment be shut down and that no one leave the premises without permission.
- Agents may move employees into a contained area for questioning.

Evaluating a Search Warrant

- Understand Private vs. Public Areas
 - Private Areas: Doors that are locked, areas where "Private" signs are posted. Areas not accessible by anyone without permission.
 - Public Areas: Reception or lobby area, dining areas, parking lots, waiting areas, which can be accessed by anyone without permission.



Public Areas



- Public areas of your business, such as dining areas, parking lots, lobbies, or waiting areas, can be accessed by anyone, including ICE agents, without permission.
- Being in a public area does not grant ICE the authority to stop, question, or arrest individuals indiscriminately.

Private Areas

Private areas of your business cannot be entered without your permission (consent) or a judicial warrant.

- Mark private areas "Private"
- Keep doors closed or locked
- Enforce a policy that visitors and the public cannot enter these areas without permission. Make sure employees know not to grant permission to private areas.





For Private Areas

- ICE agents can only enter private areas with a judicial warrant.
- Without a judicial warrant, ICE agents need your permission to enter private areas of your business.



Judicial Warrant: What to Look For

- A judicial warrant <u>must</u> be signed by a judge.
- A judicial warrant must indicate "U.S. District Court" or a State Court at the top of the warrant.
- If ICE agents attempt to enter a private area, state: "This is a private area. You cannot enter without a judicial warrant signed by a judge. Do you have a judicial warrant?"
- Make sure to request to see it and review it!

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the Eastern District of California

	In the Matter of the Search of)
	(Briefly describe the property to be searched or identify the person by name and address)) Case No.
	540 Oak Avenue)
	Davis, California 95616	}
	SEARCH	I AND SEIZURE WARRANT
To:	Any authorized law enforcement officer	2: 1 1 - SW - 0 1 6 1 EFB
	An application by a federal law enforcer	ment officer or an attorney for the government requests the search
	following person or property located in th	
(identif	y the person or describe the property to be searched ATTACHMENT A, ATTACHED HERETO	d and give its location); AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE
		described above, is believed to conceal (identify the person or describe the
	y to be seized):	AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE
OLL.	ATTACHEMITT B, ATTACHED HERETO	AND INCOMPONITED OF NEI ENEMOE
proper		this warrant on or before $5 - 9 - 2011$ (not to exceed 14 days)
C	in the daytime 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.	☐ at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established.
		ow, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the
invent		n officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an n this warrant and inventory to United States Magistrate Judge
	(name)	
of tria		warrant to delay notice to the person who, or whose property, will be days (not to exceed 30).
	□un	ntil, the facts justifying, the later specific date of
		M PHB
Date a	nd time issued: 4-25-2011 9+ 10: 00 4M	May Sugget is signature
	nd state: SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA	EDMIND E RRENNAN II S MAGISTRATE NIDGE

Printed name and title

Administrative Warrant

- An <u>administrative warrant</u> does <u>not</u> permit ICE agents to enter <u>private</u> areas without your permission.
- Administrative warrants are issued by the Department of Homeland Security.
 - Look for a DHS seal, label, and/or the actual form number, i.e., DHS Form I-200, "Warrant for Arrest" or Form I-205, "Warrant for Removal/Deportation."
- If presented with an administrative warrant, you may refuse to comply with the warrant and ask the agents to leave.



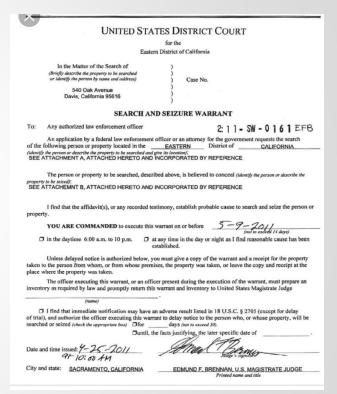
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Warrant for Arrest of Alien

			File No.					
	Date: Any immigration officer authorized pursuant to sections 236 and 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and part 287 of title 8. Code of Federal Regulations, to serve warrants of arrest for immigration violations							
To:								
I hav	e determined that there is pro	shable cause t	o believe that					
is rer	novable from the United Stat	es. This dete	rmination is base	d upon:				
	the execution of a chargin	ig document t	o initiate removal	proceeding	gs against the subject;			
	the pendency of ongoing	removal proc	eedings against th	e subject;				
	the failure to establish add	missibility sul	bsequent to deferr	ed inspecti	on;			
	□ biometric confirmation of databases that affirmatively information, that the subject is removable under U.S. imm	indicate, by the	nemselves or in a nunigration status	dition to o	ther reliable			
YOU	statements made voluntar reliable evidence that affirm notwithstanding such status	atively indica is removable	te the subject eith under U.S. immig	er lacks im gration law.	migration status or			
Imm	igration and Nationality Act,	the above-na	med alien.		Signed by an immigration officer, NOT a judge			
		_	(Signature of A	Authorized In	amigration Officer)			
		0	Printed Name and Tit	le of Authori	zed Immigration Officer)			
		Certifica	ite of Service					
nereby	certify that the Warrant for A	rrest of Alien	was served by m	ie at				
					(Location)			
1	(Name of Alien)	on	(Date of Service)		, and the contents of thi			
ties w	ere read to him or her in the			language.				
nice W	are read to thin or her in the	(La	nguige)	_ tanguage.				
					terpreter (if applicable)			
	Name and Signature of Officer							

With a Warrant: Employer's Initial Procedures

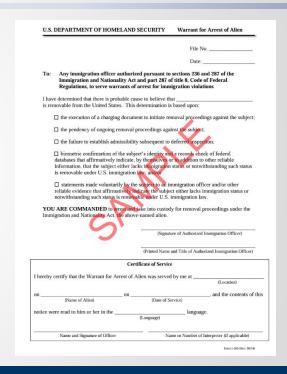
- If ICE agents claim to have a warrant, request a copy and review it.
- Immediately send a copy of the warrant to the Company's designated Points of Contact
- Designated Points of Contact should examine the search warrant to make sure:
 - It is signed by a judge
 - It is valid:
 - The period of validity has not expired;
 - The office address is listed as the place to be searched;
 - There is a description of the items to be searched.





With a Warrant: Employer's Initial Procedures

- If agents present an <u>administrative warrant</u>, the employer may choose to decline further cooperation.
- If presented with an <u>administrative warrant</u> naming an employee:
 - An employer is not obligated to disclose whether the employee is present.
 - An employer is not required to lead ICE agents to the named employee.





During the Worksite Enforcement Action

- Remain calm and instruct employees to do the same.
- If a government agent enters private areas either with or without a warrant, assign employees to follow each agent. The employee may take notes and/or record video if possible.
- Observe the agents to ensure they comply with the warrant's terms.
- Do not block or interfere with the agent's activities.
- Do not allow news reporters to have access to the work site.





During the Worksite Enforcement Action

- Do not discuss the company's policies or practices or answer questions.
- Ask if employees may leave if it seems they have been detained.
- An employee should not be detained for an unreasonable amount of time without probable cause.
- Inform the agent of any detained employees with known special needs (medical, childcare, etc.).
- Unlock any locked facilities to which the agent requests access otherwise the agent may force the facility open.



Administrative Warrant Naming an Employee

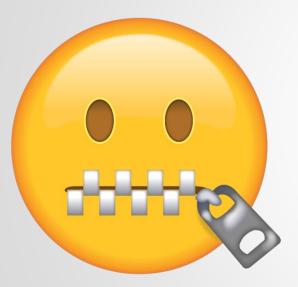
- If ICE presents you with an administrative warrant naming an employee:
 - You are <u>not</u> obligated to disclose whether the employee is present.
 - You are <u>not</u> required to lead ICE agents to the named employee.

During the Worksite Enforcement Action

- Ask the agent to leave a list of all property taken and the names of any employees arrested.
- If any workers are arrested, ask ICE agents where they are being taken to assist the worker's family and lawyer in locating them.
- Prepare a detailed written summary of what happened immediately after the search has concluded.
- Contact worker's emergency contact to notify them of arrest and location of where the worker was taken.



If ICE Agents Attempt to Stop, Question, Detain, or Arrest a Worker



Your employees have the right to remain silent

- Employees do not need to answer questions about their immigration status, where they were born, or how they entered the United States.
- They may exercise their right to remain silent and may ask to speak to an attorney.

Control the Flow of Information

- As the employer (or employer representative), provide only information that ICE requests, when they request it.
- Advise your representative not to PROVE their case or defend the worksite enforcement action.
- Any additional information offered verbally can be used against the employer.



Questions?





Resources

- USCIS I-9 Handbook
 - https://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/form-i-9-resources/handbook-for-employers-m-274
 - Searchable, updated regularly
 - Includes a specific searchable section on receipts: https://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/form-i-9-acceptable-documents/receipts
- USCIS I-9 Central
 - https://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central
 - Breaking news
 - Helpful tools
- DOJ Immigrant and Employee Rights Section
 - https://www.justice.gov/crt/employer-information
 - On-demand Training
 - Best practices to avoid I-9 discrimination



Thank you!

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