

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)
PARTIALLY WAIVES FORM I-9 EMPLOYMENT
ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

13 September 2005

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on September 6, 2005, that for a period of 45 days, DHS will not sanction employers for hiring victims of Hurricane Katrina who, at the time of hire, are unable to provide documentation normally required to verify employment eligibility under the Immigration & Nationality Act. **The policy of temporary deferral of enforcement will apply in cases of individuals evacuated or displaced due to Hurricane Katrina who currently lack access to the necessary documentation to fulfill statutory requirements concerning proof of employment eligibility.**

This is a limited waiver of enforcement.

DHS advises employers to complete the Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification as much as possible upon hiring, noting that the documentation is not available at the time of hire due to Hurricane Katrina. At the end of the 45-day period of deferred enforcement, the DHS will review the policy, assess existing circumstances and make any necessary determinations regarding extensions of this initial 45-day period.

If you should have questions regarding the proper completion of the Form I-9, please contact your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney for additional information.