



EMAIL BULLETIN

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) ANNOUNCES LONG-TERM BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY**

DHS Plans Include Increased Worksite Enforcement

*10 November 2005*

On November 2, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced its pursuit of a comprehensive initiative to increase border security and interior immigration enforcement. Although entitled the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a key prong of the program would enhance interior enforcement through “more robust worksite enforcement.”

In announcing the implementation of SBI, DHS Secretary Chertoff emphasized that the Department will “address all aspects of the border security problem across the board—deterrence, detection, response, apprehension, detention, and removal.” The DHS plans to tackle these problems with increased staff, improved technological capability, enhanced security infrastructure and new legislation and regulations.

The following are key elements of the SBI plan outlined by Secretary Chertoff:

1. Increased numbers of border patrol agents;
2. Expanded and more efficient detention and expedited removal capabilities;
3. Technological advances in manned aerial assets, expanded use of UAVs, and next-generation detection technology;
4. Increased investment in infrastructure improvements at the border; and,
5. **“Greatly increased interior enforcement of our immigration laws—including more robust worksite enforcement.”**

Funding and staffing will be provided through the \$3.9 billion DHS Appropriations Bill recently signed into law by President Bush. These increased levels of appropriations will allow for stronger worksite enforcement, which the DHS deems “key to effective interior enforcement.”

In the coming months, as the new SBI plans are implemented, backed by increased funding, employers should be aware that DHS is warning of renewed emphasis on employer sanctions for worksite violations. Employers must ensure that they fulfill their employment eligibility verification obligations, properly complete the Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification document, and comply with document retention requirements.

In advance of this renewed emphasis on employer sanctions, employers are encouraged to conduct internal audits to verify compliance with all regulatory requirements. For assistance in determining and implementing proper audit procedures, or for assistance in conducting a Form I-9 audit on premises, please contact your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney. Your Tindall & Foster attorney will be able to assist you with an initial audit and provide valuable information for ensuring ongoing compliance in accordance with regulatory requirements.