



U.S. Department of Labor

News Release

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Southfield, Mich., Computer Staffing Firm to Pay \$2.65 Million In Back Wages and Penalties for Immigration Law Violations

DETROIT—Computech Inc., a Southfield, Mich., firm that places computer professionals at locations throughout the United States has agreed to pay \$2,250,000 in back wages to 232 computer professionals and a \$400,000 fine to settle immigration law violations, the U.S. Labor Department announced today.

An investigation by the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division found that Computech brought non-immigrant H-1B workers into the U.S., but failed to pay them the minimum required wage rates in the areas where they were employed. The investigation also disclosed that Computech frequently "benched" the workers without compensation contrary to the rules of the H-1B program.

"The Department of Labor aggressively enforces the law to ensure that temporary foreign workers are compensated fully and fairly," said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. "Abuse of the temporary foreign worker program is not tolerated and violators, as this case shows, are vigorously pursued."

The settlement, approved by a U.S. Labor Department administrative law judge, orders the company to pay \$2,250,000 to 232 foreign workers and a \$400,000 fine in addition to the back wages. The company is also prohibited from participation in the H-1B visa program for 18 months.

The H-1B visa program allows foreign workers to enter and work temporarily in the United States in professional level jobs such as computer programmers, engineers, medical doctors and teachers. H-1B workers must be paid at least the same wage rates and benefits as those paid to U.S. workers already doing the same job in the same area.

Computech contracts with other firms to supply computer professionals who work on the premises of those firms. It has customers across the U.S., with the largest numbers of its workers in Michigan, Illinois, California, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Minnesota.

The Wage and Hour Division enforces the H-1B wage provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, in addition to other federal laws pertaining to wage payments. For more information please visit www.dol.gov or call toll free 1-866-4-USA-DOL.

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