



# Fact Sheet

## **BASIC PILOT EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION PROGRAM**

*Removing the Guess Work from Employment Document Review*

*The Employment Verification Program... "is a quick and practical way to verify social security numbers giving employers confidence that their workers are legal..."*

**President George Bush, June 1, 2006**

The Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program allows employers to remove the guesswork involved with hiring new employees. Conducted jointly by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Employment Verification Program allows employers to use an automated Internet-based system to run employment authorization checks against DHS and SSA databases during the hiring process. In the process, it assists employers in maintaining a legal workforce and protects jobs for authorized U.S. workers. The program is administered by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The Employment Verification Program became available to all employers in California, Florida, Illinois, New York and Texas in November 1997, and to Nebraska employers in March 1999. On December 20, 2004, the program expanded to allow employers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to voluntarily participate.

More than 10,000 employers are currently using the program to verify that their new hires are authorized to work in the United States. There is no charge to participate. The President's FY07 budget request includes \$110 million to expand and improve the Employment Verification Program.

Employers can register on-line at <https://www.vis-dhs.com/EmployerRegistration>, which provides instructions for completing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needed to officially register for the program.

Once registered, employers use the Employment Verification Program through a simple search function which asks for information captured on the I-9 Form (Employment Verification form). Each Employment Verification search compares employee information against more than 425-million records in the SSA database and more than 60-million records in DHS databases. Most responses are returned within seconds.

The Basic Pilot Extension and Expansion Act of 2003 extended the Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program until November 2008. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) authorized the program. Additional information for employers about the Employment Verification Program is available by calling 202-272-8720 or visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.