E-Verify

THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR E-VERIFY EMPLOYER AGENTS

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The parties to this Agreement are the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and_____(E-Verify Employer Agent). The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth terms by which SSA and DHS will provide information to _____(E-Verify Employer Agent) on behalf of the E-Verify Employer Agent's client (the Employer). This MOU explains certain features of the E-Verify program and enumerates specific responsibilities of DHS, SSA, the Employer, and the Employer E-Verify Agent. References to the Employer include the Employer E-Verify Agent when acting on behalf of the Employer. E-Verify is a program that electronically confirms an employee's eligibility to work in the United States after completion of the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9). For covered government contractors, E-Verify is used to verify the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees and all existing employees assigned to Federal contracts or to verify the entire workforce if the contractor so chooses.

The Employer is not a party to this MOU. The E-Verify program requires an initial agreement between DHS and the E-Verify Employer Agent as part of the enrollment process. After agreeing to the MOU as set forth herein, completing the tutorial, and obtaining access to E-Verify as a E-Verify Employer Agent, the E-Verify Employer Agent will be given an opportunity to add a client once logged into E-Verify. All parties, including the Employer, will then be required to sign and submit a new MOU. The responsibilities of the parties remain the same in each MOU.

Authority for the E-Verify program is found in Title IV, Subtitle A, of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Pub. L. 104-208, 110 Stat. 3009, as amended (8 U.S.C. § 1324a note). Authority for use of the E-Verify program by Federal contractors and subcontractors covered by the terms of Subpart 22.18, "Employment Eligibility Verification", of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) (hereinafter referred to in this MOU as a "Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause") to verify the employment eligibility of certain employees working on Federal contracts is also found in Subpart 22.18 and in Executive Order 12989, as amended.

ARTICLE II

FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SSA

1. SSA agrees to provide the Employer (through the Employer E-Verify Agent) with available information that will allow the Employer to confirm the accuracy of Social Security Numbers provided by all employees verified under this MOU and the employment authorization of U.S. citizens.

2. SSA agrees to provide the Employer and E-Verify Employer Agent appropriate assistance with operational problems that may arise during the Employer's participation in the E-Verify program. SSA agrees to provide the Employer E-Verify Agent with names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of SSA representatives to be contacted during the E-Verify process.

3. SSA agrees to safeguard the information provided by the Employer through the E-Verify program procedures, and to limit access to such information, as is appropriate by law, to individuals responsible for the verification of Social Security Numbers and for evaluation of the E-Verify program or such other persons or entities who may be authorized by SSA as governed by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306(a)), and SSA regulations (20 CFR Part 401).

4. SSA agrees to provide a means of automated verification that is designed (in conjunction with DHS's automated system if necessary) to provide confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation of U.S. citizens' employment eligibility within 3 Federal Government work days of the initial inquiry.

5. SSA agrees to provide a means of secondary verification (including updating SSA records as may be necessary) for employees who contest SSA tentative nonconfirmations that is designed to provide final confirmation or nonconfirmation of U.S. citizens' employment eligibility and accuracy of SSA records for both citizens and non-citizens within 10 Federal Government work days of the date of referral to SSA, unless SSA determines that more than 10 days may be necessary. In such cases, SSA will provide additional verification instructions.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DHS

1. After SSA verifies the accuracy of SSA records for employees through E-Verify, DHS agrees to provide the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) access to selected data from DHS's databases to enable the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) to conduct, to the extent authorized by this MOU:

- Automated verification checks on employees by electronic means, and
- Photo verification checks (when available) on employees.

2. DHS agrees to provide to the Employer and Employer E-Verify Agent appropriate assistance with operational problems that may arise during the Employer's participation in the E-Verify program. DHS agrees to provide the E-Verify Employer Agent names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of DHS representatives to be contacted during the E-Verify process.

3. DHS agrees to make available to the Employer (through the Employer E-Verify Agent) at the E-Verify website and on the E-Verify Web browser, instructional materials on E-Verify policies, procedures and requirements for both SSA and DHS, including restrictions on the use of E-Verify. DHS agrees to provide training materials on E-Verify.

4. DHS agrees to provide to the Employer (through the Employer E-Verify Agent) a notice, which indicates the Employer's participation in the E-Verify program. DHS also agrees to provide to the Employer (through the Employer E-Verify Agent) anti-discrimination notices issued by the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC), Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

5. DHS agrees to issue the E-Verify Employer Agent a user identification number and password that will be used exclusively by the Employer E-Verify Agent, on behalf of the Employer, to verify information provided by employees with DHS's databases.

6. DHS agrees to safeguard the information provided to DHS by the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent), and to limit access to such information to individuals responsible for the verification of employees' employment eligibility and for evaluation of the E-Verify program, or to such other persons or entities as may be authorized by applicable law. Information will be used only to verify the accuracy of Social Security Numbers and employment eligibility, to enforce the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and Federal criminal laws, and to administer Federal contracting requirements.

7. DHS agrees to provide a means of automated verification that is designed (in conjunction with SSA

verification procedures) to provide confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation of employees' employment eligibility within 3 Federal Government workdays of the initial inquiry.

8. DHS agrees to provide a means of secondary verification (including updating DHS records as may be necessary) for employees who contest DHS tentative nonconfirmations and photo non-match tentative nonconfirmations that is designed to provide final confirmation or nonconfirmation of the employees' employment eligibility within 10 Federal Government work days of the date of referral to DHS, unless DHS determines that more than 10 days may be necessary. In such cases, DHS will provide additional verification instructions.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMPLOYER

1. The Employer shall display the notices supplied by DHS (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) in a prominent place that is clearly visible to prospective employees and all employees who are to be verified through the system.

2. The Employer shall provide to the SSA and DHS the names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Employer representatives to be contacted regarding E-Verify.

3. The Employer shall become familiar with and comply with the most recent version of the E-Verify User Manual. The Employer will obtain the E-Verify User Manual from the E-Verify Employer Agent.

4. The Employer shall comply with current Form I-9 procedures, with two exceptions:

• If an employee presents a "List B" identity document, the Employer agrees to only accept "List B" documents that contain a photo. (List B documents identified in 8 C.F.R. § 274a.2(b)(1)(B)) can be presented during the Form I-9 process to establish identity.) If an employee objects to the photo requirement for religious reasons, the Employer should contact E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218.

• If an employee presents a DHS Form I-551 (Permanent Resident Card) or Form I-766 (Employment Authorization Document) to complete the Form I-9, the Employer agrees to make a photocopy of the document and to retain the photocopy with the employee's Form I-9. The photocopy must be of sufficient quality to allow for verification of the photo and written information. The employer will use the photocopy to verify the photo and to assist DHS with its review of photo non-matches that are contested by employees. Note that employees retain the right to present any List A, or List B and List C, documentation to complete the Form I-9. DHS may in the future designate other documents that activate the photo screening tool.

5. Participation in E-Verify does not exempt the Employer from the responsibility to complete, retain, and make available for inspection Forms I-9 that relate to its employees, or from other requirements of applicable regulations or laws, including the obligation to comply with the antidiscrimination requirements of section 274B of the INA with respect to Form I-9 procedures, except for the following modified requirements applicable by reason of the Employer's participation in E-Verify: (1) identity documents must have photos, as described in paragraph 4 above; (2) a rebuttable presumption is established that the Employer has not violated section 274A(a)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) with respect to the hiring of any individual if it obtains confirmation of the identity and employment eligibility of the individual in good faith compliance with the terms and conditions of E-Verify; (3) the Employer must notify DHS if it continues to employ any employee after receiving a final nonconfirmation, and is subject to a civil money penalty between $550 and $1,100 for each failure to notify DHS of continued employment following a final nonconfirmation; (4) the Employer is subject to a rebuttable presumption that it has knowingly employed an unauthorized alien in violation of section 274A(a)(1)(A) if the Employer continues to employ an employee after receiving a final nonconfirmation; and (5) no person or entity participating in E-Verify is civilly or criminally liable under any law for any action taken in good faith based on information provided through the confirmation system. DHS reserves the right to conduct Form I-9 and E-Verify system compliance inspections during the course of E-Verify, as well as to conduct any other enforcement activity authorized by law.

6. The Employer shall initiate E-Verify verification procedures (through the E-Verify Employer Agent), for new employees within 3 Employer business days after each employee has been hired (but after the Form I-9 has been completed), and to complete as many (but only as many) steps of the E-Verify process as are necessary according to the E-Verify User Manual, or in the case of Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause, the E-Verify User Manual for Federal contractors. The Employer is prohibited from initiating verification procedures before the employee has been hired and the Form I-9 completed. If the automated system to be queried is temporarily unavailable, the 3-day time period is extended until it is again operational in order to accommodate the Employer's attempting, in good faith, to make inquiries during the period of unavailability. Employers may initiate verification, through the Employer E-Verify Agent, by notating the Form I-9 in circumstances where the employee has applied for a Social Security Number (SSN) from the SSA and is waiting to receive the SSN, provided that the Employer (through the Employer E-Verify Agent) performs an E-Verify employment verification query using the employee's SSN as soon as the SSN becomes available.

7. The Employer may not use E-Verify procedures for pre-employment screening of job applicants, in support of any unlawful employment practice, or for any other use not authorized by this MOU. Employers must use E-Verify (through its E-Verify Employer Agent) for all new employees, unless an Employer is a Federal contractor that qualifies for the exceptions described in Article II.D.1.c. Except as provided in Article II.D, the Employer will not verify selectively and will not verify employees hired before the effective date of this MOU. The Employer understands that if the Employer uses the E-Verify system for any purpose other than as authorized by this MOU, the Employer may be subject to appropriate legal action and termination of its access to SSA and DHS information pursuant to this MOU.

8. The Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) shall follow appropriate procedures (see Article III. below) regarding tentative nonconfirmations, including notifying employees in private of the finding and providing them written notice of the findings, providing written referral instructions to employees, allowing employees to contest the finding, and not taking adverse action against employees if they choose to contest the finding. Further, when employees contest a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo non-match, the Employer is required to take affirmative steps (see Article III.B. below) to contact DHS with information necessary to resolve the challenge.

9. The Employer shall not take any adverse action against an employee based upon the employee's perceived employment eligibility status while SSA or DHS is processing the verification request unless the Employer obtains knowledge (as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 274a.1(l)) that the employee is not work authorized. The Employer understands that an initial inability of the SSA or DHS automated verification system to verify work authorization, a tentative nonconfirmation, a case in continuance (indicating the need for additional time for the government to resolve a case), or the finding of a photo non-match, does not establish, and should not be interpreted as evidence, that the employee is not work authorized. In any of the cases listed above, the employee must be provided a full and fair opportunity to contest the finding, and if he or she does so, the employee may not be terminated or suffer any adverse employment consequences based upon the employee's perceived employment eligibility status (including denying, reducing, or extending work hours, delaying or preventing training, requiring an employee to work in poorer conditions, refusing to assign the employee to a Federal contract or other assignment, or otherwise subjecting an employee to any assumption that he or she is unauthorized to work, or otherwise mistreating an employee) until and unless secondary verification by SSA or DHS has been completed and a final nonconfirmation has been issued. If the employee does not choose to contest a tentative nonconfirmation or a photo non-match or if a secondary verification is completed and a final nonconfirmation is issued, then the Employer can find the employee is not work authorized and terminate the employee's employment. Employers or employees with questions about a final nonconfirmation may call E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218 or OSC at 1-800-255-8155 or 1-800-237-2515 (TDD).

10. The Employer shall comply with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and section 274B of the INA,

as applicable, by not discriminating unlawfully against any individual in hiring, firing, or recruitment or referral practices because of his or her national origin or, in the case of a protected individual as defined in section 274B(a)(3) of the INA, because of his or her citizenship status. The Employer shall not engage in such illegal practices as selective verification or use of E-Verify except as provided in part D below, or discharging or refusing to hire employees because they appear or sound "foreign" or have received tentative nonconfirmations. The Employer further understands that any violation of the unfair immigration-related employment practices provisions in section 274B of the INA could subject the Employer to civil penalties, back pay awards, and other sanctions, and violations of Title VII could subject the Employer to back pay awards, compensatory and punitive damages. Violations of either section 274B of the INA or Title VII may also lead to the termination of its participation in E-Verify. If the Employer has any questions relating to the anti-discrimination provision, it should contact OSC at 1-800-255-8155 or 1-800-237-2515 (TDD).

11. The Employer shall record the case verification number on the employee's Form I-9 or to print the screen containing the case verification number and attach it to the employee's Form I-9.

12. The Employer will use the information it receives from SSA or DHS (through its Employer E-Verify Agent) pursuant to E-Verify and this MOU only to confirm the employment eligibility of employees as authorized by this MOU. The Employer agrees that it will safeguard this information, and means of access to it (such as PINS and passwords) to ensure that it is not used for any other purpose and as necessary to protect its confidentiality, including ensuring that it is not disseminated to any person other than employees of the Employer who are authorized to perform the Employer's responsibilities under this MOU, except for such dissemination as may be authorized in advance by SSA or DHS for legitimate purposes.

13. The information that the Employer receives through the E-Verify Employer Agent from SSA is governed by the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a(i)(1) and (3)) and the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1306 (a)), and that any person who obtains this information under false pretenses or uses it for any purpose other than as provided for in this MOU may be subject to criminal penalties.

14. The Employer agrees to cooperate with DHS and SSA in their compliance monitoring and evaluation of E-Verify, including by permitting DHS and SSA, upon reasonable notice, to review Forms I-9 and other employment records and to interview it and its employees regarding the Employer's use of E-Verify, and to respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to their participation in E-Verify.

D. EMPLOYERS THAT ARE FEDERAL CONTRACTORS WITH THE FAR E-VERIFY CLAUSE

1. If the Employer is a Federal contractor subject to the employment verification terms in Subpart 22.18 of the FAR, it must verify the employment eligibility of any existing employee assigned to the contract and all new hires, as discussed in the Supplemental Guide for Federal Contractors. Once an employee has been verified through E-Verify by the Employer, the Employer may not reverify the employee through E-Verify.

a. Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause not enrolled at the time of contract award: An Employer that is not enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor at the time of a contract award must enroll as a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause in the E-Verify program within 30 calendar days of contract award and, within 90 days of enrollment, begin to use E-Verify to initiate verification of employment eligibility of new hires of the Employer who are working in the United States, whether or not assigned to the contract. Once the Employer begins verifying new hires, such verification of new hires must be initiated within 3 business days after the date of hire. Once enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause, the Employer must initiate verification of employees assigned to the contract within 90 calendar days from the time of enrollment in the E-Verify system and selecting which employees will be verified in E-Verify or within 30 days of an employee's assignment to the
contract, whichever date is later.

b. Federal contractors already enrolled in E-Verify at the time of a contract award but are not enrolled in the system as a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause: Employers enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor for 90 days or more at the time of a contract award must use E-Verify to initiate verification of employment eligibility for new hires of the Employer who are working in the United States, whether or not assigned to the contract, within 3 business days after the date of hire. Employers enrolled in E-Verify as other than a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause, must update E-Verify to indicate that they are a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause within 30 days after assignment to the contract. If the Employer is enrolled in E-Verify as a Federal contractor for 90 calendar days or less at the time of contract award, the Employer must, within 90 days of enrollment, begin to use E-Verify to initiate verification of new hires of the contractor who are working in the United States, whether or not assigned to the contract. Such verification of new hires must be initiated within 3 business days after the date of hire. An Employer enrolled as a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause in E-Verify must initiate verification of each employee assigned to the contract within 90 calendar days after date of contract award or within 30 days after assignment to the contract, whichever is later.

c. Institutions of higher education, State, local and tribal governments and sureties: Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause that are institutions of higher education (as defined at 20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), State or local governments, governments of Federally recognized Indian tribes, or sureties performing under a takeover agreement entered into with a Federal agency pursuant to a performance bond may choose to only verify new and existing employees assigned to the Federal contract. Such Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause may, however, elect to verify all new hires, and/or all existing employees hired after November 6, 1986. The provisions of Article II, part D, paragraphs 1.a and 1.b of this MOU providing timeframes for initiating employment verification of employees assigned to a contract apply to such institutions of higher education, State, local and tribal governments, and sureties.

d. Verification of all employees: Upon enrollment, Employers who are Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause may elect to verify employment eligibility of all existing employees working in the United States who were hired after November 6, 1986, instead of verifying only new employees and those existing employees assigned to a covered Federal contract. After enrollment, Employers must elect to do so only in the manner designated by DHS and initiate E-Verify verification of all existing employees within 180 days after the election.

e. Form I-9 procedures for existing employees of Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause: A Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause may choose to complete new Forms I-9 for all existing employees other than those that are completely exempt from this process. Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause may also update previously completed Forms I-9 to initiate E-Verify verification of existing employees who are not completely exempt as long as that Form I-9 is complete (including the SSN), complies with Article II.C.4, the employee's work authorization has not expired, and the Employer has reviewed the information reflected in the Form I-9 either in person or in communications with the employee to ensure that the employee's stated basis in section 1 of the Form I-9 for work authorization has not changed (including, but not limited to, a lawful permanent resident alien having become a naturalized U.S. citizen). If the Employer is unable to determine that the Form I-9 complies with Article II.C.4, if the employee's basis for work authorization as attested in section 1 has expired or changed, or if the Form I-9 contains no SSN or is otherwise incomplete, the Employer shall complete a new I-9 consistent with Article II.C.4, or update the previous I-9 to provide the necessary information. If section 1 of the Form I-9 is otherwise valid and up-to-date and the form otherwise complies with Article II.C.4, but reflects documentation (such as a U.S. passport or Form I-551) that expired subsequent to completion of the Form I-9, the Employer shall not require the production of additional documentation, or use the photo screening tool described in Article II.C.4, subject to any additional or superseding instructions that may be provided on this subject in the Supplemental Guide for Federal contractors. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a second verification using E-Verify of any assigned employee who has previously been verified as a newly hired employee under

this MOU, or to authorize verification of any existing employee by any Employer that is not a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause.

2. If the Employer is a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause, its compliance with this MOU is a performance requirement under the terms of the Federal contract or subcontract, and the Employer consents to the release of information relating to compliance with its verification responsibilities under this MOU to contracting officers or other officials authorized to review the Employer's compliance with Federal contracting requirements.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES OF E-VERIFY EMPLOYER AGENT

1. The Employer E-Verify Agent agrees to provide to the SSA and DHS the names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of the E-Verify Employer Agent representatives who will be accessing information under E-Verify.

2. The E-Verify Employer Agent agrees to become familiar with and comply with the E-Verify User Manual and provide a copy of the manual to the Employer so that the Employer can become familiar with and comply with E-Verify policy and procedures

3. The E-Verify Employer Agent agrees that any E-Verify Employer Agent Representative who will perform employment verification queries will complete the E-Verify Tutorial before that individual initiates any queries.

A. The Employer E-Verify Agent agrees that all E-Verify Employer Agent representatives will take the refresher tutorials initiated by the E-Verify program as a condition of continued use of E-Verify, including any tutorials for Federal contractors if the Employer is a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause.

B. Failure to complete a refresher tutorial will prevent the E-Verify Employer Agent and Employer from continued use of the program.

4. The E-Verify Employer Agent agrees to obtain the necessary equipment to utilize E-Verify.

5. The E-Verify Employer Agent agrees to provide the Employer with the notices described in Article II.B.4 above.

6. The E-Verify Employer Agent agrees to initiate E-Verify procedures on behalf of the Employer in accordance with the E-Verify Manual and E-Verify Web-Based Tutorial. The E-Verify Employer Agent will query the automated system using information provided by the Employer and will immediately communicate the response back to the Employer. If the automated system to be queried is temporarily unavailable, the 3-day time period is extended until it is again operational in order to accommodate the E-Verify Employer Agent's attempting, in good faith, to make inquiries on behalf of the Employer during the period of unavailability. In all cases, the E-Verify Employer Agent will use the SSA verification procedures first, and will use DHS verification procedures only as directed by the SSA verification response.

7. The E-Verify Employer Agent agrees to cooperate with DHS and SSA in their compliance monitoring and evaluation of E-Verify, including by permitting DHS and SSA, upon reasonable notice, to review Forms I-9 and other employment records and to interview it and its employees regarding the use of E-Verify, and to respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to their participation in E-Verify.

ARTICLE III

REFERRAL OF INDIVIDUALS TO SSA AND DHS

A. REFERRAL TO SSA

1. If the Employer receives a tentative nonconfirmation issued by SSA, the Employer must print the tentative nonconfirmation notice as directed by the automated system and provide it to the employee so that the employee may determine whether he or she will contest the tentative nonconfirmation.

2. The Employer will refer employees to SSA field offices only as directed by the automated system based on a tentative nonconfirmation, and only after the Employer records the case verification number, reviews the input to detect any transaction errors, and determines that the employee contests the tentative nonconfirmation. The Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent), will transmit the Social Security Number to SSA for verification again if this review indicates a need to do so. The Employer will determine whether the employee contests the tentative nonconfirmation as soon as possible after the Employer receives it.

3. If the employee contests an SSA tentative nonconfirmation, the Employer will provide the employee with a system-generated referral letter and instruct the employee to visit an SSA office within 8 Federal Government work days. SSA will electronically transmit the result of the referral to the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) within 10 Federal Government work days of the referral unless it determines that more than 10 days is necessary. The Employer agrees to check the E-Verify system regularly for case updates.

4. The Employer shall not ask the employee to obtain a printout from the Social Security Number database (the Numident) or other written verification of the Social Security Number from the SSA.

B. REFERRAL TO DHS

1. If the Employer receives a tentative nonconfirmation issued by DHS, the Employer must print the tentative nonconfirmation notice as directed by the automated system and provide it to the employee so that the employee may determine whether he or she will contest the tentative nonconfirmation.

2. If the Employer finds a photo non-match for an employee who provides a document for which the automated system has transmitted a photo, the employer must print the photo non-match tentative nonconfirmation notice as directed by the automated system and provide it to the employee so that the employee may determine whether he or she will contest the finding.

3. The Employer shall refer individuals to DHS only when the employee chooses to contest a tentative nonconfirmation received from DHS automated verification process or when the Employer issues a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo non-match. The Employer will determine whether the employee contests the tentative nonconfirmation as soon as possible after the Employer receives it.

4. If the employee contests a tentative nonconfirmation issued by DHS, the Employer shall provide the employee with a referral letter and instruct the employee to contact DHS through its toll-free hotline (as found on the referral letter) within 8 Federal Government work days.

5. If the employee contests a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo non-match, the Employer will provide the employee with a referral letter to DHS. DHS will electronically transmit the result of the referral to the Employer within 10 Federal Government work days of the referral unless it determines that more than 10 days is necessary. The Employer agrees to check the E-Verify system regularly for case updates.

6. If an employee contests a tentative nonconfirmation based upon a photo non-match, the Employer shall send a copy of the employee's Form I-551 or Form I-766 to DHS for review by:

- Scanning and uploading the document, or
- Sending a photocopy of the document by an express mail account (furnished and paid for by

DHS).

7. If the Employer (through the E-Verify Employer Agent) determines that there is a photo non-match when comparing the photocopied List B document described in Article II.C.5 with the image generated in E-Verify, the Employer (through the Employer E-Verify Agent) must forward the employee's documentation to DHS using one of the means described in the preceding paragraph, and allow DHS to resolve the case.

ARTICLE IV

SERVICE PROVISIONS

The SSA and DHS will not charge the Employer or the E-Verify Employer Agent for verification services performed under this MOU. DHS is not responsible for providing the equipment needed to make inquiries. A personal computer with Internet access is needed to access the E-Verify System.

ARTICLE V

PARTIES

A. This MOU is effective upon the signature of the parties, and shall continue in effect for as long as the SSA and DHS conduct the E-Verify program unless modified in writing by the mutual consent of all parties, or terminated by any party upon 30 days prior written notice to the others. Any and all system enhancements to the E-Verify program by DHS or SSA, including but not limited to the E-Verify checking against additional data sources and instituting new verification procedures, will be covered under this MOU and will not cause the need for a supplemental MOU that outlines these changes. DHS agrees to train employers on all changes made to E-Verify through the use of mandatory refresher tutorials and updates to the E-Verify User Manual, the E-Verify User Manual for Federal Contractors or the E-Verify Supplemental Guide for Federal Contractors. Even without changes to E-Verify, DHS reserves the right to require E-Verify Employer Agents to take mandatory refresher tutorials. A E-Verify Employer Agent for an Employer that is a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause may terminate this MOU when the Federal contract that requires the Employer's participation in E-Verify is terminated or completed. In such a circumstance, the E-Verify Employer Agent must provide written notice to DHS. If the E-Verify Employer Agent fails to provide such notice, that Employer will remain a participant in the E-Verify program on behalf of the Employer, will remain bound by the terms of this MOU that apply to participants that are not Federal contractors with the FAR E-Verify clause, and will be required to use the E-Verify procedures to verify the employment eligibility of all the Employer's newly hired employees.

B. Notwithstanding Article V, part A of this MOU, DHS may terminate access to E-Verify if it is deemed necessary because of the requirements of law or policy, or upon a determination by SSA or DHS that there has been a breach of system integrity or security by the E-Verify Employer Agent or the Employer, or a failure on the part of either to comply with established procedures or legal requirements. The E-Verify Employer Agent understands that if the Employer is a Federal contractor with the FAR E-Verify clause, termination of this MOU by any party for any reason may negatively affect the Employer's performance of its contractual responsibilities.

C. Some or all SSA and DHS responsibilities under this MOU may be performed by contractor(s), and SSA and DHS may adjust verification responsibilities between each other as they may determine necessary. By separate agreement with DHS, SSA has agreed to perform its responsibilities as described in this MOU.

D. Nothing in this MOU is intended, or should be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any third party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or employees, or against the E-Verify Employer Agent, the Employer, or their agents, officers, or

employees.

E. Each party shall be solely responsible for defending any claim or action against it arising out of or related to E-Verify or this MOU, whether civil or criminal, and for any liability wherefrom, including (but not limited to) any dispute between the E-Verify Employer Agent or the Employer and any other person or entity regarding the applicability of Section 403(d) of IIRIRA to any action taken or allegedly taken by the E-Verify Employer Agent or the Employer.

F. Participation in E-Verify is not confidential information and may be disclosed as authorized or required by law and DHS or SSA policy, including but not limited to, Congressional oversight, E-Verify publicity and media inquiries, determinations of compliance with Federal contractual requirements, and responses to inquiries under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

G. The foregoing constitutes the full agreement on this subject between DHS and the E-Verify Employer Agent.

The individuals whose signatures appear below represent that they are authorized to enter into this MOU on behalf of the E-Verify Employer Agent and DHS respectively. If you have any questions, contact E-Verify at 1-888-464-4218.