

## **Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments of Homeland Security and Labor Concerning Enforcement Activities at Worksites**

### **I. Purpose**

This revised memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL). Its purpose is to set forth the ways in which the Departments will work together to ensure that their respective civil worksite enforcement activities do not conflict and to advance the mission of each Department.

In entering this MOU, both Departments recognize the importance of enforcing labor and immigration laws relating to the worksite. Effective enforcement of labor law is essential to ensure proper wages and working conditions for all covered workers regardless of immigration status. Effective enforcement of immigration law is essential to protect the employment rights of lawful U.S. workers, whether citizen or non-citizen, and to reduce the incentive for illegal migration to the United States. The parties further recognize that effective enforcement of both labor- and immigration-related worksite laws requires that the enforcement process be insulated from inappropriate manipulation by other parties.

### **II. Affected Components within the Departments**

The principal and responsible parties to this MOU are the following components within each Department. On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, the principal component is U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). On behalf of the Department of Labor, the principal components are the Wage and Hour Division (WHD), the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

### **III. Definitions and Understandings**

For purposes of this MOU—

- A. A “labor dispute” means a labor-related dispute between the employees of a business or organization and the management or ownership of the business or organization concerning the following employee rights:
- the right to be paid the minimum legal wage, a promised or contracted wage, and overtime;
  - the right to receive family medical leave and employee benefits to which one is legally entitled;
  - the right to have a safe workplace and to receive compensation for work-related injuries;
  - the right to be free from unlawful discrimination; and,
  - the right to be free from retaliation for seeking to enforce the above rights.

- B. The worksite enforcement activities of DHS include the civil authorities of ICE to inspect Forms I-9, to investigate, to search, to fine, and to make civil arrests for violations of the immigration laws relating to the employment of aliens without work authorization. They do not include any of ICE's criminal authorities.
- C. The worksite enforcement activities of DOL include the authority of WHD, OFCCP, and OSHA to enforce the requirements of the labor laws under their jurisdiction, including the relevant provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Family and Medical Leave Act, the Migrant Seasonal Worker Protection Act, the Davis Bacon and Related Acts, the Service Contract Act, Executive Order 11246, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

#### IV. Coordination and Deconfliction

ICE and the principal DOL components agree to the following commitments and exchanges in order to ensure coordination and deconfliction of their respective civil enforcement activities.

- A. Except as noted in paragraph C, ICE agrees to refrain from engaging in civil worksite enforcement activities at a worksite that is the subject of an existing DOL investigation of a labor dispute during the pendency of the DOL investigation and any related proceeding. ICE will continue its existing practice of assessing whether tips and leads it receives concerning worksite enforcement involve a worksite with a pending labor dispute. DOL agrees to assist ICE's efforts under this paragraph by providing ICE with timely and accurate information to allow for identification of overlapping enforcement activity.
- B. ICE further agrees to be alert to and thwart attempts by other parties to manipulate its worksite enforcement activities for illicit or improper purposes. ICE will continue its existing practice of assessing whether tips and leads it receives concerning worksite enforcement are motivated by an improper desire to manipulate a pending labor dispute, retaliate against employees for exercising labor rights, or otherwise frustrate the enforcement of labor laws. DOL agrees to assist ICE's efforts under this paragraph by informing ICE of information DOL may have that other parties seek to manipulate a pending labor dispute, retaliate against employees for exercising labor rights, or otherwise frustrate the enforcement of labor laws.
- C. Notwithstanding paragraph A, ICE may engage in worksite enforcement activities at a worksite that is the subject of a pending labor dispute if—
  - the Director or Deputy Director of ICE determines the enforcement activity is independently necessary to advance an investigation relating to national security, the protection of critical infrastructure (e.g., ports, power plants, or defense facilities), or a federal crime other than a violation relating to unauthorized employment;
  - the enforcement activity is directed by the Secretary of Homeland Security; or,

- the enforcement activity is requested by the Secretary of Labor, the Solicitor of Labor, or another Department of Labor official designated by the Secretary of Labor.
- D. In those instances in which ICE decides to engage in a worksite enforcement activity under paragraph C, ICE agrees to provide DOL notice unless the Director or Deputy Director of ICE determines that notice would violate federal law or would otherwise compromise the ICE investigation. ICE further agrees to make available for interview to DOL any person ICE detains for removal through a worksite enforcement activity conducted under paragraph C, provided the interview is consistent with federal and state law, would not compromise an ongoing ICE investigation or prosecution, and is approved by the relevant U.S. Attorney's Office. DOL agrees that any DOL interview conducted under this paragraph shall be at DOL's expense and shall not interfere with or delay removal proceedings except as provided in paragraph F below.
- E. Unless specifically agreed to by both DOL and ICE, ICE and the DOL components covered by this MOU will not conduct joint or coordinated civil enforcement activities at a worksite.
- F. ICE agrees to consider DOL requests that ICE grant a temporary law enforcement parole or deferred action to any witness needed for a DOL investigation of a labor dispute during the pendency of the DOL investigation and any related proceeding where such witness is in the country unlawfully. DOL agrees to provide ICE all needed information for ICE to consider the request and understands that any parole or deferred action ICE may grant will ordinarily terminate upon the completion of DOL's investigation and any related proceeding. DOL further agrees to inform ICE on a periodic basis determined by ICE and DOL whether parole or deferred action for a given witness is still needed and to assist ICE with any monitoring or supervision of the witness. ICE and DOL retain full worksite enforcement authorities (as identified in Section III) to seek a visa or other remedy for a DOL witness during the pendency of a DOL investigation and any related proceeding.
- G. Under no circumstances will ICE personnel engaged in enforcement activities at a worksite suggest that they represent or act for DOL absent the express approval of DOL. Similarly, under no circumstances will DOL personnel engaged in enforcement activities at a worksite suggest that they represent or act for ICE absent the express approval of ICE.
- H. ICE and DOL agree to create a joint Worksite Enforcement Coordination Committee to review the implementation of this MOU, resolve any disputes, work in partnership as cases arise, and deconflict civil enforcement activities. This committee shall meet each quarter unless the parties determine otherwise. Any disputes concerning the implementation of this MOU that cannot be resolved by the committee shall be resolved by the Deputy Director of ICE and the relevant Deputy Assistant Secretary or equivalent designated by DOL.
- I. ICE and DOL agree to create a means to exchange information to foster enforcement against abusive employment practices directed against workers regardless of status. ICE agrees to develop a means to refer to DOL information concerning violations of DOL's civil worksite authorities described in section III of this MOU. DOL agrees to develop a means to

refer to ICE information concerning ICE's criminal worksite authorities relating to human smuggling and trafficking; child exploitation; and extortion or forced labor.

- J. ICE and DOL agree to ensure that this MOU is disseminated and implemented within ICE and DOL through appropriate implementation instructions, employee notification, and training.
- K. ICE and DOL agree to seek each other's approval before issuing press releases that mention each other's enforcement activities.
- L. ICE and DOL agree to keep confidential information shared pursuant to section IV(A) of this MOU.

V. Effective Date

- A. This MOU is effective upon signature and valid until rescinded by either ICE or DOL subject to Section V (B). ICE and DOL agree, however, to assess the terms and effectiveness of this MOU one year from the date of signing and to consider whether modifications or additions are needed.
- B. This MOU reflects the full understanding between ICE and DOL on this subject and may not be modified without ICE and DOL's consent. Both ICE and the relevant DOL components may unilaterally rescind their participation in the MOU but only upon written notice to all other signatories provided at least 60 days in advance.
- C. This MOU voids and supersedes all previous MOUs on this subject between ICE (including its predecessor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service) and DOL.
- D. This MOU is an agreement between DHS and DOL, and does not create or confer any right or benefit on any other person or party, public or private. Nothing in this MOU or its implementation is intended to restrict the legal authority of ICE or the relevant DOL components in any way.

For the Department of Homeland Security



John Morton  
Director  
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Department of Homeland Security

For the Department of Labor



M. Patricia Smith  
Solicitor of Labor  
Department of Labor

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