

FACTS ABOUT THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM AND FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS

The meat industry is committed to ensuring that foreign-born workers are legally eligible to work in the U.S., while at the same time maintaining a stable pool of employees and minimizing turnover.

What is E-Verify?

E-Verify is a voluntary employment eligibility verification program enacted as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996. The program provides for electronic verification of employment authorization documents that have been presented to an employer by job applicants.

How the Program Works

Through utilizing the E-Verify program, participating employers access Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) databases to input social security and work authorization numbers to determine whether they are valid.

The program helps discourage applicants for employment who are unauthorized to work and screens out applicants that provide social security numbers and/or alien employment authorization documents that are not valid.

Importance to Meat and Poultry Industry

As an industry that relies upon the contributions of more than a half-million employees – including immigrant labor – the meat and poultry industry needs an immigration policy that protects our nation's security, establishes rational and practicable employment laws, and encourages a legal, reliable, and productive workforce.

NAMI has supported Congressional reauthorization of the E-Verify program.

Areas for Improvement

The E-Verify program is identity theft. To improve the E-Verify system and decrease the rate of identity theft, Congress should establish authentication pilot programs that authorize the use of commercially available identity authentication technology.

In addition, Congress should ensure the program includes a strong safe harbor provision for employers using the program properly.

Additional Resources

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov>

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

<http://www.ice.gov>