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Announcements

July 30, 2021: DOL Publishes Minor Correction to Federal Register Notice Regarding Fees Paid by Employers Seeking H-2B Temporary Agricultural Employer Labor Certification Applications

On July 30, 2021, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) published a Federal Register notice announcing the return to pre-application fees, instructions, and other information collected under the Permanent Labor Certification program.

The Federal Register notice published on July 30, 2021, incorrectly stated that the OMB Control Number for Forms ETA-750, Application for Permanent Employment Certification, and ETA-9089, Application for Permanent Employment Certification - Electronic Version, is 1205-0315.

The Federal Register notice published today corrects the OMB Control Number for Forms ETA-750 and ETA-9089 to 1205-0467.

Written comments must be submitted following the instructions in the Federal Register notice published on July 30, 2021 by July 30, 2021 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time.

- See the Federal Register notice comments

July 26, 2021: DOL Extends Comment Period Date to New Website Domain

As announced on June 1, 2021, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's website will be migrating to a new web domain.

The Foreign Labor Certification website is scheduled to transition to a new domain of the same Department of Labor website at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor-certification August 2, 2021. As part of the transition, the email display on the website will change from the current address to the new address foreignlaborcert@dol.gov.

Users who try to access OFLC's website pages and forms after current URL will be automatically redirected to the new URL and should resume in normal disruptions. After the transition, we encourage users to update their bookmarks and subscribe to receive email updates. We encourage users to contact us via email or phone (202-693-3010) if needed.

July 20, 2021: OFLC Announces Per-Case Public Comment Period on Proposed Revisions to Prevailing Wage Guidance for Foreign Labor Certification

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is proposing to make changes to the Prevailing Wage Guidance, instructions, and other information collected under the Permanent Labor Certification (PERM) program.

The proposed changes include updating the prevailing wage information requirements and the wage determination process, proposes clarity to employers on regulatory requirements, standardization and streamline information collection for employers and OFLC, and increase program integrity and efficiency and transparency in OFLC's wage and prevailing wage certification decisions.

Written comments must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the Federal Register notice. The deadline to submit comments is September 20, 2021.

- See the Federal Register notice
- See the supporting documents
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141 Appendix A
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141 Appendix B
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141 Appendix C
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141 Appendix D
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141 Instructions
  - See the proposed Form ETA-9141 Worksheet

July 15, 2021: DOL Issues Final Rule on Form 9141 Foreign Labor Recruitment List

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is publishing an updated list of the names of foreign labor recruiters for the H-2B program in accordance with 20 CFR 655.41.

The list contains the name and location of persons or entities hired by, or seeking for, the recruitment of foreign workers to employers in the United States. The list is compiled from information provided to OFLC by employers in their Form ETA-9141, Application for Foreign Labor Certification, and Form ETA-9142B, Prevailing Wage Determination Supplement. The Recruiter List includes cases filed from October 1, 2010, through June 30, 2020. This information is also available in Form ETA-9142B, Appendix A, which provides the complete recruitment information provided by OFLC.

By publishing the foreign labor recruiter list, OFLC is ensuring greater transparency for the H-2B worker recruitment process and facilitating information sharing between the US Department of State and foreign labor recruiters.

In order to view the Foreign Labor Recruiter List, please visit the Foreign Labor Recruiting List page.

- See the Federal Register Notice
- See the Form ETA-9142B Appendix A Recruitment Data and **Software Update Statistics for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021**

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) has issued a comprehensive set of public disclosure data through the Department of Labor's website. The data includes information on the number of applications received and processed under certifications for the PERM, H-1B, H-2A, H-2B, and Prevailing Wage programs.

The public also has access to the software code that OFLC used to run the program, including the PERM, H-1B, H-2A, H-2B, and Prevailing Wage programs.

OFLC has also released 10 annual program statistics for Fiscal year 2020 for the PERM, H-1B, H-1B1, E-3, H-2A, H-2B, H-2B, and Prevailing Wage.

- Visit the public disclosure files and corresponding record layouts containing detailed descriptions which accompany the data files.
- Visit the software source codes containing key program information.

July 15, 2021: OFLC Publishes List of Randomized H-2B Applications Submitted July 1-5 for Employers Seeking H-2B Workers Starting October 1, 2021

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) has published the latest processing wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics program to be used for processing H-2B Labor Certifications for Fiscal Year 2022 (October 1, 2021 through the start date of work of October 1, 2022. Since the number of the H-2B applications received during the initial three days of filing, July 1-3, 2020, exceeding our October 1, 2021 cap, and the start date for the first half of Fiscal Year 2022 is October 1, 2021, **we will open on July 5, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time.**

Following OFLC's standard operating procedures, H-2B applications received prior to 10:00a.m. Eastern Time on July 5, 2021 will be **deemed filed as of 10:00a.m. on July 5, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time.** OFLC will randomly assign a priority date to all applications received on July 5, 2021 and will publish the list of randomized applications on its website by July 15, 2021 using the random procedure published in the Federal Register on March 4, 2021.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Employers who have filed a temporary agricultural labor certification (H-2A) labor condition application and seeking for the use of the individual for whom they seeked. Sharing the same user account is forbidden and it grounds for denial of processing. Each H-2A employer must have a unique email address associated with a unique user account to file a labor condition application. Each employer is required to create a clear user in system.

June 24, 2021: OFLC Announces Release of Round 2 of National Prevailing Wage and Helpdesk Contact FAQs.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is publishing updated frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding updates related to Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (OICC) and the Helpdesk.

- See the Round 2 Prevailing Wage and Helpdesk FAQs

June 21, 2021: OFLC Announces Release of Round 2 of Issuance of Electronic PERM Labor Certification Decisions via the iCERS.

On March 24, 2021, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) informed stakeholders that the Alien Statistical Information System (iCERS) would be the system of record for the issuance of electronic PERM labor certification decisions as agreed to by the Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in a joint period during which the Moves MS and PERM labor certification documents electronically to employers (and their attorneys or agents) and DHS via the iCERS system.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented the system in order to file a USCIS Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, electronically. The system allows for the electronic transmittal of PERM labor certification decisions from employers and attorneys or agents of record of labor certification applications issued by the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) to USCIS via the **iCERS labor certification** also already provided to OFLC to support of a different petition.

Following the initial pilot, OFLC and DHS agreed to expand the use of the iCERS system to include all PERM labor certification applications. Employers and attorneys or agents who submitted the application, to file, with the certified ETA Form 9089 a complete and accurate electronic attorney or agent who submitted the application. To file, with the certified ETA Form 9089 a complete and accurate electronic

- Section 1 - Signed and dated by the certifying Officer.
- Section 2 - Signed and dated by the Employer.
- Section 4 - Signed and dated by the Attorney or agent, if applicable, and
- Section 6 - Signed and dated by the employer and
- Section 7 - Signed and dated by the Attorney or agent if applicable.

The employer is to authorize the attorney or agent to file the certification.

The employer is to authorize the attorney or agent to file the certification. Employers and attorneys or agents who submitted the application, to file, with the certified ETA Form 9089 a complete and accurate electronic attorney or agent who submitted the application. To file, with the certified ETA Form 9089 a complete and accurate electronic

- Section 1 - Signed and dated by the OFLC Certifying Officer.
- Section 2 - Signed and dated by the employer.
- Section 4 - Signed and dated by the Attorney or agent.
- Section 6 - Signed and dated by the employer.
- Section 7 - Signed and dated by the attorney or agent.

The employer is authorized, to authorized agent or attorney, to file the certification.

Beginning March 25, 2021, and through June 30, 2021, employers or their authorized attorneys/agents who file the Form ETA-9142B, Prevailing Wage Determination Supplement, will receive a PDF version of the Form ETA-9142B, Prevailing Wage Determination Supplement, with the case number, the date and time the case was filed, and the PDF version of the Form ETA-9142B, Prevailing Wage Determination Supplement, with the case number, the date and time the case was filed. OFLC will send the original security paper Form ETA-9142B, Prevailing Wage Determination Supplement, to the employer or attorney/agent by mail.

Upon email receipt of an electronic copy of the certified Form ETA-9089, the form must be printed, and then signed and dated by the employer and the attorney or agent of record, if applicable, in the appropriate sections. The employer and the attorney or agent of record, if applicable, must then scan the signature page of the Form ETA-9089 and the certification page and upload it into the iCERS system. The employer and the attorney or agent of record, if applicable, must then upload the signature page of the Form ETA-9089 and the certification page into the iCERS system.

Based on potential service outages due to COVID-19 pandemic, OFLC's electronic system for processing PERM labor certifications, during this temporary period, will help ensure employers and their authorized attorneys or agents are able to continue to file PERM labor certification applications.

Important Reminder: Similar to other electronic processes issued by the Whole-MPC, and to ensure proper receipt of the electronic PERM labor certification applications, OFLC will not accept any PERM labor certification applications filed via Moves Mail or "Ad Hoc" unless prior authorization is given by OFLC.

June 21, 2021: OFLC Announces Release of Round 2 of Frequently Asked Questions Covering Issues Related to the H-1B Specialty Occupations Program and H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certification Program.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification released Round 2 of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding COVID-19. The FAQs provide information and guidance to employers, attorneys, and other stakeholders on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on specialty occupation and temporary agricultural labor certification programs.

- See the Round 2 Frequently Asked Q's

June 21, 2021: OFLC Announces Schedule for the Final Phase of Decommissioning the iCERS System.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is making the public service announcement to alert employers and other interested stakeholders that the Foreign Labor Certification Information System (iCERS) will be retired.

As part of the Department's technology modernization initiative, the Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG) System will be retired on June 30, 2021. As a reminder, OFLC will continue to provide customer service and technical assistance to employers and their attorneys or agents.

On February 26, 2020, OFLC initiated the decommissioning process by transitioning the legacy iCERS System to read only access. Employers and their attorneys or agents could access their cases in read only mode through the iCERS system.

On May 1, 2020, the legacy iCERS System will no longer be accessible to account holders and the general public will be redirected to this page. As a reminder, OFLC will continue to provide customer service and technical assistance to employers on an application submitted in the iCERS System (e.g., withdrawal, application, request reconsideration, etc.) should continue to contact OFLC at foreignlaborcert@dol.gov. The iCERS System will be retired.

April 1, 2020: OFLC Release Round 1 of Frequently Asked Questions Covering Issues Related to the H-1B Specialty Occupations Program and H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certification Program.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification released Round 1 of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding COVID-19. The FAQs provide information and guidance to employers, attorneys, and other stakeholders on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on specialty occupation and temporary agricultural labor certification programs.

- See the Round 1 Frequently Asked Q's

March 31, 2020: OFLC Announces Release of Electronic PERM Labor Certifications in the iCERS System.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is making the public service announcement to alert employers and other interested stakeholders that the Foreign Labor Certification Information System (iCERS) will be retired.

As part of the Department's technology modernization initiative, the Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG) System will be retired on June 30, 2021. As a reminder, OFLC will continue to provide customer service and technical assistance to employers and their attorneys or agents.

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April 1, 2020: OFLC Release Round 1 of Frequently Asked Questions Covering Issues Related to the H-1B Specialty Occupations Program and H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certification Program.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification released Round 1 of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding COVID-19. The FAQs provide information and guidance to employers, attorneys, and other stakeholders on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on specialty occupation and temporary agricultural labor certification programs.

- See the Round 1 Frequently Asked Q's

March 24, 2020: OFLC Announces Suspends Daily Mail Processing at Atlanta and Chicago National Processing Centers, Urges Employers to Electronically Submit Applications.

On March 20, 2020, Vice President Michael Pence announced the nationwide curtailing by the State of Illinois by a stay-at-home order, and the State of Georgia by a shelter-in-place order, effective March 23, 2020 and March 24, 2020, respectively, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result of the curtailing of operations in Atlanta and Chicago, and the lack of evidence, effective March 24, 2020.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has temporarily suspended daily mail processing at its Atlanta and Chicago National Processing Centers (JFKC) in order to protect the health and safety of the staff and help slow the spread of COVID-19. Employers and their attorneys or agents are encouraged to electronically submit applications and supporting documentation.

The Atlanta and Chicago National Processing Centers will continue to receive and process mail, however, the processing will be delayed. Employers and their attorneys or agents are encouraged to monitor relevant Resolution operating status.

OFLC strongly encourages employers and their attorneys or agents to electronically submit Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG) and iCERS electronic filing systems for filing new applications and submitting responses to Employer Requests for Information. Employers and their attorneys or agents are encouraged to monitor the FLAG and iCERS filing systems for the applicable documentation coming out of the following Whole-MPC: ETA-9141 Application for Prevailing Wage Determination, ETA-9142 Prevailing Wage Determination, ETA-9142B, ETA-9142C and ETA-9142D Prevailing Wage Determination Supplement, Recruitment Report, ETA-9089, ETA-9141, ETA-9142A, ETA-9142B, ETA-9142C, ETA-9142D, ETA-9142B, ETA-9142C, ETA-9142D, ETA-9142B, ETA-9142C, ETA-9142D

On January 6, 2021, PHC provided notice to employers and plan sponsors that the employer's authorized attorney or agent is allowing data about the Employment Tax Credits to be transmitted to PHC.

- Step-by-Step Instructions for Employer Authorized Contributor Access v. 20.20

January 1, 2020, EFLC Announces Number of 18-20 Applications Filed in the Previous Reporting Year (FY 2019), Week Start Date

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has completed its annual processing for tentatively accepted 18-20 applications filed in the Previous Reporting Year (FY 2019). For FY 2019, there were 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000, 2,000 accepted 18-20 Plan Year 2020 Applications in FY 2019.

PHC received a notice of EFLC's acceptance for processing 18-20 employer portions during this Week.

EFLC will be processing workers before employers and the employer's authorized attorney or agent will then 18-20 Employer Portions. Employers will be able to access 18-20 Applications on the website for the Plan Year 2020 Employer Portion, beginning on January 6, 2020.

January 1, 2020, EFLC Announces Number of 18-20 Applications Filed in the Previous Reporting Year (FY 2019), Week Start Date

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) has posted a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) to address stakeholder questions about the Employment Tax Credits (ETC) for Employers Who Hire Qualified Individuals Under Section 18-20 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Employers will be able to access 18-20 Applications on the website for the Plan Year 2020 Employer Portion, beginning on January 6, 2020.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) will continue to accept 18-20 applications during the Week Day Window, beginning on the Previous Reporting Year (FY 2019) Week Start Date, January 1, 2020.

PHC will be processing workers before employers and the employer's authorized attorney or agent will then 18-20 Employer Portions. Employers will be able to access 18-20 Applications on the website for the Plan Year 2020 Employer Portion, beginning on January 6, 2020.

January 1, 2020, EFLC Announces Number of 18-20 Applications Filed in the Previous Reporting Year (FY 2019), Week Start Date

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) will continue to accept 18-20 applications during the Week Day

May 31, 2018: H-1B Form ETA-9035/9035E Extended

The office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has extended through June 30, 2018, OFLC's request for a three-year extension to currently under review with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The current version of the ETA-9035/9035E form is now available for use at the following location:
Foreign Labor Certification Forms <https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pwd.cfm>

May 30, 2018: ETA Forms 9142 - 9142C/9142E Extended

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has extended through June 30, 2018, OFLC's request for a three-year extension is currently under review with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The current version of the ETA-9142 series forms is now available for use at the following location:
Foreign Labor Certification Forms <https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pwd.cfm>

May 30, 2018: ETA Forms 9142 - 9142C/9142E

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has extended through June 30, 2018, OFLC's request for a three-year extension is currently under review with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The current version of the ETA-9142 series forms is now available for use at the following location:
Foreign Labor Certification Forms <https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pwd.cfm>

May 25, 2018: PERM Business Partner Maintenance Outage Impacting the PERM System

The PERM system will be unavailable during the following time period for system maintenance: Thursday, May 31, 2018 from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

May 15, 2018: PERM Form ETA 9089 Extended

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) has received approval of a three year extension for the Form ETA 9089 (OMB Control Number 1205-0455). The current version of the PERM Form ETA 9089 is now available for use at the following location:
Foreign Labor Certification Forms <https://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/pwd.cfm>

April 26, 2018: Foreign Labor Certification Maintenance - PERM Outage

As part of the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) continuous efforts to enhance both internal and external customer service, OFLC will be performing system maintenance on the Foreign Labor Certification Online System (FLCOS). This outage is required to allow the system to make an internal connection to e.g., disaddresses.gov, and other internal-external members of the public not identified in the system-to-system connections with the Permanent Labor Certification program.

Additionally, on Saturday, April 28, the system will be in a pre-production mode to allow for system testing and training for those who are participating in the Modernization Pilot. The system will be available for use by the public on Sunday, April 29, 2018.

PERM Wednesday, May 2, 2018

TIME: 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Eastern Standard Time

FORMAT: Webinar & conference call capability will be provided to maximize participation

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 800-263-6950

TELEPHONE PASSCODE: 5389963

1. Go to our site at: https://www.adobeconnect.com/dolevnt/foreignlabor/
2. Click on "Guest Entry"
3. If prompted, enter the appropriate information (first name, last name, email address)
4. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Webinar!
5. Click on "Join Now"
6. To join audio, please dial the toll-free number 800-263-6950 and enter access code: 5389963 to hear the audio portion of the webinar or use audio for listeners of the webinar is stream audio.

April 26, 2018: Prevailing Wage Concepts for H-1B Surveyors and General Filing Tips

The OFLC Prevailing Wage Webinar presentation for H-1B employers and surveyors will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. A posted under the Prevailing Tips on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's H-1B web page, under Prevailing Wage Guidance, Prevailing Wage Presentation.

April 20, 2018: ASCRT and PERM System Maintenance

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has posted updated program factsheets containing the Quarter FY 2018 version of the PERM and ASCRT Processing Times. The factsheets can be accessed at the following locations:
Foreign Labor Certification - Program Information - Prevailing Wage Determination - Prevailing Wage Determination - Program Information - Program Information - Program Information

"Section of Time Limited Delivery for Recruitment Purposes" Section of Time Limited Certification for the PERM Program Section of Time Limited Delivery for Recruitment Purposes" Section of Time Limited Certification for the PERM Program Unfortunately, after the dust settles, the attestation requirement remains the most contentious part of the Program. Employers are strong with Form 9089, a 10 page set of 28 application questions to file in the 30 days for the second half of Year Four 2017. The Program's Attestation Section is the most time consuming and expensive part of the Program. Section of Time Limited Delivery for Recruitment Purposes

July 1st, 2017 FY 2017 Q3 Cumulative Disclosure Data

The OFCP, FOIA, etc. is the Processing Agent for the Program Disclosure Data for Quarter 3 of FY 2017 are now available. Click here to access the Disclosure and corresponding record layouts.

July 1st, 2017 FY 2017 Q3 Selected Statistics

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification posted updated program factsheets containing the Quarter 3 FY 2017 selected statistics for Temporary Employment Certification, Prevailing Wage Determination Program, H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program, H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Program, and PERM Program. The updated program factsheets may be found at OFCP's Performance Data Section.

July 1st, 2017 FY 2017 Q3 Foreign Labor Recruitment Data

Pursuant to 20 CFR 655.1(c), the Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is publishing an updated list of the names of foreign labor recruiters and of the associated entities identified by employers as being engaged in the recruitment of employees have indicated they intended to, or planned to, engage in the recruitment of prospective H-2B solicitors to perform services or labor in the United States (H-2B workers). The list is in two parts: (1) Recruiters Identified by Name; and (2) Labor Recruiter Associations Identified by Name. Each Year, July 1st, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

By providing this Foreign Labor Recruiter List, OFLC is providing a greater level of transparency to the H-2B recruitment process and facilitating information sharing between the H-2B community and the public. The list will be updated quarterly and can be accessed at any time. Regarding the Foreign Labor Recruiter List have been posted as 2014-H-2B-FLR-List.pdf and so on going.

June 1st, 2017 Updated Program Factsheets

Today the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Homeland Security issued a joint regulation allowing some seasonal employers to participate in a pilot program for the temporary employment of foreign workers in seasonal nonagricultural temporary jobs. The regulation is intended to help employers and their American workers who have been adversely affected by recent changes to those businesses who are in the seasonal industry. One-half of the regulation may be found at the Federal Register. Regulation may be found at the Federal Register.

July 1st, 2017 Webinar Announcement: PERM Audit Response Submission Practice Tips

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has posted updated program factsheets containing the Quarter 3 FY 2017 selected statistics for Temporary Employment Certification, Prevailing Wage Determination Program, H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program, H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Program, and PERM Program. The updated program factsheets may be found at OFCP's Performance Data Section.

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July 1st, 2017 Webinar Announcement: PERM Audit Response Submission Practice Tips

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is currently accepting a maximum of 90 Audit Response Submissions (ARS) per quarter. Effective May 25, 2017, updated the automated email request for sponsorship verification process, allowing employers to submit a response to the request for sponsorship verification electronically. Employers will receive an automated email requesting sponsorship verification. The email will contain a link to the electronic form to be completed by the sponsorship requestor.

If applicable, the employer's attorney/agent will also receive a courtesy email regarding the employer's timeline to respond to the sponsorship request. Failure to respond to the request within the established timeline will result in a denial of the application. Upon receipt of the sponsorship request, the attorney/agent will be able to view the status of the request in addition to receiving notifications of the sponsorship request.

If the employer does not have an email address listed on its ETA Form 9089 application for Permanent Employment Certification, OFLC will continue to send the sponsorship request via U.S. Postal Service mail.

May 1st, 2017 Webinar Announcement: PERM Audit Response Submission Practice Tips

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification posted updated program factsheets containing the Quarter 3 FY 2017 selected statistics for Temporary Employment Certification, Prevailing Wage Determination Program, H-2A Temporary Agricultural Program, H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Program, and PERM Program. The updated program factsheets may be found at OFCP's Performance Data Section.

June 1, 2017 OFLC Announces Temporary Administrative Outage Impacting the iCERT and PERM Systems

The iCERT and PERM systems will be unavailable during the following time periods for system maintenance:

- Friday, June 2, 7:00 PM Eastern EDT until 11:00 PM EDT

May 30, 2017 OFLC Announces Improvements to the PERM Sponsorship Verification Process

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is currently accepting a maximum of 90 Audit Response Submissions (ARS) per quarter. Effective May 25, 2017, updated the automated email request for sponsorship verification process, allowing employers to submit a response to the request for sponsorship verification electronically. Employers will receive an automated email requesting sponsorship verification. The email will contain a link to the electronic form to be completed by the sponsorship requestor.

If applicable, the employer's attorney/agent will also receive a courtesy email regarding the employer's timeline to respond to the sponsorship request. Failure to respond to the request within the established timeline will result in a denial of the application. Upon receipt of the sponsorship request, the attorney/agent will be able to view the status of the request in addition to receiving notifications of the sponsorship request.

If the employer does not have an email address listed on its ETA Form 9089 application for Permanent Employment Certification, OFLC will continue to send the sponsorship request via U.S. Postal Service mail.

May 1st, 2017 OFLC Announces System Maintenance Outage Impacting the iCERT and PERM Systems

The iCERT and PERM systems will be unavailable during the following time periods for system maintenance:

- Friday, May 26, 7:00 PM Eastern EDT until 11:00 PM EDT

May 26, 2017 The PERM Webinar presentation, hosted on May 10, 2017, is posted online under the PERM Webinars link on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's Permanent Labor Certification Program. The PERM Webinar presentation, please click here.

May 26, 2017 OFLC Announces Improvements to the PERM Sponsorship Verification Process

- Friday, May 26, 7:00 PM Eastern EDT until 11:00 PM EDT
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- Friday, May 26, 7:00 PM Eastern EDT until 11:00 PM EDT

April 28, 2017 OFLC Announces System Maintenance Outage Impacting the iCERT and PERM Systems

The iCERT and PERM systems will be unavailable during the following time periods for system maintenance:

- Friday, April 28, 7:00 PM Eastern EDT until 11:00 PM EDT

April 26, 2017 Webinar Announcement: PERM Audit Response Submission Practice Tips

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is currently accepting a maximum of 90 Audit Response Submissions (ARS) per quarter. Effective May 25, 2017, updated the automated email request for sponsorship verification process, allowing employers to submit a response to the request for sponsorship verification electronically. Employers will receive an automated email requesting sponsorship verification. The email will contain a link to the electronic form to be completed by the sponsorship requestor.

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April 26, 2017 The PERM Webinar presentation, hosted on May 10, 2017, is posted online under the PERM Webinars link on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's Permanent Labor Certification Program. The PERM Webinar presentation, please click here.

April 26, 2017 Webinar Announcement: Prevailing Wage Determination Program - H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Related to the Strategic Partnership Program Pilot

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) is pleased to announce the available changes to our Strategic Partnership Program Pilot (SPP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the Prevailing Wage Determination Program - H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Program. The SPP Pilot Program is a voluntary pilot program for employers who have a pending or approved H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Program application

June 6, 2016 National Announcement: Employer Filing Tips for Submitting H-1B and H-1B Cap Subject Petitions Electronically

As part of the Department Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) on going efforts for increased public outreach, the Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a "Tips for Submitting H-1B and H-1B Cap Subject Petitions Electronically" national stakeholder call on June 6, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Employers and their representatives are invited to participate in this informative 90-minute interactive telephonic listen and learn session. The purpose of this session is to provide technical assistance to employers and attorneys on H-1B and H-1B Cap petitions. Our objective for this webinar is to provide technical assistance to employers and their representatives on the electronic process to prepare, submit, and receive a decision on H-1B and H-1B Cap petitions.

To join the webinar event scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2016, please use the below instructions:

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2016
TIME: 3:00 p.m. ET
DIAL number: 1-866-890-8388
PASSCODE: 5573960

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D06%2D23
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Password
4. Click on "Join Now"
5. To join audio, please dial the toll-free number 866-890-8388 and enter access code: 2761 to hear the audio portion of the webinar. Please mute your phone to avoid disrupting the webinar.

June 9, 2016 Form H-1B Forms H1B-1B, H1B-1C, H1B-1D

As part of the Department Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) on going efforts for increased public outreach, the Department is hosting a "Form H-1B Forms H1B-1B, H1B-1C, H1B-1D" national stakeholder call on June 9, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Employers and their representatives are invited to participate in this informative 90-minute interactive telephonic listen and learn session. The purpose of this session is to provide technical assistance to employers and attorneys on H-1B petitions. Our objective for this webinar is to provide technical assistance to employers and their representatives on the electronic process to prepare, submit, and receive a decision on H-1B petitions.

To join the webinar event scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2016, please use the below instructions:

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2016
TIME: 3:00 p.m. ET
DIAL number: 1-866-890-8388
PASSCODE: 5573960

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D06%2D23
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Password
4. Click on "Join Now"
5. To join audio, please dial the toll-free number **1-866-890-8388** and enter access code: **7783674** to hear the audio portion of the webinar. Please mute your phone to avoid disrupting the webinar.

May 31, 2016 Employer Filing Tips for Submitting H-1B and H-1B Cap Subject Petitions Electronically

As part of the Department Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) on going efforts for increased public outreach, the Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a "Employer Filing Tips for Submitting H-1B and H-1B Cap Subject Petitions Electronically" national stakeholder call on May 31, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Employers and their representatives are invited to participate in this informative 90-minute interactive telephonic listen and learn session. The purpose of this session is to provide technical assistance to employers and attorneys on H-1B petitions. Our objective for this webinar is to provide technical assistance to employers and their representatives on the electronic process to prepare, submit, and receive a decision on H-1B petitions.

To join the webinar event scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2016, please use the below instructions:

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2016
TIME: 3:00 p.m. ET
DIAL number: 1-866-890-8388
PASSCODE: 5573960

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D06%2D23
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Password
4. Click on "Join Now"
5. To join audio, please dial the toll-free number **1-866-890-8388** and enter access code: **7783674** to hear the audio portion of the webinar. Please mute your phone to avoid disrupting the webinar.

February 24, 2016 Form H-2B Cap Subject Petitions

As part of the Department Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) on going efforts for increased public outreach, the Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a "Form H-2B Cap Subject Petitions" national stakeholder call on February 24, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Employers and their representatives are invited to participate in this informative 90-minute interactive telephonic listen and learn session. The purpose of this session is to provide technical assistance to employers and attorneys on H-2B petitions. Our objective for this webinar is to provide technical assistance to employers and their representatives on the electronic process to prepare, submit, and receive a decision on H-2B petitions.

To join the webinar event scheduled for February 24, 2016, please use the below instructions:

DATE: Friday, February 24, 2016
TIME: 3:00PM - 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time
EAST NAME: 5573960

PRESENTATION: To obtain a copy of the powerpoint presentation slides, please click here.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D02%2D24
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Password
4. Click on "Join Now"
5. To join audio, please dial the toll-free number **1-866-890-8388** and enter access code: **7783674** to hear the audio portion of the webinar. Please mute your phone to avoid disrupting the webinar.

February 10, 2016 Form H-2B Cap Subject Petitions

The Department of Labor has published a Notice that Employers may begin to prepare the attestation changes for 2016 Cap Subject H-2B Petitions on February 10, 2016. The Notice is available on the Federal Register website. The Notice has been published and is available for download that a vacter with receipts may start in 2016 under the 65 and 66 Rule. The Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a national stakeholder call on February 10, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time to answer any and all inquiries related to the H-2B cap subject. Please read the Notice, please click here.

February 10, 2016 Form H-2B Cap Subject Petitions

On February 10, 2016 announced two initiatives designed to help reduce the backlog of pending H-2B applications and provide education to help employers prepare for the upcoming cap season. The Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a national stakeholder call on February 10, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time to answer any and all inquiries related to the H-2B cap subject. Please read the Notice, please click here.

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DATE: Friday, February 10, 2016
TIME: 3:00PM - 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time
EAST NAME: 5573960

PRESENTATION: To obtain a copy of the powerpoint presentation slides, please click here.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D02%2D10
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Password
4. Click on "Join Now"
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DATE: Friday, February 24, 2016
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EAST NAME: 5573960

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INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D02%2D24
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March 23, 2016 H-2B Program Forms

The Forms for the H-2B program are currently in review for a three year extension. Notice of a second comment period, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, is being published in the Federal Register on March 23, 2016. The Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a national stakeholder call on March 23, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time to answer any and all inquiries related to the H-2B program. Please read the Notice, please click here.

February 26, 2016 Federal Register Notice Announcing the 2016 Allocation Process for Agricultural Workers' Meals and Travel Subsistence Reimbursement, Including Lodging for the H-2A and H-2B Programs

The Department of Labor has published a Notice to Employers to announce the allowable changes for 2016 that Employers may begin to prepare the attestation changes for 2016 Cap Subject H-2B Petitions on February 26, 2016. The Notice is available on the Federal Register website. The Notice has been published and is available for download that a vacter with receipts may start in 2016 under the 65 and 66 Rule. The Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a national stakeholder call on February 26, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time to answer any and all inquiries related to the H-2B cap subject. Please read the Notice, please click here.

February 26, 2016 Form H-2B Cap Subject Petitions

On February 26, 2016 announced two initiatives designed to help reduce the backlog of pending H-2B applications and provide education to help employers prepare for the upcoming cap season. The Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a national stakeholder call on February 26, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time to answer any and all inquiries related to the H-2B cap subject. Please read the Notice, please click here.

To join the webinar event scheduled for February 26, 2016, please use the below instructions:

DATE: Friday, February 26, 2016
TIME: 3:00PM - 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time
EAST NAME: 5573960

PRESENTATION: To obtain a copy of the powerpoint presentation slides, please click here.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to the URL: https://meetme.webex.com/join/meetmeregister/
   https://meetme.webex.com/join/2016%2D02%2D26
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the meeting password: Password
4. Click on "Join Now"
5. To join audio, please dial the toll-free number **1-866-890-8388** and enter access code: **7783674** to hear the audio portion of the webinar. Please mute your phone to avoid disrupting the webinar.

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March 23, 2016 Form H-2B Cap Subject Petitions

The Department of Labor (DOL) is hosting a national stakeholder call on March 23

Prevailing Wage Information Service on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's H-2B Interim Final Rule Web page. To access the page, please click here. To access the recording directly, please click here.

August 13, 2015: H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule Webinar.

The Department will host a public webinar to educate stakeholders, employer groups, users, and other interested members of the public on the changes to the H-2B program made by the H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule, in effect as of April 29, 2015. The webinar briefing is scheduled for August 21, 2015, from 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM Eastern Daylight time. There is no pre-registration for the public webinar. The webinar will be accessible to the public on a first-come, first-served basis on the date specified. Please read the instructions for accessing the Department's H-2B Final Wage Rule public webinar here.

August 4, 2015.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has posted new and updated Labor Condition Application (LCA) ETA Form 9035/9035E| Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the H-1B, H-1B1 and E-3 programs. The new FAQs may be found here.

July 31, 2015.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Change in signature on approved labor certification applications.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) today has implemented a change in the official signature on approved labor certification applications. Specifically, OFLC determinations to grant permanent and temporary labor certification will no longer display the electronic signature of the OFLC Acting Administrator, William W. Thompson. II. Beginning July 31, 2015, the electronic signature on approved applications under the permanent (ETA Forms 9089, 750) and temporary (ETA Forms 9035E, 9142A, 9142B, 9033) visa programs will be shown as "Certifying Officer."

This change demonstrates increased transparency and more accurately reflects the operational decision making process across the organization. The OFLC has consulted with the Department of Homeland Security's United State Citizenship and Immigration Services on this change for purposes of accepting employment-filed I-129 and I-140 petitions.

July 22, 2015.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has posted updated program factsheets containing the FY 2015 Quarter 3 Selected Statistics for the Permanent Labor Certification Program , Prevailing Wage Determination Program , H-1B Temporary Visa Program , H-2A Temporary Agricultural Visa Program , and H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Visa Program. Reports are derived from program data as of 6/30/2015.The updated program factsheets may also be found on OFLC's Performance Data page.

July 21, 2015.

H-2B 2015 IFR FAQs: Integrity Measures. The Department of Labor is making available Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that address post certification program integrity measures under the H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule. To read the FAQs click here or visit the H-2B Program Page.

July 17, 2015.

Processing of H-2B Labor Conditions Granted under the 2008 Final Rule. The Department of Labor has posted an update regarding the processing of H-2B labor conditions granted under the 2008 Final Rule. To read the update, please visit the H-2B Program Page.

July 17, 2015.

ETA 9142B and ETA-9142C Extension Requests. The Department has published two notices in the *Federal Register* announcing 60-day comment periods on its forms used in the H-2B program, which include the Form ETA-9142B, Application for Temporary Employment Certification, Appendix B, and the new Form ETA-9142C, Employer Provided Survey Attestations to Accompany H-2B Prevailing Wage Determination Request Based on a Non-OES Survey. To read the notice, please click here for the ETA-9142B and here for the ETA-9142C. To obtain a copy of the forms and the supporting documentation please submit your request to ETA.OFLC.Forms@dol.gov , subject line: Form ETA-9142B or Form ETA-9142C. The forms were approved by the Office of Management and Budget in conjunction with the H-2B rulemaking under the emergency procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department now seeks to extend the forms for three years.

July 15, 2015.

H-2B 2015 IFR FAQs: Appeals and Seafood Industry Staggered Crossings. The Department of Labor is making available additional 2015 Interim Final Rule Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): 1. Appeal Procedures and 2. Staggered Crossing of H-2B Nonimmigrants Working in the Seafood Industry . The FAQs may also found on the H-2B Program page under the "Frequently Asked Questions" dropdown menu.

July 15, 2015.

July 15, 2015. FY 2015 Q3 Cumulative Disclosure Data The OFLC PERM, H-2A, H-2B, Prevailing Wage, and H-1B program disclosure data files for Quarter 3 of FY 2015 are now available. Click here to access the disclosure files and corresponding record layouts.

July 9, 2015.

The H-2B RFI mailbox at the Chicago National Processing Center (RFI.H2B.Chicago@dol.gov) will cease to be monitored July 13, 2015, and will no longer accept messages starting September 30, 2015. All stakeholders should use TLC.Chicago@dol.gov for all communications concerning the H-2A and H-2B Temporary Labor Certification programs.

July 8, 2015.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has updated the following H-2B forms: 1) Form 9142B - General Instructions; 2) Appendix B; 3) Form 9142B, Job Contractor Requirements under the 2015 H-2B Interim Final Rule. To access the forms, please click here.

June 9, 2015. H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule Webinar Resources.

On May 27, 2015, the Department of Labor hosted a public webinar to educate stakeholders, program users, and other interested members of the public on the changes to the H-2B program made by the H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule. This webinar became effective on April 29, 2015. To learn more, you may now access the webinar recording and presentation slides on the H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule Page, under Additional Resources here.

June 1, 2015. H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule Webinar Recording.

The recording of the H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule webinar briefing, hosted on May 15, 2015, has been posted under the Prevailing Wage Information section on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's H-2B Interim Final Rule web page. To access the page, please click here. To access the recording directly, please click here.

May 22, 2015.

On April 15, 2015, the Department of Labor published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Foreign Workers in the Herding or Production of Livestock on the Open Range in the United States (H-2A Open Range NPRM), 80 FR 20200. The NPRM provided for the submission of public comments through May 15, 2015. In response to public requests to extend the comment period, the Department published a subsequent notice in the *Federal Register* to extend the comment period by 15 days, to and including June 1, 2015 (80 FR 26633). After the publication of the notice announcing the extension, the Department received additional requests to extend the comment period. However, the Department is required by court order to publish a final rule no later than November 1, 2015. Mendoza v. Perez, No. 11-1790 (D.D.C. Oct. 31, 2014), and any further extension of the comment period would significantly impair our ability to meet this court-ordered deadline. As a result, we have not further extended the comment period beyond June 1, 2015.

May 20, 2015. Announcing the H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule Webinar.

On May 27, 2015 at 2pm Eastern Daylight Time, the Department of Labor will host a public webinar to educate stakeholders, program users, and other interested members of the public on the changes to the H-2B program made by the H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule, which became effective on April 29, 2015. Please note that this webinar is limited to 300 participants and will be accessible to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, including how to access the Department's H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule public webinar click here.

May 18, 2015. H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule Webinar Recording.

The recording of the H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule webinar briefing, hosted on May 13, 2015, has been posted under the Prevailing Wage Information section on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule web page. To access the page, please click here. To access the recording directly, please click here.

May 14, 2015. H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule Webinar Presentation.

The presentation for the H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule webinar briefings, hosted on May 13, 2015 and May 15, 2015, has been posted under the Prevailing Wage Information section on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification's H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule web page. To access the page, please click here. To access the presentation directly, please click here.

May 7, 2015. H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule Webinar.

The Department will host two public webinars to educate stakeholders, program users, and other interested members of the public on the changes to the H-2B program made by the H-2B 2015 Final Wage Rule, in effect as of April 29, 2015 Interim Final. The webinar briefings are scheduled for May 13, 2015 and May 15, 2015, from 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM Eastern Daylight time. There is no pre-registration for the public webinars. Each will be accessible to the public on a first-come, first-served basis on the dates specified. Please read the instructions for accessing the Department's H-2B Final Wage Rule public webinars here.

May 5, 2015. DOL Extends the Comment Period for the H-2A Open Range Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to and Including June 1,2015.

On April 15, 2015, the Department of Labor published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Foreign Workers in the Herding or Production of Livestock on the Open Range in the United States (H-2A Open Range NPRM), 80 FR 20200 (Apr. 15, 2015). The Notice provided for the submission of public comments through May 15, 2015. In order to provide the public with additional time to submit comments, the Department published a subsequent notice in the *Federal Register* to extend this comment period. To read the notice extending the comment period by 15 days, to and including June 1, 2015, please click here.

May 1, 2015. H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule Web Page.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has created a dedicated web page for the H-2B 2015 Interim Final Rule to provide assistance to stakeholders. The web page contains program details with links to frequently Asked Questions, the iCERT System for electronic filing, the Forms page and more. To access the page, please click here.

April 29, 2015. New H-2B Program Regulations.

On April 29, 2015, the Departments of Labor and Homeland Security jointly published new regulations governing the H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Labor Certification Program. The new regulations are effective immediately.

- The Department of Labor's news release discussing the two regulations may be accessed here.
- To read the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment of H-2B Aliens in the United States, Interim Final Rule and learn how to submit comments during the 60-day open comment period, please click here.
- To read the Huge Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural employment H-2B Program, Final Rule please click here.
- For compliance assistance with H-2B program obligations, you may access the Department's Wage and Hour Division Web site here.
- In addition, the Department's Office of Foreign Labor Certification will soon launch a dedicated technical implementation Web page for the new H-2B regulations and will alert stakeholders when it becomes available.

April 24, 2015

In an effort to increase the transparency of foreign labor certification application processing, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification has expanded the data fields displayed in the PERM, H-1B, H-2A and H-2B Disclosure Data. The 2nd quarter disclosure data now includes additional information that better coincides with the majority of data fields displayed located on the Labor Certification Registry. A power point presentation has been posted here to provide details of the additional fields included in the new tables.

April 16, 2015: H-2B Processing Continuing

On April 15, 2015, the federal district court for the Northern District of Florida issued a further order in Perez v. Perez, No. 3:14-cv-682 (N.D. Fla., March 4, 2015) that permits DOL to continue to processing of H-2B applications and requests for prevailing wages through May 15, 2015 unless otherwise lifted by the court. Therefore, DOL is continuing to process H-2B applications and requests for prevailing wage.

April 16, 2015: DOL H-2B Processing Stops Again

Under the court order issued March 18, 2015, by the federal district court in Perez v. Perez, No. 3:14-cv-682 (N.D. Florida), DOL was permitted to temporarily resume processing H-2B requests for prevailing wages and applications for labor certification under the 2008 H-2B rule through April 15, 2015. The court's order permitted only a temporary resumption, and now requires DOL once again to cease accepting or processing requests for prevailing wage determinations or applications for labor certification in the H-2B program. Effective April 16, 2015, DOL has ceased accepting or processing H-2B prevailing wage determinations and applications for H-2B temporary non-agricultural labor certification under the 2008 rule. DOL and DHS are moving as quickly as possible to issue new regulations that will enable DOL to resume processing H-2B applications and requests for prevailing wage determinations.

April 15, 2015.

On April 15, 2015, the Department published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Foreign Workers in the Herding or Production of Livestock on the Open Range in the United States (H-2A Open Range NPRM), 80 FR 20200 (Apr. 15, 2015). The Department invites public comments on the H-2A Open Range NPRM during the 30-day comment period ending on May 15, 2015. To read the H-2A Open Range NPRM and learn how to submit comments, please click here.

April 14, 2015.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has posted updated program factsheets containing the Quarter 2 FY 2015 selected statistics for the Permanent Labor Certification Program , Prevailing Wage Determination Program , H-1B Temporary Visa Program , H-2A Temporary Agricultural Visa Program , and H-2B Temporary Non-agricultural Visa Program. Reports are derived from program data as of 3/30/2015.The updated program factsheets may also be found on OFLC's Performance Data page.

March 20, 2015. FAQs regarding Temporary Stay of the Court's Vacatur of 2008 Final Rule

The Department of Labor is making available Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding its implementation of the Northern District of Florida's March 18, 2015 decision to temporarily stay its earlier judgment in Perez v. Perez, No. 3:14-cv-682 (N.D. Florida, Mar. 4, 2015). As a result of the court's temporary stay, the Department has resumed processing of requests for H-2B prevailing wage determinations and applications for H-2B temporary non-agricultural labor certification until April 15, 2015. The FAQs can be accessed here.

March 18, 2015. Prohibition of DOL H-2B Processing Temporarily Lifted

On March 18, 2015, the federal district court in the Northern District of Florida issued an order effectively permitting DOL to restart its processing of H-2B applications under the 2008 rule immediately and to continue processing applications under that rule through April 15, 2015. Effective immediately, DOL will begin processing H-2B applications under the 2008 rule and will continue to do so through April 15th. Under the terms of the court's March 18th order, any application for certification or prevailing wage determination that has not completed DOL processing by the time the stay ends as of April 16, 2015 may no longer be processed under the 2008 H-2B rule.

March 16, 2015. Joint Statement from DOL and DHS on Next Steps for the H-2B Program

On March 4, 2015, the federal district court in the Northern District of Florida vacated the Department of Labor's (DOL) 2008 H-2B regulations on the ground that DOL lacks authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act to issue regulations in the H-2B program. *Perez v. Perez*, No. 3:14-cv-682 (N.D. Fla., Mar. 4, 2015). Because this decision, effectively immediately, DOL can no longer accept or process requests for prevailing wage determinations or applications for labor certification in the H-2B program. DOL is considering its options in light of the court's decision.

February 23, 2015. *Federal Register* Notice Announcing the 2015 Allowable Charges for Agricultural Workers' Meals and Travel Subsistence Reimbursement, Including Lodging for the H-2A Program.

The Department of Labor has published a Notice in the *Federal Register* to announce the allowable charges for 2015 that employers seeking H-2A workers may charge their workers when the employer provides three meals a day, and the maximum travel subsistence meal reimbursement that an employer with employees may claim in 2015. The Notice also includes a reminder regarding employers' obligations with respect to overnight lodging costs as part of required subsistence for the H-2A program. To read the Notice, please click here.

February 2, 2015. The Department has released its Foreign Labor Certification Annual Report for FY 2013.

The 2013 Annual Report presents information on the Prevailing Wage Determination Process, Permanent Labor Certification, and Temporary Nonimmigrant Labor Certification for FY 2013. The report also contains State Employment-Based Labor Certification Profiles and top Country Employment-Based Immigration Profiles. Click here to view the 2013 Annual Report.

January 27, 2015. Additional Guidance regarding H-2A Perez and Employers' H-2B Temporary Employment Certifications That are Based on Employer-Provided Surveys.

On Dec. 23, 2014, the Department announced procedures to implement the Court's decision in *Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas et al. v. Perez*, No. 11-2407 (3rd Cir.Dec. 5, 2014), which were applicable to (1) employers with pending prevailing wage requests based on an employer-provided survey and (2) employers who had received a prevailing wage determination based on an employer-provided survey and have filed an H-2B application or have not yet filed an H-2B. In the latter case, the Department is issuing supplemental prevailing wage determinations (SPWDs) based on the OES mean.

For employers who already received an H-2B temporary labor certification based on an employer-provided survey as of the date of the issuance of the Court's order on December 5, 2014, the Department will hold in abeyance the issuance of any SPWDs pending the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding initiated by the Secretary of Labor's Notice of Intent to Issue a Declaratory Order, 79 Fed. Reg. 75179 (Dec. 17, 2014).

January 22, 2015. FY 2015 Q1 Cumulative Disclosure Data

The OFLC PERM, H-2A, H-2B, Prevailing Wage, and H-1B program disclosure data files for Quarter 1 of FY 2015 are now available. Click here to access the disclosure files and corresponding record layouts.

January 16, 2015. DOL has Extended the Comment Period for the H-1B Notice of Intent to Issue Declaratory Order.

On December 17, 2014, the Department of Labor published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to Issue Declaratory Order, Request for Comment, 79 Fed. Reg. 75179 (Notice). The Notice provided for the submission of public comments through January 16, 2015. On January 12, 2015, the Department published in the *Federal Register* a subsequent notice extending this comment period by 15 days, until February 1, 2015 to provide the public with additional time to submit comments. To read the notice extending the comment period, please click here. To read the Notice and learn how to submit comments, please click here.

January 16, 2015. The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) Implements *Search FAQs* feature on Frequently Asked Questions and Answers page.

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) has updated the FAQ page of its official website with a new keyword search function, Search FAQs. Users may now search the FAQ page by using a single keyword or exact phrase to identify items in the FAQ database that correspond to keywords or characters specified by the user. A tip sheet has been developed to assist with use of the Search FAQs tool. To access the FAQs page and Search FAQs Tip Sheet, click here.

January 13, 2015. DOL is Extending the Comment Period for the H-2B Notice of Intent to Issue Declaratory Order.

On December 17, 2014, the Department of Labor (Department) published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Intent to Issue Declaratory Order, Request for Comment, 79 Fed. Reg. 75179 (Notice). The Notice provided for the submission of public comments through January 16, 2015. The Department published in the *Federal Register* a notice extending this comment period by 15 days, until February 2, 2015 in order to provide the public with additional time to submit comments. To read the Notice and learn how to submit comments, please click here.

January 8, 2015. Permanent Labor Certification Program: Listening Session.

On Thursday, January 22nd, 2015 from 4:30pm until 5:30pm EST, the Department of Labor (Department) will host a stakeholder listening session regarding the Permanent Labor Certification Program (PERM) via conference call. The session will be led by the Department's Deputy Chief of Staff, Seema Nanda and the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Portia Wu.

The Department is interested in beginning a dialogue and receiving feedback from you regarding the PERM program's role in employment-based immigration, its current regulatory framework and any general areas of concern to the stakeholder community. To learn more, please read the Secretary's factsheet.

To participate in the listening session **please RSVP no later than January 14th** by clicking on the following link http://webpages.dol.gov/OIA/events/Event/View/241FE984-Public-Listening-Session and completing the registration form **for the individual who will represent your organization** .

Once an RSVP is received, your organization's representative will receive a confirmation e-mail with additional details.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Department's Office of Public Engagement at PublicEngagement@dol.gov.

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