

Employment and Training Administration, Labor

§ 655.30

under § 655.30 in future filings of H-2B temporary labor certification applications.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 77 FR 10160, Feb. 21, 2012, § 655.23 was removed and reserved, effective Apr. 23, 2012.

§ 655.24 Audits.

(a) *Discretion.* OFLC will conduct audits of H-2B temporary labor certification applications. The applications selected for audit will be chosen within the sole discretion of OFLC.

(b) *Audit letter.* When an application is selected for audit, the CO shall issue an audit letter to the employer. The audit letter will:

(1) State the application has been selected for audit and note documentation that must be submitted by the employer;

(2) Specify a date, no fewer than 14 days and no more than 30 days from the date of the audit letter's issuance, by which the required documentation must be received by the CO; and

(3) Advise that failure to comply with the audit process may result in a finding by the CO to:

(i) Require the employer to conduct supervised recruitment under § 655.30 in future filings of H-2B temporary labor certification applications for a period of up to 2 years, or

(ii) Debar the employer from future filings of H-2B temporary labor certification applications as provided in § 655.31.

(c) *Supplemental information.* During the course of the audit examination, the CO may request supplemental information and/or documentation from the employer to complete the audit.

(d) *Audit violations.* If, as a result of the audit, the CO determines the employer failed to produce all required documentation, or determines that the employer made a material misrepresentation with respect to the application, the employer may be required to conduct supervised recruitment under § 655.30 in future filings of H-2B temporary labor certification applications for up to 2 years, or may be subject to debarment pursuant to § 655.31 or other sanctions. The CO may provide the audit findings and underlying documentation to DHS, WHD, or another appropriate enforcement agency. The

CO may refer any findings that an employer discouraged an eligible U.S. worker from applying, or failed to hire, discharged, or otherwise discriminated against an eligible U.S. worker, to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Office of Special Counsel for Unfair Immigration Related Employment Practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 77 FR 10160, Feb. 21, 2012, § 655.24 was removed and reserved, effective Apr. 23, 2012.

§§ 655.25–655.29 [Reserved]

PROCESSING OF AN APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 77 FR 10160, Feb. 21, 2012, an undesignated center heading was added before § 655.30, effective Apr. 23, 2012.

§ 655.30 Supervised recruitment.

(a) *Supervised recruitment.* Where an employer is found to have violated program requirements, to have made a material misrepresentation to the Department, or to have failed to adequately conduct recruitment activities or failed in any obligation of this part, the CO may require pre-filing supervised recruitment.

(b) *Requirements.* Supervised recruitment shall consist of advertising for the job opportunity or opportunities in accordance with the required recruitment steps outlined under § 655.15, except as otherwise provided below.

(1) The CO will direct where the advertisements are to be placed.

(2) The employer must supply a draft advertisement and job order to the CO for review and approval no fewer than 150 days before the date on which the foreign worker(s) will commence work unless notified by the CO of the need for Supervised Recruitment less than 150 days before the date of need, in which case the employer must supply the drafts within 30 days of receipt of such notification.

(3) Each advertisement must comply with the requirements of § 655.17(a).

(4) The advertisement shall be placed in accordance with guidance provided by the CO.

(5) The employer will notify the CO when the advertisements are placed.

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(c) *Recruitment report.* No fewer than 2 days after the last day of the posting of the job order and no fewer than 5 calendar days after the date on which the last newspaper or journal advertisement appeared, the employer must prepare a detailed written report of the employer's supervised recruitment, signed by the employer as outlined in § 655.15(i). The employer must submit the recruitment report to the CO within 30 days of the date of the first advertisement and must retain a copy for a period of no less than 3 years. The recruitment report must contain a copy of all advertisements and a copy of the SWA job order, including the dates so placed.

(d) The CO may refer any findings that an employer or its representative discouraged an eligible U.S. worker from applying, or failed to hire, discharged, or otherwise discriminated against an eligible U.S. worker, to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Office of Special Counsel for Unfair Immigration Related Employment Practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 77 FR 10160, Feb. 21, 2012, § 655.30 was revised, effective Apr. 23, 2012. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 655.30 Processing of an application and job order.

(a) *NPC review.* The CO will review the *Application for Temporary Employment Certification* and job order for compliance with all applicable program requirements.

(b) *Mailing and postmark requirements.* Any notice or request sent by the CO to an employer requiring a response will be mailed to the address provided in the *Application for Temporary Employment Certification* using methods to assure next day delivery, including electronic mail. The employer's response to such a notice or request must be mailed using methods to assure next day delivery, including electronic mail, and be sent by the due date or the next business day if the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday.

(c) *Information dissemination.* OFLC may forward information received in the course of processing an *Application for Temporary Employment Certification* and program integrity measures to WHD, or any other Federal agency, as appropriate, for investigation and/or enforcement purposes.

§ 655.31 Debarment.

(a) The Administrator, OFLC may not issue future labor certifications under this subpart to an employer and any successor in interest to the debarred employer, subject to the time limits set forth in paragraph (c) of this section, if:

(1) The Administrator, OFLC finds that the employer substantially violated a material term or condition of its temporary labor certification with respect to the employment of domestic or nonimmigrant workers; and

(2) The Administrator, OFLC issues a *Notice of Intent to Debar* no later than 2 years after the occurrence of the violation.

(b) The Administrator, OFLC may not issue future labor certifications under this subpart to an employer represented by an agent or attorney, subject to the time limits set forth in paragraph (c) of this section, if:

(1) The agent or attorney participated in, had knowledge of, or had reason to know of, the employer's substantial violation; and

(2) The Administrator issues the agent or attorney a *Notice of Intent to Debar* no later than 2 years after the occurrence of the violation.

(c) No employer, attorney, or agent may be debarred under this subpart for more than 3 years.

(d) For the purposes of this section, a substantial violation includes:

(1) A pattern or practice of acts of commission or omission on the part of the employer or the employer's agent that:

(i) Are significantly injurious to the wages or benefits offered under the H-2B program or working conditions of a significant number of the employer's U.S. or H-2B workers;

(ii) Reflect a significant failure to offer employment to each qualified domestic worker who applied for the job opportunity for which certification was being sought, except for lawful job-related reasons;

(iii) Reflect a significant failure to comply with the employer's obligations to recruit U.S. workers as set forth in this subpart;

(iv) Reflect a significant failure to comply with the RFI or audit process pursuant to §§ 655.23 or 655.24;