

partially separated, or threatened with such separation.

In the request for reconsideration, the petitioner claimed that worker separations had occurred during the relevant time period and provided documentation in support of this allegation.

The Department has carefully reviewed the request for reconsideration and the existing record, and has determined that the Department will conduct further investigation to determine if the petitioning workers meet the eligibility requirements of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

Conclusion

After careful review of the application, I conclude that the claim is of sufficient weight to justify reconsideration of the U.S. Department of Labor's prior decision. The application is, therefore, granted.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 6th day of April 2011.

Del Min Amy Chen,

Certifying Officer, Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Information about the DOL Notification Process for Worker Abandonment, or Termination for Cause for H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certifications

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces specific instructions employers must follow when notifying the Department of Labor's (Department) Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) that an H-2A worker certified on an *Application for Temporary Employment Certification* or a worker in corresponding employment has voluntarily abandoned employment, or was terminated for cause before the end of the work contract period.

DATES: This Notice is effective on April 14, 2011.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William L. Carlson, PhD, Administrator, Office of Foreign Labor Certification, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210; telephone (202) 693-3010 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On February 12, 2010, the Department published a Final Rule on the Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Aliens in the United States (U.S.), 75 FR 6884, Feb. 12, 2010 (2010 Final Rule). The H-2A nonimmigrant worker visa program enables U.S. agricultural employers to employ foreign workers on a temporary basis to perform agricultural labor or services, when willing and qualified U.S. workers are unavailable and the employment of the H-2A workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed workers in the United States.

Occasionally, H-2A workers or workers in corresponding employment voluntarily leave their employment or are terminated for cause before the specified contract term expires. The 2010 Final Rule provides that an employer will not be responsible for transportation and subsistence expenses and/or the three-fourths guarantee related to such an H-2A worker or worker in corresponding employment, where the H-2A worker or worker in corresponding employment abandons employment or is terminated for cause before the end date of the contract period, as specified in the *Application for Temporary Employment Certification*, if the employer notifies OFLC's National Processing Center (NPC) (and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the case of an H-2A worker) of such abandonment or termination.

As set out in 20 CFR 655.122(n), in such instances, the employer must notify the NPC (and DHS in the case of an H-2A worker) in writing, or by any other method specified by the Department or DHS in a manner specified in a notice published in the **Federal Register**, no later than 2 working days after the abandonment or termination occurs. An abandonment begins after an H-2A worker or worker in corresponding employment fails to report for work at the regularly scheduled time for 5 consecutive work days without consent of the employer.

II. Notification Process

Beginning on the effective date of this Notice, the written notification, as set forth in 20 CFR 655.122(n), must be provided by one of the following means:

1. By electronic mail (e-mail) to: *H2A.abandonment&termination.chicago@dol.gov*, or
2. Employers without internet access may instead send written notification by:

(a) Facsimile to: (312) 353-6666; or
(b) U.S. Mail to: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Foreign Labor Certification, Chicago National Processing Center, 536 South Clark Street, 9th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1509.

In order to ensure prompt and effective processing of the notification, the Department requests that the employer's notice include at a minimum the following information:

1. The reason(s) for notification or late notification, if applicable;
2. The date of abandonment or termination;
3. The number of H-2A worker(s) and/or other worker(s) in corresponding employment who abandoned or was/were terminated for cause, and the name of each such H-2A worker and/or worker in corresponding employment, each employee's last known address (other than employer-provided housing);
4. The Application/Certification number(s); and
5. The employer's name; address, telephone number, and Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN).

The NPC will also accept a copy of the written notification of abandonment or termination for cause submitted by the employer to DHS as long as it contains all of the information listed above and is submitted to the NPC via one of the means enumerated in this Notice. Failure to provide notice or failure to provide timely notice may lead to a finding of noncompliance with the transportation and subsistence expenses and/or the three-fourths guarantee provisions as set forth in 20 CFR 655.122(n).

Signed in Washington, DC, this 8th day of April 2011.

Jane Oates,

Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Request for Certification of Compliance—Rural Industrialization Loan and Grant Program

AGENCY: Employment and Training Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Employment and Training Administration is issuing this