



IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER

...providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in America

For Immediate Release

IPC Statement on DHS No-Match Supplemental Final Rule DHS Rule Piles on Pain to U.S. Workers and the Economy

October 24, 2008

This week the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a final administrative rule that sets new procedures for employers who receive "no-match" letters from the Social Security Administration (SSA). Employers who do not follow the new rule will risk penalties for hiring unauthorized workers.

This new rule cannot be immediately implemented because it has been blocked by a court injunction. However the government will continue its efforts to dissolve the court order and implement the new no-match rule.

The Immigration Policy Center has produced a comprehensive analysis of the SSA no-match letter program and the new DHS rule.

- [The Social Security Administration No Match Program: Inefficient, Ineffective, and Costly](#)

Originally SSA no-match letters were an attempt by SSA to correct discrepancies in their records that can prevent workers from getting credit for their earnings. These letters were never intended to be used as an immigration enforcement tool--no-match letters are not evidence of an immigration violation.

At a time when the financial markets are in crisis, unemployment rates are rising, Americans are losing their homes, and the future of small businesses is uncertain, implementation of the DHS no-match rule is another nail in the U.S. economy's coffin. U.S. citizens and other lawful workers could lose their jobs due to database errors and employer mistakes and misuse. An economic analysis by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimated that the new rule could result in 165,000 lawful U.S. workers could lose their jobs, at a cost to employers of approximately \$1 billion per year.

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