

ICE worksite enforcement greatly expanded

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a press release stating that in the seven months since the current fiscal year began, it has doubled the number of worksite enforcement cases compared to the entire previous fiscal year.

From October 1, 2017 through May 4, 2018, the agency's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) office opened 3,510 worksite investigations. HSI also launched 2,282 I-9 audits and made 594 criminal and 610 administrative worksite-related arrests. According to the Acting Executive Associate Director of HSI, "Our worksite enforcement strategy continues to focus on the criminal prosecution of employers who knowingly break the law, and the use of I-9 audits and civil fines to encourage compliance with the law. HSI's worksite enforcement investigators help combat worker exploitation, illegal wages, child labor, and other illegal practices."

As many of our readers know, employers are required to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all individuals whom they hire, and to document that information using Form I-9, the Employment Eligibility Verification Form. ICE uses the I-9 inspection program to promote compliance with the law and to address and deter illegal employment.