

 

## DHS Launches E-Verify "Self-Check"

Advocates for illegal aliens have long argued against making the use of E-Verify mandatory for employers in the United States on the grounds that a tiny percentage of eligible workers are incorrectly identified as being ineligible to work. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has now launched a new program that will undermine even that transparent argument against the expansion of E-Verify. In March, DHS unveiled an online self-check program that allows individuals to verify their own work authorization status. The program also provides a mechanism for people to correct any inaccuracies in DHS's or the Social Security Administration's databases before applying for employment.

Some 250,000 employers now use E-Verify to ensure that the people they hire are legally entitled to hold a job in the United States. All federal government contractors are required to use E-Verify, as are contractors in a growing number of states. According to independent audits, E-Verify has a better than 99 percent accuracy rate and enjoys high customer satisfaction ratings from companies that use it. In a small number of cases, E-Verify fails to confirm eligible workers on the first try. In most cases these inaccuracies are quickly rectified and the individual is approved for employment.

Initially, the E-Verify self-check will be available to workers in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, Virginia and the District of Columbia. DHS hopes to make it available nationwide within a year. The self-check system allows people to correct any misinformation in their files before applying for a job.

FAIR has looked closely at the design for the new system because of concern that it could be used by illegal aliens to test whether counterfeit documents would get past the E-Verify system. We found that safeguards in the system offer reasonable protection against abuse.

E-Verify has a proven track record of protecting job opportunities for American workers. The implementation of an online self-check mechanism will further protect the interests of legal U.S. workers by virtually eliminating the possibility that incorrect information in government databases will prevent eligible workers from being hired.

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