



## **USCIS ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SITE VISITS AND VERIFICATION PROGRAMS**

In U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' ("USCIS") response to a letter sent by U.S. Senator Charles Grassley inquiring about aspects of the H-1B visa program and USCIS' efforts to combat fraud in the program, USCIS announced that, among other measures, it plans to expand its Administrative Site Visit and Verification Program ("ASVVP") up to 25,000 site visits in Fiscal Year 2010 from the 5,916 site visits performed in Fiscal Year 2009. USCIS commenced operation of ASVVP in July 2009 in order to determine whether the location of employment actually exists and if the beneficiary is employed at the location specified, is performing the duties as described and is being paid the salary as identified in the H-1B petition. Initially, USCIS has been focusing the ASVVP on post-adjudication H-1B site inspections.

Additionally, USCIS intends to access independent, open-source commercial sources to obtain information relevant to its adjudicatory process. For example, on September 30, 2009, USCIS announced that it had awarded a contract to Dunn and Bradstreet to act as an independent information provider for its new program, the Verification Initiative for Business Enterprises ("VIBE"). The VIBE program is an internet-based service that uses commercially available data from an independent information provider to verify information submitted by companies and organizations that petition to employ foreign workers. USCIS anticipates that VIBE will be implemented by the spring of 2010.

For more information, please click on the following link:

[USCIS' Letter to U.S. Senator Grassley](#)

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