

E-Verify Extended

Last week, President Bush signed a bill extending E-Verify temporarily, ensuring the program would continue at least through March 2009. E-Verify, the electronic employment eligibility verification tool formerly known as Basic Pilot, was to sunset next month.

E-Verify compares databases maintained by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration with information presented by the newly-hired employee. If the employee's information does not match either database, the employee must go to the local agency office to remedy the discrepancy or face termination of employment.

In June, President Bush signed an executive order requiring federal contractors to use E-Verify. Shortly thereafter, the government proposed a rule to implement the president's executive order. The notice and comment period has concluded on that rule, but it has not yet become effective. Employers should expect a final version to become law later this year or early next year.

Congressional leaders indicate that the reason for the short extension of the program is that Congress expects to take up comprehensive immigration reform early in the next session. A permanent authorization of E-Verify or a new electronic employment eligibility verification system could accompany such legislation.

For more information on verifying employment eligibility, plan to attend MSEC's Autumn Agenda to be held in Denver, Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, and Glenwood Springs. For program dates or to register, visit MSEC [online](#).