



For Immediate Release
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Contact: John McTighe
(800) 813-4381

SIR Approved as Designated Agent with Department of Homeland Security

Springfield, MA. Strategic Information Resources has entered into an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration that enables them to verify new hires' legal right to work at companies across the United States. Effective this month, SIR will be classified as a Designated Agent of the Basic Pilot Program and will have direct electronic access to perform verifications with both agencies.

The Basic Pilot Program was created by Congress in 1997, but was originally limited to employers in only five states. In 2004 the program was expanded to cover all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It now serves as a powerful tool to help employers comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986.

The Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration identify specific benefits for employers using this new verification service:

- ▶ Removes the guesswork from document review during the Form I-9 process.
- ▶ Accurately confirms the identity information and employment eligibility of all newly hired employees.
- ▶ Improves the accuracy of wage & tax reporting
- ▶ Protects jobs for authorized U.S. workers

In testimony before Congress earlier this year, Julie Myers, Assistant Secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, called on legislators to strengthen the Form I-9 process. She pointed out that there has been an "explosive growth in an increasingly profitable false document industry that caters to undocumented workers who purchase the documents necessary to gain employment."

"As a Designated Agent, Strategic Information Resources can help employers accurately and legally confirm a new hire's identity and authorization to work in the U.S.," said John McTighe, Director of Background Screening Services at Strategic Information Resources. "This is one more way that we can help our clients make the most informed hiring decisions possible."

Strategic Information Resources is a New England based company with over 75 years of experience helping businesses make better decisions. Clients have come to rely on us for knowledgeable customer support and our comprehensive service offerings that include background screening services, credit reporting, and real estate settlement tools. For more information visit our website at www.backgrounddecision.com.