

INFORMATION NOTICE

WORKFORCE SERVICES

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TO: THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: PROCEDURES TO SHARE ARS AND H-2A JOB ORDERS FROM OTHER STATES

This notice announces how the Employment Development Department (EDD) will process Agricultural Recruitment System (ARS) and H-2A job orders from other states, in order to comply with United States Department of Labor (DOL) requirements. Job orders can come from any state experiencing farm worker labor shortages in an effort to recruit qualified farm workers.

The H-2A Program is a federal program that permits agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of workers needed to perform agricultural labor services of a temporary or seasonal nature, to apply to the DOL for permission to bring in temporary foreign workers.

The Wagner-Peyser Act mandates the United States Employment Service to maintain a system for the orderly movement of farm workers or food processing workers within and between States. The ARS provides the system to process agricultural or food processing Clearance Orders which request workers for less than one year of employment.

Previously, EDD's Job Service Division, now part of the Workforce Services Branch, determined that these orders could not be entered into CalJOBSSM nor information regarding referrals recorded in it because these employers did not have a California Tax Identification Number. Given these limitations, the following procedures are being implemented in order to comply with DOL regulations:

1. The EDD Agricultural Services Unit (ASU) in Central Office receives and accepts job announcements from other states.
2. The ASU will distribute these announcements via e-mail to EDD staff located in Agricultural Significant Offices (ASO) throughout California.
3. The ASO staff will post hard copies of these orders where they will be accessible to farm workers.

EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Special requests for services, aids, and/or special formats need to be made by calling (916) 654-8055 (Voice) or (916) 654-9820 (TTY).

4. When a referral is given to an applicant to one of these orders, the ASO staff will notify the ASU of this referral by providing applicant's name, social security number, and a phone number via e-mail response to the original job announcement.
5. The ASU will keep statistics on job orders and referrals made using these procedures.

Beginning September 1, 2007, all new ARS and H-2A job orders from other states will be processed in accordance with the above procedures.

If you have questions regarding this Information Notice, please call Elsa Flores at (916) 654-9735.

/S/ BILL BURKE
Assistant Deputy Director
Workforce Services Branch

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
Workforce Services Division