

E-Verify Improves – Adds U.S. Passport Photo Matching

By Bruce Buchanan, Partner-in-Charge, Immigration Law Section

The Department of Homeland Security announced the expansion of the E-Verify program's capabilities to include U.S. passport photo matching. This improves and enhances E-Verify by enabling it to automatically check the validity and authenticity of all U.S. passports and passport cards presented for employment verification checks. This adds another step in preventing and detecting the use of fraudulent documents.

E-Verify employers are now able to verify the identity of new employees who present a U.S. passport or passport card by comparing that data with State Department records. Approximately 10 percent of all E-Verify queries currently provide a U.S. passport to establish both identity and employment authorization in order to prove employment eligibility.