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What's New in Newsroom

CBP Launches H2 Temporary Worker Exit Pilot Program in Arizona

(Thursday, December 10, 2009)

contacts for this news release

Washington – U.S. Customs and Border Protection launched on Tuesday, December 8 a pilot program for exiting H-2A/B temporary workers. The program will be tested at San Luis and Douglas land ports of entry in Arizona and it is expected to last approximately one year.

The goal is to ensure that temporary workers comply with the requirement to leave the country when their work authorization expires. The program will also help secure U.S. borders more effectively and streamline existing guest worker programs.

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H-2A and H-2B visas are issued to temporary seasonal workers. H-2A visas allow foreign nationals to temporarily work in agricultural jobs while H-2B visas allow temporary work in non-agricultural jobs.

To verify final departure from the United States, H-2A/B non-immigrant temporary workers will be required to scan their visa and their fingerprints and return their I-94, Arrival/Departure form, at an exit kiosk located at the port of departure. Under the pilot program, travelers admitted under

H-2A/B non-immigrant visa classifications at San Luis or Douglas ports of entry must also depart through one of the two designated ports.

The kiosk will provide instructions in English and Spanish.

Frequent border crossers or commuters do not need to register their every departure, but only their final departure from the United States. Only H-2A/B temporary workers who enter the United States on or after December 8, on a new work authorization will be required to register their final departure from the United States when their authorized period of stay expires.

More than 205,000 H-2 guest workers crossed into United States in FY 2009. Of those, more than 147,000 were H-2A and more than 58,000 were H-2B visa holders.

For more information, visit the CBP web site. (Travel)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between the official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.

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