



**ARRANGEMENT ESTABLISHING AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, NEW ORLEANS,
BIRMINGHAM AND JACKSON DISTRICT OFFICES
AND
THE CONSULATE OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES IN NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA**

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Wage and Hour Division (WHD), **New Orleans, Birmingham and Jackson District Offices**, and the Consulate of the United Mexican States in **New Orleans, Louisiana** (Consulate) and, hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Participants".

RECOGNIZING the joint commitment to compliance with, and awareness of, workplace laws and regulations applicable to all Mexican nationals in the United States, acknowledged in the May 4th, 2010 Joint Declaration between the Department of Labor of the United States of America and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States;

RECOGNIZING that the Joint Declaration provides for the establishment of cooperative relationships for purposes such as training and education, outreach and communication, and promoting a national dialogue on compliance with laws and regulations enforced by WHD;

Intend to form an Understanding to seek achievement of the following:

Overall Objective

The Participants intend to establish a collaborative relationship to provide Mexican nationals in **Louisiana and Mississippi** information, guidance, and access to education and training resources to help them exercise their workplace rights, particularly with regard to reducing violations of the minimum wage, overtime, recordkeeping, child labor, safe housing and transportation provisions of the laws and regulations administered and enforced by WHD, and to help them understand the rights of workers and the responsibilities of employers under the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, and the H-2A and H-2B programs under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Training and Education

The Participants intend to work together to seek achievement of the following training and education goals:

- Launch an educational program (hereinafter referred to as “the program”) aimed at making Mexican nationals in **Louisiana and Mississippi** aware of applicable workplace laws and regulations.
- Monitor, review, evaluate, and modify the program as needed, through the terms of the Arrangement, to ensure that the public is well aware of workplace rights and responsibilities.
- Provide for training by WHD on the application and enforcement of the statutes administered and enforced by WHD to the appropriate Consular staff.
- Establish a system for referring complaints to WHD.
- Develop additional appropriate educational materials as needed.
- Arrange for a WHD representative to attend and participate in appropriate forums held for Mexican nationals and employers involving topics under the jurisdiction of WHD.

Outreach and Communication

The Participants intend to work together to achieve the following outreach and communication goals:

- Conduct a minimum of two informational forums during the first year of the campaign, where public notice is to be provided, and at least one representative of each Participant attends each forum.
- Publicize this Arrangement and all relevant information regarding the program through local and international media.
- Provide educational materials to the Consulate for distribution.
- Provide the Consulate with a contact person to coordinate implementation of the Arrangement.
- Set up a system for consular contact with Mexican nationals who have returned to Mexico and are owed back wages that WHD has collected from the responsible employers. WHD intends to facilitate this contact by providing the

Mexican Consulate with the name, date of birth and any other relevant information concerning these workers. When contact is made, WHD intends to provide checks to the Mexican Consulate, made out to the workers, and the Mexican Consulate intends to arrange for the delivery of the checks to the workers.

- Disseminate compliance and educational materials to the Consulate's constituency.
- Verify the dates of birth for minors born in Mexico and living in **Louisiana and Mississippi** in order to affect any enforcement action related to the alleged child labor violations.

Promotion of a National Dialogue

The Participants intend to work together to seek achievement of the following goals related to promoting a national dialogue on workers' proper wage compensation:

- Raise awareness of and demonstrate commitment to worker rights whenever leaders from the Participants address groups.
- Convene or participate in forums, round table discussions, or stakeholder meetings on issues affecting Mexican nationals to help forge innovative solutions on issues concerning proper wage compensation, and other employment issues, and understanding of worker rights and responsibilities of employers.
- Share information on DOL laws and standards, including those related to worker rights and employer responsibilities.

An implementation team made up of representatives of each Participant intends to meet to develop a plan of action, mutually determine working procedures, and identify the roles and intended responsibilities of the Participants. In addition, the Participants intend to meet at least three times per year to track and share information on activities and results in achieving the goals of the Arrangement.

This Arrangement is intended to cease two (2) years from the date of signing. A Participant should endeavor to provide thirty (30) days advanced written notice of its intent to discontinue its participation in this Arrangement. This Arrangement may be modified in writing at any time by mutual consent of the Participants.

Signed at **New Orleans, Louisiana**, in triplicate, on this **1st day of August**,
2012, in the English and Spanish languages.

**FOR THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S WAGE
AND HOUR DIVISION, NEW ORLEANS,
DISTRICT OFFICE:**



**Cynthia C. Watson
Southwest Regional Administrator**

**FOR THE CONSULATE OF THE UNITED
MEXICAN STATES IN NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA:**



**Andrea Garcia Guerra
Consul**

**FOR THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S WAGE
AND HOUR DIVISION, BIRMINGHAM
AND JACKSON DISTRICT OFFICES:**



**Oliver Peebles
Southeast Regional Administrator**



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