

October 25, 2007

## **To: Designated Sponsors of Training and Internship Programs**

## Subject: New Trainee and Intern Regulations – Amendment to Procedures for Obtaining a D-U-N-S®

This broadcast clarifies the Department of State's Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation's September 7, 2007 broadcast regarding procedures for obtaining a D-U-N-S® Number for all Third Parties through the D&B OnRamp site.

We have reviewed sponsor feedback regarding the unexpected financial burden. A D&B D-U-N-S® Number is still required for all Third Parties. However, the current Interim Final Rule for Trainees and Interns does not require Sponsors to purchase a D&B Business Information Report (BIR) for all third parties through the D&B OnRamp site.

Sponsors must ensure that they have appropriate information on Third Parties with whom they do business. This information enables them to make program decisions affecting participants with more confidence. A BIR will provide, in part, this additional level of confidence. The BIR is D&B's standard risk report. It provides an overall profile of a company, including: financial information, payment information, history of a business, ownership details, operational information, and details on related firms.

The use of the BIR on sponsor organizations and third parties will enable the Department to significantly improve its ability to manage the risks associated with its network of 1,450 domestic sponsor organizations along with the thousands of third parties and employers upon which sponsors depend for such functions as recruiting, training and hosting the nearly 280,000 annual J visa participants. The Department is investing in D&B's severe risk monitoring service of sponsoring organizations and third parties as a means to identify and respond to potential risks to the Exchange Visitor Program.

The Department plans future regulatory amendments regarding the requirement for procuring a D&B BIR for all third parties through the D&B OnRamp site. For Sponsor organizations who wish to begin to comply with these upcoming regulations in advance and receive information on third parties, the Department of State has negotiated with D&B to provide the following special incentive that will be in effect through December 31, 2007.

Through the State Department/D&B OnRamp site, Sponsors will be able to:

- 1) Purchase <u>one</u> report (to be sent to the Sponsor and Department of State).
- 2) Receive a 37.09% discount on the price of a BIR (see table below for details).
- 3) Meet the 2008 calendar year report requirement which will be outlined in upcoming proposed regulations.
- 4) Increase program compliance by gaining insight on Third Parties immediately.

| Organization Location             | <b>BIR Price</b> | Discount BIR Price Through 12/31/07 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| United States                     | \$69.90          | \$43.98                             |
| Asia/Pacific, Africa/ Middle East | \$435.52         | \$273.99                            |
| Canada                            | \$120.48         | \$75.79                             |
| Europe                            | \$282.47         | \$177.70                            |
| Latin America/Caribbean           | \$333.47         | \$209.79                            |

Questions regarding D&B OnRamp, reports and pricing should be directed to Sharon Kuck at 703-807-5096.