

section 6(b) of the Act on September 28, 2015 (80 FR 58297).

The last notification was filed with the Department on March 7, 2024. A notice was published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on April 16, 2024 (89 FR 26927).

**Suzanne Morris,**

*Deputy Director Civil Enforcement Operations, Antitrust Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Antitrust Division

#### Notice Pursuant to the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993—Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation Operating Under the Name of the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics

Notice is hereby given that, on August 18, 2025, pursuant to section 6(a) of the National Cooperative Research and Production Act of 1993, 15 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.* (“the Act”), The Integrated Photonics Institute for Manufacturing Innovation operating under the name of the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (“AIM Photonics”) has filed written notifications simultaneously with the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission disclosing changes in its membership. The notifications were filed for the purpose of extending the Act’s provisions limiting the recovery of antitrust plaintiffs to actual damages under specified circumstances.

Specifically, Boston Quantum Photonics, Weston, MA; Northeastern University, Boston, MA; and Microsoft Research Limited, Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM, have been added as parties to this venture.

No other changes have been made in either the membership or planned activity of the group research project. Membership in this group research project remains open, and AIM Photonics intends to file additional written notifications disclosing all changes in membership.

On June 16, 2016, AIM Photonics filed its original notification pursuant to section 6(a) of the Act. The Department of Justice published a notice in the **Federal Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on July 25, 2016 (81 FR 48450).

The last notification was filed with the Department on June 2, 2025. A notice was published in the **Federal**

**Register** pursuant to section 6(b) of the Act on June 20, 2025 (90 FR 26328).

**Suzanne Morris,**

*Deputy Director Civil Enforcement Operations, Antitrust Division.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Employment and Training Administration

#### Labor Certification Process for the Temporary Employment of Foreign Workers in Agriculture in the United States: Adverse Effect Wage Rate for Range Occupations

**AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor (DOL) is issuing this notice to announce updates to the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) for the employment of temporary or seasonal nonimmigrant foreign workers (H-2A workers) to perform herding or production of livestock on the range. AEWRs are the minimum wage rates the DOL has determined must be offered, advertised in recruitment, and paid by employers to H-2A workers and workers in corresponding employment so that the wages and working conditions of workers in the United States (U.S.) similarly employed will not be adversely affected. In this notice, DOL announces the annual update of the AEWR for workers engaged in the herding or production of livestock on the range, as required by the methodology previously established in 2015.

**DATES:** February 3, 2026.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Brian Pasternak, Administrator, Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC), by email at [ETA.OFLC.Forms@dol.gov](mailto:ETA.OFLC.Forms@dol.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security will not approve an employer’s petition for the admission of H-2A nonimmigrant temporary and seasonal agricultural workers in the U.S. unless the petitioner has received an H-2A labor certification from DOL. DOL issues such labor certification when it determines that (1) there are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, and qualified and who will be available at the time and place needed to perform the labor or services involved

in the petition; and (2) the employment of the foreign worker(s) in such labor or services will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of workers in the U.S. similarly employed. See 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a), 1184(c)(1), and 1188(a); 8 CFR 214.2(h)(5); 20 CFR 655.100.

#### Adverse Effect Wage Rate

DOL’s H-2A regulations covering the herding or production of livestock on the range, published in the **Federal Register** as the *Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Foreign Workers in the Herding or Production of Livestock on the Range in the United States*, 80 FR 62958 (Oct. 16, 2015), provide that employers must offer, advertise in recruitment, and pay each worker employed under 20 CFR 655.200 through 655.235 a wage that is at least the highest of the various wage sources listed in § 655.211(a)(1), including the monthly AEWR. See 20 CFR 655.210(g). Further, when the monthly AEWR is adjusted during a work contract, and is higher than both the agreed-upon collective bargaining wage and the applicable minimum wage imposed by Federal or State law or judicial action in effect at the time the work is performed, the employer must pay at least that adjusted monthly AEWR upon publication by DOL in the **Federal Register**. See 20 CFR 655.211(a)(2).

As provided in 20 CFR 655.211(c)(2), the monthly AEWR for range occupations in all States for a calendar year is based on the monthly AEWR for the previous calendar year (\$2,058.31), adjusted by the Employment Cost Index (ECI) for wages and salaries published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the preceding annual period. The 12-month change in the ECI for wages and salaries of private industry workers between September 2024 and September 2025 was 3.6 percent, resulting in a monthly AEWR for range occupations in effect for the following year of \$2,132.41.<sup>1</sup> The national monthly AEWR rate for all range occupations in the H-2A program is calculated by multiplying the monthly AEWR for the previous year by

<sup>1</sup> The regulation at 20 CFR 655.211(c)(2) states that the monthly AEWR is calculated based on the ECI for wages and salaries “for the preceding October–October period.” This regulatory language was intended to identify the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ (BLS) October publication of ECI for wages and salaries, which presents data for the September to September period. Accordingly, the most recent 12-month change in the ECI for private sector workers published on December 10, 2025, by BLS was used for establishing the monthly AEWR under the regulations. See [https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/eci\\_12102025.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/eci_12102025.pdf). The ECI for private sector workers was used rather than the ECI for all civilian workers given the characteristics of the H-2A herder workforce.