

americanMUSHROOM

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Statement on Current Immigration Policy
Rachel Roberts, President, American Mushroom

U.S. farming operations have long been caught between outdated immigration policy and the need to grow, harvest, and distribute nutritious food to consumers. The mushroom industry is no different. Despite national policy excluding mushroom farms from seasonal work visa programs, such as the H-2A program, because mushrooms are grown year-round; and despite PA farms operating consistently with an average daily workforce deficit of 20 percent, mushroom growers continue to provide a safe and nutritious product every day.

As for any business, potential mushroom industry employees must submit documents for the completion of an I-9 form (used for verifying the identity and employment authorization of individuals hired for employment in the United States). While we are not aware of any imminent enforcement operations, any immigration restrictions that remove mushroom workers whose status is in process, for example, or that establish an environment where workers are afraid to report to work, has the potential to impact mushroom operations.

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About AMI

American Mushroom, headquartered in Avondale, Pennsylvania, is a national voluntary trade association representing the growers, processors, and marketers of cultivated mushrooms in the United States and industry suppliers worldwide. For more information, visit www.americanmushroom.org.