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Greetings

The National Finishing Contractors Association (FCA) publishes *Federal Connection* as a benefit to its members. *Federal Connection* brings National FCA's perspective on the national legislative and regulatory issues that affect finishing contractors.

For government relations information, please contact National FCA Regional Vice President, [Bob Weaver](#).

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Multiemployer Pension Funding Relief

Employers gained more time to fully fund their defined benefit pension plans with the enactment of the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act (H.R. 3962), which President Obama signed June 25. Provisions in the newly enacted Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act include:

- 30 year amortization period
- 10 year smoothing period ([back to top](#))

The Environmental Protection Agency to Delay Enforcement of New Lead Paint Regulation

The EPA announced that it will not take enforcement action against renovation and repair firms for violations of the rule's certification requirement until October. For individual renovation workers, the agency will not take enforcement action as long as those workers have applied for, or enrolled in, training classes by September 30, 2010. ([back to top](#))

OSHA Rule Would Have Employers Develop Prevention Plans Based on Project Variables

A regulation under consideration establishing an injury and illness prevention program would be a welcome addition to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Directorate of Construction because it would put the burden of formulating a prevention plan on the employer, a top OSHA official said.

For example, an employer beginning a construction project would formulate an injury and illness prevention plan based on the number of variables associated with the job. Such an approach would relieve the Office of Construction Standards from having to quickly issue guidance on questions it is not in a position to answer, at least partly because modern construction projects entail many unique variables. ([back to top](#))

Immigration

The Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement will continue to "pursue an effective worksite enforcement program to reduce the incentive for aliens to come to, enter, and remain unlawfully" in the United States.

According to the strategic plan, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will use a two-pronged strategy to create a culture of compliance among employers. First, it will engage in aggressive criminal and civil enforcement against those employers who knowingly violate the law. According to the strategic plan, criminal investigations will increasingly focus on employers who abuse and exploit workers or otherwise engage in egregious conduct. Second, the agency will continue to promote E-Verify and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE) program to help employers comply with the law.

ICE will continue a publicity campaign called "I E-Verify," to encourage participation in E-Verify, the federal government's mostly voluntary electronic employment verification program.

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