

July 5, 2012

Update to the April 10, 2012, Policy Statement on DOL Lock-Ups

The Department of Labor is putting in place enhanced security requirements to prevent the early release of sensitive economic data while continuing to offer pre-release access to the data for news reporters in lock-up facilities. The Department believes that a pre-release access arrangement permits news organizations to disseminate timely information and fosters a better informed public. The Office of Public Affairs, in recognition of the new data security solutions, is modifying its April 10 Policy Statement and News Organization Agreement.

Under the modifications, effective September 5, credentialed news media will be able to use their own computers and equipment in the lock-up facility, use equipment provided by the department, or use a combination of Department-supplied equipment and privately-owned equipment. Privately-owned equipment must meet certain specifications; it also must be shipped directly from a manufacturer to the department and is subject to inspection upon its arrival.

Effective July 6, credentialed news reporters will sign a new Embargo Agreement upon entry to the lock-up facilities. Should a reporter violate the terms of the Embargo Agreement or any of the Department's lock-up procedures, the Department, at its discretion, may impose a sanction against the reporter and/or the reporter's news organization, including immediately barring the reporter or the organization from entering the lock-up facility, either temporarily or permanently.