

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	8 U.S.C. § 1324a Proceeding
	)	OCAHO Case No. 2026A00027
	)	
FINEST VAPOR AIRMONT, INC.,	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

I. BACKGROUND

This case arises under arises under the employer sanction provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1324a. On March 20, 2026, Complainant, the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) filed a complaint with the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) against Respondent, Finest Vapor Airmont, Inc. Complainant alleges that Respondent violated Section 274A(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. Section 1324a(a)(1)(B), which renders it unlawful for a person or entity to hire, for employment in the United States, an individual without complying with the requirements of Section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. Section 1324a(b) and 8 C.F.R. Section 274a.2(b).

This office issued to Respondent a Notice of Case Assignment for Complaint Alleging Unlawful Employment (NOCA) and a copy of the Complaint on March 26, 2026 (collectively the complaint package), via certified U.S. mail. The NOCA directed that an answer was to be filed within 30 days of receipt of the Complaint, that failure to file an answer could lead to default, and that the proceedings would be governed by U.S. Department of Justice regulations.¹

The U.S. Postal Service website indicates the NOCA was delivered on March 31, 2026 and left with “an individual” at Respondent’s address, making Respondent’s answer due no later than May 6, 2026.² To date, Respondent has not filed an answer.

¹ OCAHO Rules of Practice and Procedure, 28 C.F.R. pt. 68 (2023).

² Per 28 C.F.R. § 68.8(b)(2), five days are added to the date of compliance with a document transmitted by mail. Per 28 C.F.R. § 68.8(a), the date of the triggering event (in this case, the receipt of the order) is not counted in determining the date of compliance.

II. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Under the OCAHO Rules of Practice and Procedure, to contest a material fact alleged in the complaint or a penalty assessment, a respondent must file an answer. 28 C.F.R. § 68.9(c). Failure to file an answer “within the time provided may be deemed to constitute a waiver of his or her right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint. The Administrative Law Judge may enter a judgment by default.” 28 C.F.R. § 68.9(b). Further, “failure to respond to an Order may trigger a judgment by default.” United States v. Hotel Valet Inc., 6 OCAHO no. 849, 252, 254 (1996).³ “If a default judgment is entered, the request for hearing is dismissed, AND judgment is entered for the complainant without a hearing.” Nickman v. Mesa Air Grp., 9 OCAHO no. 1106, 1 (2004).

However, it has long been OCAHO’s practice to issue an order to show cause before entering a default. *See United States v. Shine Auto Serv.*, 1 OCAHO no. 70, 444 (1989) (Vacating Order Denying Default Judgment).

Respondent’s answer was due May 6, 2026, and to date, Respondent has not filed an answer. Accordingly, Respondent is ORDERED to file an answer, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 68.9(c), within 21 days of the date of this Order. Respondent is FURTHER ORDERED to file a submission that demonstrates good cause for its failure to timely file an answer, within 21 days of the date of this Order.

Should Respondent fail to file to respond as ordered or cannot show good cause, the Court may enter a default judgment against Respondent, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 68.9(b).

SO ORDERED.

Dated and entered on June 10, 2026.

Honorable John A Henderson
Administrative Law Judge

³ Citations to OCAHO precedents reprinted in bound Volumes 1 through 8 reflect the volume number and the case number of the particular decision, followed by the specific page in that volume where the decision begins; the pinpoint citations which follow are thus to the pages, seriatim, of the specific entire volume. Pinpoint citations to OCAHO precedents subsequent to Volume 8, where the decision has not yet reprinted in a bound volume, are to pages within the original issuances; the beginning page number of an unbound case will always be 1, and is accordingly omitted from the citation. Published decisions may be accessed in the Westlaw database “FIM-OCAHO,” or in the LexisNexis database “OCAHO,” or on the website at <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/OcahoMain/ocahosibpage.htm#PubDecOrders>.