

WHAT TO DO IF ICE SHOWS UP AT YOUR BUSINESS:

The Retail Association of Maine is monitoring confirmed immigration enforcement activity by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that is currently taking place in parts of Maine, including the Portland and Lewiston areas. Federal officials have acknowledged the presence of ICE agents in the state as part of an ongoing enforcement operation. While the situation has generated heightened public attention, details continue to evolve, and it is important to distinguish verified information from speculation or rumor.

Retailers have begun reaching out to us with practical questions about their rights, responsibilities, and how to respond if enforcement activity were to occur at or near their business. **Our role is not to inflame concerns, but to help members understand what is known and how to approach these situations calmly and lawfully. As always, the safety of employees and customers should be the top priority.** If conditions around a business feel unstable or unpredictable, retailers should use common-sense judgment, communicate clearly with staff, and contact local law enforcement if there are immediate public safety concerns.

From a legal perspective, employers have defined rights and obligations when interacting with immigration authorities. In most circumstances, ICE access to non-public areas of a workplace or employment records requires appropriate legal documentation, and frontline staff should not be expected to answer questions or make determinations. To support members, we are sharing a [brief informational graphic](#) developed by RAM, outlining general best practices, including designating a single point of contact, not authorizing access to non-public areas without a valid judicial warrant, and responding consistently and professionally. This guidance is intended for informational purposes only and does not replace legal advice.