



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Office of Inspector General  
Bethesda, MD

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### **CPSC OIG's Semiannual Report highlights need for increased oversight**

BETHESDA – Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released their semiannual report for the reporting period ending September 30, 2022. The report is part of the semiannual requirement to communicate OIG oversight activities of the CPSC to Congress and the American people. This includes providing detailed information on audits and investigations closed during the reporting period and on the agency's progress implementing Inspector General recommended actions to improve programs and functions.

The OIG completed multiple statutory engagements and processed complaints regarding waste, fraud, and abuse at the CPSC. The OIG's audit program has begun an in depth look at internal controls over the CPSC's Import Surveillance program.

The OIG notes that the agency has shifted its focus from closing individual recommendations in an ad hoc manner to overhauling its directives system with an eye to enhancing its internal controls more systemically. The OIG expects these efforts to result in a decreased recommendation closure rate in the short term, due to the resources allocated to the directives system overhaul. However, it is expected that this process will result in long term benefits to agency operations, the agency's internal control program, and the recommendation closure rate.

Unfortunately, this ongoing staff shortage is affecting the ability of the OIG to provide oversight at a time when new ARPA funding, ongoing grants programs, and internal control failures further expose the agency to increased risk of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. A continued lack of funding at the agency has prevented the OIG from adding the additional staff.

The OIG is an independent office within the CPSC that performs audits and investigations of the CPSC, and prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse. For more information, visit [OIG.CPSC.GOV](https://www.oig.cpsc.gov).

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