



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

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## **CPSC OIG Finds Irregularities in Vote on FY 2022 Operating Plan**

BETHESDA – Today the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a report examining the adoption of the fiscal (FY) 2022 Operating Plan. A senior agency official asked the OIG to investigate the propriety of the acting General Counsel’s nullification of the Commissioners’ vote on the FY 2022 Operating Plan. Although at the time of the request the nullification had already been overturned by a vote of the Commission, the official was concerned that the legal review supporting the nullification remained in effect and constituted a precedent allowing agency staff to nullify votes of Commissioners in the future.

After accepting the complaint for investigation, the OIG ascertained, among other findings, that there were procedural irregularities in the decision-making process leading up to the Commission vote on the FY 2022 Operating Plan; that the acting General Counsel’s decision to nullify and overturn the Commissioners’ votes was arbitrary and exceeded the authority of her position; and that there was an unauthorized release of the privileged legal review to the Washington Post.

We provided recommendations to improve the decision-making process at the CPSC. Agency management concurred with our findings and generally concurred with the associated recommendations.