



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

For Immediate Release
May 31, 2023
Email: CPSC-OIG@cpsc.gov

CPSC Inspector General notes accountability issues in Semiannual Report

BETHESDA – Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released their semiannual report (SAR) for the reporting period ending March 31, 2023. The Inspector General (IG) Act requires the Inspector General to report to Congress semiannually.

The OIG was able to produce five reports this period including an assessment of the CPSC's Human Capital Program which found that it lacked accountability. The SAR also includes a new OIG product, the Management Alert. Our first Management Alert highlights the agency's lack of compliance with an Office of Management and Budget requirement to update its capital plan; a timely subject considering the administration's declaration that agencies should proactively be planning for the post pandemic future of work, to include assessments of office space requirements and other capital planning issues.

As of March 31, 2023, the CPSC had 146 open recommendations including some open for over 10 years. Unless the agency increases its closure rate its backlog of open recommendations will continue to grow. Additionally, the agency is out of compliance with the Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act on the status of open recommendations and closure efforts. The agency's report did contain the required list of open recommendations. However, it omitted the required explanations of why recommendations had not been implemented and timelines for their projected closure.

The agency has not fully funded either internal or OIG accountability efforts. For the past three years, planned agency efforts to improve CPSC internal controls in accordance with the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act have gone unfunded. Similarly, the agency continues to prevent the OIG from hiring additional staff. The OIG continues to point out that funding is available in the OIG's budget and the claim that the agency cannot authorize additional staff is based on the CPSC's self-imposed cap on employees. In the future, to promote transparency in the budget process, the OIG will be submitting an independent budget request to Congress.

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.

###