



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

For Immediate Release  
May 30, 2024  
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## **CPSC OIG Publishes Semiannual Report to Congress**

BETHESDA – Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released their semiannual report for the reporting period ending March 31, 2024. The report is part of the semiannual requirement to communicate OIG oversight activities of the CPSC to Congress and the American people.

Despite being understaffed, the OIG completed several engagements and processed complaints regarding waste, fraud, and abuse at the CPSC. These engagements included assessments of the CPSC's management of cloud computing and the audit of the CPSC's 2023 financial statements.

The OIG notes that although the CPSC has still not established and implemented a formal internal control program over all of its operations, the development of formal internal controls covering approximately half of the agency represents a truly foundational step in implementing effective internal controls at the CPSC. Similarly, at the direction of the Chair, the Office of General Counsel developed a system to formally document policies and procedures and to ensure that existing directives were regularly reviewed and revised. Although the process of updating obsolete guidance continues, sufficient progress has been made in this area that it is being removed from the OIG's Top 10 List of Recommendations for the agency.

Unfortunately, internal controls over financial operations, an area which had previously been a strength at the agency, proved to be a weakness during the 2023 Financial Statement Audit. Problems related to inadequate succession planning, the training of employees, communication between offices, inadequate risk assessments, and insufficient monitoring of its internal control environment led to a cascade of errors. These errors in turn impacted the agency's ability to successfully complete the publication of its audited FY 23 financial statements in a timely manner and resulted in the agency's receiving a qualified opinion.

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://oig.cpsc.gov).

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