



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

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CPSC Inspector General Found Areas for Agency Improvement in Payment Integrity and IT Security Despite Being Understaffed

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, 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 two statutory engagements and processed complaints regarding waste, fraud, and abuse at the CPSC. We contracted with Williams Adley & Company-DC, LLP (Williams Adley), an independent public accounting firm, to perform an independent evaluation of the CPSC's information technology program in accordance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act. Williams Adley found that while the CPSC has made progress, they still have not implemented an effective information security program. We contracted with KPMG LLP (KPMG) to review the CPSC's compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act (PIIA) for fiscal year 2023. Overall, the CPSC did not comply with one of the four required elements of the PIIA and thus was found to be non-compliant with the act. Staff also issued a Management Alert (24-M-02) regarding the CPSC's non-compliance with the anti-gag provision of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. The agency has already acted to remedy this non-compliance going forward.

My professional and dedicated staff continue to do the work necessary to fight fraud, waste, and abuse at the CPSC while continuing to make findings and recommendations to aid the agency in achieving its mission. Their efforts have been complicated by our being short-staffed. Unfortunately, agency management has prevented us from filling a vacant position and recently proposed reducing OIG authorized staff. This decrease would reduce our staffing level, established in consultation with Congress after the passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, below that necessary to provide robust oversight of the activities of the Commission.

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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