



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

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Email: CPSC-OIG@cpsc.gov

CPSC OIG Issues Semiannual Report for the Second Half of FY 2021

BETHESDA – Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released their semiannual report for the reporting period ending on September 30, 2021. The OIG is required to report semiannually on its activities to Congress and the American people. This includes providing detailed information on reports and investigations issued during the reporting period and on the agency's progress implementing Inspector General recommended actions to improve programs and functions.

The CPSC OIG is pleased to report that it has completed both statutorily required audits and reports as well as various investigations, program audits, and a report on staff concerns about the proposed return to their official work location. Notably, the OIG was able to complete an audit, through a contractor, of the agency's compliance with the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA) which requires agencies to align how they define program activities with how they report on programmatic effectiveness. The report made ten recommendations to improve internal control over agency operations.

The OIG noted again that the agency continued to close fewer recommendations than were issued in the reporting period, thus adding to the existing backlog of open recommendations, and encourages management to address this growing problem.

For the first time, the OIG reports both an instance of interference in OIG work by the agency and a significant management decision with which we disagree. During the reporting period the agency stripped the OIG of its ability to independently search agency email records. This decision is impacting ongoing investigations. Additionally, management has failed to concur with a recommendation to improve efficiency in the contracting process, specifically the onboarding of contractor 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://oig.cpsc.gov).

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