



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Office of Inspector General  
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## **Management and Performance Challenges Facing the CPSC**

BETHESDA –The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has issued their fiscal year (FY) 2026 Management and Performance Challenges report. The OIG is required to report annually on what it considers to be the most serious management and performance challenges facing the CPSC.

Challenges do not necessarily equate to problems; rather, they should be considered areas most deserving of ongoing focus by CPSC management and staff. FY 2025 was a challenging year for the CPSC. However, we note several areas of progress. Current senior leadership, unlike a number of their predecessors, has taken action to address issues related to employees who have failed to meet the high legal and ethical standards expected of federal employees. Management has also embarked on an overdue and ambitious program to modernize agency data collection, use, and analysis. We look forward to seeing the results of these initiatives.

Complicating senior leadership's efforts to address the above challenges are issues related to the agency's culture. They will need to overcome agency management's historic reluctance to embrace change and hold staff accountable for results in order to achieve the objectives they have set. These objectives include optimizing the use of limited resources, integrating Artificial Intelligence and other IT solutions into agency operations, developing better measures of program effectiveness; and ensuring adherence to policies, rules, regulations, and laws.

Moving forward, agency management must do a better job of setting high standards for employees' performance; measuring program effectiveness; ensuring adherence to policies, rules, regulations, and laws; and optimizing the use of limited resources.

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](http://OIG.CPSC.GOV).

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