



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

For Immediate Release  
June 2, 2026  
Email: CPSC-OIG@cpsc.gov

## **Audit of the CPSC's Pre-Dissemination Review of Scientific Information**

BETHESDA – Today, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit of the CPSC's pre-dissemination review (PDR) process. The audit assessed the CPSC's compliance with federal requirements and internal controls regarding the review of scientific information, covering Fiscal Years 2020 through 2024. It was completed using generally accepted government auditing standards.

The audit concluded that the CPSC lacks adequate policies, procedures, and internal controls in place to ensure scientific information meets federal quality standards before being released to the public. Underpinning this is the absence of a documented process for accurately identifying "influential" scientific information that would trigger a peer review, outdated practices which are inconsistent with the Office of Management and Budget's Memorandum M-19-15 guidance, and weak internal controls over the agency's electronic clearance workflow.

These deficiencies increase the likelihood that the CPSC could rely on flawed or insufficiently vetted scientific data when developing regulations, with the potential to undermine public trust, and increase the risk of court challenges to agency actions. The report includes two findings with eight total recommendations to strengthen the PDR process. Agency management has concurred with all recommendations and has already taken steps to strengthen internal controls over its electronic clearance workflow.

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, and to obtain a copy of this report, visit [OIG.CPSC.GOV](https://oig.cpsc.gov).

###