Office of Inspector General

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Audit of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Statements

November 14, 2017

Vision Statement

We are agents of positive change striving for continuous improvements in our agency's management and program operations.

Statement of Principles

We will:

Work with the Commission and the Congress to improve program management;

Maximize the positive impact and ensure the independence and objectivity of our audits, investigations, and other reviews;

Use our investigations and other reviews to increase Government integrity and recommend improved systems to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse;

Be innovative, question existing procedures, and suggest improvements;

Build relationships with program managers based on a shared commitment to improving program operations and effectiveness;

Strive to continually improve the quality and usefulness of our products; and

Work together to address Government-wide issues.

Office of Inspector General
U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

November 14, 2017

TO: Ann Marie Buerkle, Acting Chairman
Robert S. Adler, Commissioner
Elliot F. Kaye, Commissioner
Marietta S. Robinson, Commissioner

FROM: Christopher W. Dentel, Inspector General

SUBJECT: Audit of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Statements

Pursuant to the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002, this letter transmits the Independent Auditors' Report issued by CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017. The audit was performed under a contract with, and monitored by, the Office of Inspector General (OIG), in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and applicable provisions of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 17-03, Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

CLA audited the financial statements of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), which comprise the balance sheet as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (financial statements). The objective of the audit was to express an opinion on the fair presentation of those financial statements. In connection with the audit, CLA also considered the CPSC's internal control over financial reporting and tested the CPSC's compliance with certain provisions of applicable laws and regulations that could have a material effect on its financial statements.

In CLA's opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, net cost, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity of the CPSC as of, and for the years ending September 30, 2017 and 2016, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Internal Control

In planning and performing the audit of the financial statements of the CPSC, CLA considered the CPSC's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing their opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the CPSC's internal control. Accordingly, CLA did not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the CPSC's internal control.

Because of inherent limitations in internal controls, including the possibility of management override of controls; misstatements, losses, or noncompliance may nevertheless occur and not be detected. According to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants:

- A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis.

- A material weakness is deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

- A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

CLA's consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph in this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. CLA did not identify deficiencies in internal control that CLA would consider to be a material weakness, as defined above. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance with Laws and Regulations

CPSC management is responsible for complying with laws and regulations applicable to the agency. To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the CPSC's financial statements are free of material misstatements, CLA performed tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance which could have material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts, and certain other laws and regulations specified in OMB Bulletin No. 17-03. CLA did not test compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to the CPSC.

CLA's tests of compliance with laws and regulations described in the audit report disclosed one instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and OMB Bulletin 17-03.

This instance involved the CPSC's noncompliance with the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) in FY 2016 and was first reported in the OIG's FY 2016 Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act review.

This review did not find that the improper payments resulted from incorrect amounts paid, amounts paid to ineligible recipients, or payments for an ineligible good or service. The improper payments were the result of the CPSC's improper delegation of the authority to approve the payment of vendor invoices to its Contracting Officer's Representatives.

The status of the CPSC's compliance with IPERA in FY 2017 is outside of the scope of the FY 2017 Financial Statement Audit conducted by CLA. As such, neither CPSC OIG nor CLA formally evaluated the CPSC's compliance with IPERA for FY 2017 and neither CLA nor CPSC OIG offers a formal opinion regarding same.

The CPSC's FY 2017 AFR states the CPSC determined that in FY 2017 there were payment activities that met the definition of "significant improper payment" and acknowledges that there were $21 million in improper payments made in its Non-Payroll program. The CPSC attributes these payments to the improper delegation of invoice approval authority.

The statutorily required IPERA review covering FY 2017 will be completed in May of FY 2018. This office will issue a formal opinion regarding the CPSC's compliance with IPERA at that time.

OIG Evaluation of CliftonLarsonAllen's Audit Performance

We reviewed CLA's report and related documentation and made necessary inquiries of its representatives. Our review, as differentiated from an audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, was not intended to enable the OIG to express, and we do not express an opinion on the CPSC's financial statements; nor do we provide conclusions about the effectiveness of internal control or conclusions on CPSC's compliance with laws and regulations. CLA is responsible for the attached auditor's report. However, the OIG review disclosed no instances where CLA did not comply, in all material respects, with Government Auditing Standards.

We appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to CLA and the OIG staff during the audit. If you should have any questions concerning this report, please contact my office on (301) 504-7501.

Attached: Audit Report

This page is intentionally left blank.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Inspector General
United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Chairman
United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission), which comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, the combined statements of budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements (financial statements).

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Commission management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S.); this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S.; the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 17-03*, Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements* (OMB Bulletin 17-03). Those standards and OMB Bulletin 17-03 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit of financial statements also involves evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as of September 30, 2017 and 2016, and its net costs, changes in net position, budgetary resources, and custodial activity for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. require that the information in the Commission's Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and other Required Supplementary Information (RSI) section (i.e. the Combining Statement of Budgetary Resources by Fund), be presented to supplement the financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the financial statements, is required by the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the MD&A and other RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S., which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on this information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The Message from the Chairman, the Message from the Chief Financial Officer, Other Information and Appendices are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. In addition, management has included references to information on websites or other data outside of the Agency Financial Report. This information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or on management's assertion on internal control included in the MD&A. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or on management's assertion on internal control included in the MD&A.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Commission's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Contracts and Grant Agreements

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct effect on the determination of material financial statement amounts and disclosures. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Bulletin 17-03, summarized as follows:

> The FY 2016 Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA program) review conducted by the Commission's Office of Inspector General (OIG) resulted in two findings of non-compliance. The findings were related to: (1) an insufficient risk assessment for non-payroll activities; and (2) improper delegation of Commission employees designated as Contracting Officer Representatives to approve vendor invoices. The OIG did not report that the improper payments resulted from incorrect amounts paid, amounts paid to ineligible recipients, or payments for an ineligible good or service. The Commission implemented the necessary corrective actions recommended by the Inspector General to remedy the issues in FY 2017 and made the required notifications to OMB and Congress. In addition, the Commission implemented additional corrective actions and recertified $12.2 million in FY 2017 invoices to evidence proper invoice approval and correct agency financial records.

Management's Responsibility for Internal Control and Compliance

Management is responsible for (1) evaluating the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting based on criteria established under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA), (2) providing a statement of assurance on the overall effectiveness on internal control over financial reporting, and (3) complying with other applicable laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements.

Auditors' Responsibilities

We are responsible for: (1) obtaining a sufficient understanding of internal control over financial reporting to plan the audit, (2) testing compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements.

We did not evaluate all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly established by the FMFIA, such as those controls relevant to preparing statistical reports and ensuring efficient operations. We limited our internal control testing to testing controls over financial reporting. Because of inherent limitations in internal control, misstatements due to error or fraud, losses, or noncompliance may nevertheless occur and not be detected. We also caution that projecting our audit results to future periods is subject to risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with controls may deteriorate. In addition, we caution that our internal control testing may not be sufficient for other purposes.

We did not test compliance with all laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements applicable to the Commission. We limited our tests to certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct effect on the determination of material financial statement amounts and disclosures. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. We caution that noncompliance may occur and not be detected by these tests and that such testing may not be sufficient for other purposes.

Purpose of the Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance

The purpose of the Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or on compliance. These reports are an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Commission's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, these reports are not suitable for any other purpose.

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Arlington, Virginia
November 8, 2017

CONTACT US

If you want to confidentially report or discuss any instance of misconduct, fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement involving CPSC's programs and operations, please contact the CPSC Office of Inspector General.

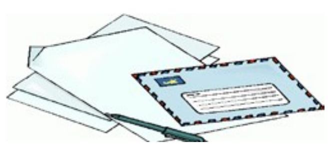
Call:

Inspector General's HOTLINE: 301-504-7906

Or: 1-866-230-6229

Click here for complaint form.

Click here for CPSC OIG website.



Or **Write:**

Office of Inspector General

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

4330 East-West Highway, Room 702

Bethesda MD 20814