



**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**



**Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act Annual
Report for Fiscal Year 2023**

January 19, 2024

24-O-03



VISION STATEMENT

We are agents of positive change striving for continuous improvements in our agency's management and program operations, as well as within the Office of Inspector General.

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.

Work together to address government-wide issues.



January 19, 2024

TO: Alexander Hoehn-Saric, Chair
Peter A. Feldman, Commissioner
Richard Trumka, Jr, Commissioner
Mary T. Boyle, Commissioner

FROM: Christopher W. Dentel, Inspector General

SUBJECT: Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA) requires that the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission annually provide to the appropriate congressional committees the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from our reviews and audits performed under subsection 205(a) of the CPSIA as well actions taken with regard to employee complaints under subsection 205(b). The attached report fulfills these requirements for fiscal year 2023.

Please feel free to contact me if you or your staff have any questions or concerns.

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Abbreviations and Short Titles

ACRONYM	MEANING
CPSC	U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
CPSIA	The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008
FISMA	The Federal Information Security Modernization Act
FY	Fiscal Year
OIG	Office of Inspector General
Williams Adley	Williams Adley & Company-DC, LLP

Background

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA) requires that the Inspector General of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) annually report the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from its reviews and audits performed to meet the requirements of subsection 205(a) of the CPSIA. Specifically, subsection 205(a) instructs the Inspector General to assess the CPSC's capital improvement efforts, which includes upgrades of the information technology architecture and systems as well as the development of a publicly accessible website.

In addition, subsection 205(b) requires that the Inspector General review any employee complaints fitting the definitions set forth in CPSIA subsection 205(b) and actions taken by the CPSC to address them.

Assessment of CPSIA-Compliant Activities

Evaluation of the CPSC's FISMA Implementation for FY 2023

(Click [here](#) for the full report)

The Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) requires each federal agency to develop, document, and implement an agency-wide program to provide information security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency. It also requires that the relevant Office of Inspector General (OIG) perform an annual assessment of the agency's compliance with FISMA.

The OIG contracted with Williams, Adley & Company-DC, LLP (Williams Adley), an independent public accounting firm, to perform a review of the CPSC's compliance with the FISMA reporting requirements for fiscal year (FY) 2023. The review was performed in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspections and Evaluations*. The review focused on the CPSC's compliance with the FISMA metrics provided by the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Management and Budget.

The contractor found that the CPSC was not compliant with all of FISMA's requirements. The CPSC's non-compliance with FISMA has a direct impact on the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the public-facing database. However, the CPSC is making progress in implementing many of the FISMA requirements and was able to close four recommendations from prior years' reports. This report contains 44 detailed recommendations to improve the

CPSC's information security posture, which included 14 new recommendations and 30 recommendations carrying over from previous years.

CPSC Penetration Test 2022

(Click [here](#) for the full report)

The CPSC OIG again retained the services of Williams Adley, who engaged a subcontractor, Cerberus Cyber Sentinel Corporation, to perform penetration tests on select CPSC systems. Penetration testing mimics real-world attacks to identify methods for circumventing the security features of an application or system. These penetration tests were designed to assess the information security posture of the CPSC applications and systems from both an external and internal perspective to determine risks posed from unauthorized users. The penetration testing performed by the subcontractor identified three high risk vulnerabilities, two medium risk vulnerabilities, and eight low risk vulnerabilities.

During the past fiscal year, the CPSC closed nine recommendations from this report and four recommendations from past penetration test reports. Nonetheless, five recommendations from this report remain open.

Employee Complaints

The CPSC OIG received several complaints that fell within the purview of subsection 205(b) of the CPSIA.

The CPSC OIG received a complaint in FY 2022 that resulted in the *Report of Investigation into Irregularities in the FY 2022 Operating Plan Vote*, (click [here](#) for the full report). This report was issued in FY 2023 and contained seven recommendations, all of which were closed in FY 2023.

Additionally, the Report of Investigation Regarding the 2019 Clearinghouse Data Breach that was issued in FY 2020 (click [here](#) for the full report) contained 40 recommendations. The CPSC closed five recommendations this past fiscal year, but 22 recommendations remain open.

In FY 2023, the CPSC OIG received two separate complaints about impropriety in a CPSC program. After a brief period, the matter reached a resolution with no further investigatory action needing to be taken by the OIG.



Public Website Links

As of this writing, the homepage of the CPSC’s website has an active link to the Inspector General’s website. The OIG’s website has methods for individuals to report cases of fraud, waste, and abuse regarding the CPSC.





For more information on this report please contact us at CPSC-OIG@cpsc.gov

To report fraud, waste, or abuse, mismanagement, or wrongdoing at the CPSC go to
OIG.CPSC.GOV or call (301) 504-7906

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