



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

To assess the quality of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) independent referencing process, we surveyed Project Managers (PMs) and their respective Product Line Directors (PLDs). The survey addressed consistency among the Quality Assurance (QA) staff, timeliness of the reviews, best practices, and areas of improvement.

Background

OIG Policy 006 states that the quality of all work performed by the OIG significantly impacts our credibility and effectiveness in performing oversight functions of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency programs and activities. Report indexes are reviewed (i.e., referenced) to provide reasonable assurance that OIG reports are factually supported in terms of sufficiency, competency, and relevancy of evidential matter. Referencing provides reasonable assurance that the reports comply with generally accepted government auditing standards.

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 566-2391.

The full report is at:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2012/20120419-12-N-0416.pdf

Quality Assurance Report: Assessing the Quality of the Independent Referencing Process During Fiscal Year 2011

What We Found

Overall, the majority of PLDs/PMs who responded to our survey believe that the independent referencing process is effective and efficient, and works well. The respondents believe the referencers are consistent in the independent referencing process. In addition, they believe the referencing process was timely once the review began. Nonetheless, recommendations and opportunities for improvements were identified by the PLDs/PMs.

What We Recommend

We made several recommendations to improve consistency and timeliness in the referencing process. The QA staff agreed with most of the recommendations. However, the QA staff did not agree with recommendations where they believed independence would be compromised.