



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

We analyzed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) policies and procedures addressing the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) *Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General* (Silver Book). We sought to determine whether the EPA OIG has adequate policies, procedures, and other guidance that will help ensure compliance with the CIGIE standards and to determine compliance with our own internal standards.

Background

CIGIE was statutorily established as an independent entity within the executive branch by the *Inspector General Reform Act of 2008*. The CIGIE mission is to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual government agencies; and to increase the professionalism and effectiveness of personnel by developing policies, standards, and approaches to aid in the establishment of a well-trained and highly skilled workforce in the offices of the Inspectors General.

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/2012/20120604-12-N-0516.pdf

Analysis of Office of Inspector General Policies and Procedures Addressing CIGIE Quality Standards

What We Found

EPA OIG has policies and procedures or other guidance to satisfy Silver Book requirements in all except one area. The one area lacking guidance pertains to training for the auditors and evaluators and the responsibility of key managers to ensure their staff members have the skills necessary to match the OIG's needs.

We noted that 21 of the 28 policies and procedures reviewed, or 75 percent, are past the required review date prescribed by EPA OIG Policy 001, *OIG Directives System*. Of those 21 that are out of date, 48 percent are at least 3 years overdue for review/update.

We concluded that our Policy 503, *Allegations Against OIG Employees* (last approved September 2001), needs to be updated to be consistent with current law and provisions. Further, we concluded that additional policies and procedures need to be assessed by the responsible offices to determine whether they are subject to Silver Book requirements or are sufficient to meet those requirements. These policies and procedures cover management challenges; annual plans; training provided to the Agency on fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement; and the need for independent external peer reviews.

What We Recommend

We recommend that the Inspector General direct offices we identified as having policies, procedures, or other guidance past the required review date to update them. We also recommend that the Inspector General direct responsible offices to develop and issue necessary guidance and improve current guidance.

Inspector General's Response

The Inspector General agreed with all recommendations and directed the responsible OIG offices to provide specific milestone and/or completion dates for their respective policies highlighted in the report.