Ms. Rashmi Bartlett  
Inspector General  
United States International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20436


Dear Ms. Bartlett:


We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies extended to our staff during the review.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bolton  
Inspector General

Enclosure: As stated.
February 8, 2022

Ms. Rashmi Bartlett, Inspector General
United States International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20436

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the audit organization of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) in effect for the year ended September 30, 2021. A system of quality control encompasses USITC OIG’s organizational structure and the policies adopted and procedures established to provide it with reasonable assurance of conforming in all material respects with Government Auditing Standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. The elements of quality control are described in Government Auditing Standards.

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the audit organization of USITC OIG in effect for the year ended September 30, 2021, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide USITC OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements in all material respects.

Audit organizations can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiencies, or fail. USITC OIG has received an External Peer Review rating of pass.

Monitoring of GAGAS Engagements Performed by Independent Public Accountants

In addition to reviewing its system of quality control to ensure adherence with Government Auditing Standards, we applied certain limited procedures in accordance with guidance established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) related to USITC OIG’s monitoring of engagements conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS engagements) by Independent Public Accountants (IPAs) under contract where the IPA served as the auditor. It should be noted that monitoring of GAGAS engagements performed by IPAs is not an audit and, therefore, is not subject to the requirements of Government Auditing Standards. The purpose of our limited procedures was to determine whether USITC OIG had controls to ensure IPAs performed contracted work in accordance with professional standards. However, our objective was not to express an opinion; accordingly, we do not express an opinion on USITC OIG’s monitoring of work performed by IPAs.

Basis of Opinion
Our review was conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and the CIGIE Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Audit Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General.

During our review, we interviewed USITC OIG personnel and obtained an understanding of the nature of the USITC OIG audit organization, and the design of USITC OIG’s system of quality control sufficient to assess the risks implicit in its audit function. Based on our assessments, we selected a GAGAS engagement and administrative files to test for conformity with professional standards and compliance with USITC OIG’s system of quality control. The GAGAS engagement selected was the only GAGAS engagement performed by USITC during FY 2021.

In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for the USITC OIG audit organization. In addition, we tested compliance with USITC OIG’s quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of USITC OIG’s policies and procedures on the selected GAGAS engagement. Our review was based on selected tests; therefore, it would not necessarily detect all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of noncompliance with it.

Prior to concluding the peer review, we reassessed the adequacy of the scope of the peer review procedures and met with USITC OIG management to discuss the results of our review. We believe that the procedures we performed provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Enclosure 1 to this report identifies the engagement we reviewed.

Responsibilities and Limitation

USITC OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide USITC OIG with reasonable assurance that the organization and its personnel comply in all material respects with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and USITC OIG’s compliance based on our review.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of quality control; therefore, noncompliance with the system of quality control may occur and may not be detected. Projection of any evaluation of a system of quality control to future periods is subject to the risk that the system of quality control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bolton, Inspector General
Enclosures
Scope and Methodology

We tested compliance with USITC OIG audit organization’s system of quality control to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests included a review of one engagement report conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS engagement) issued from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2021. We also reviewed the internal quality control reviews performed by USITC OIG.

In addition, we reviewed USITC OIG’s monitoring of GAGAS engagements performed by IPAs where the IPA served as the auditor from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2021. During the period, USITC OIG contracted for the audit of its agency’s fiscal year 2020 financial statements. USITC OIG also contracted for other GAGAS engagements that were performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we conducted all meetings, interviews, and testing remotely.

Reviewed GAGAS Engagements Performed by USITC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report No.</th>
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<th>Report Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIG-AR-21-08</td>
<td>4/19/2021</td>
<td>Audit of ITCNet’s Security Log Management System</td>
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Reviewed Monitoring Files of USITC for Contracted GAGAS Engagements

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OIG-AR-21-01</td>
<td>11/13/2020</td>
<td>Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Statement Opinion</td>
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We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the draft System Review Report on the audit organization of the United States International Trade Commission Office of Inspector General. We are pleased that your peer review team found that the system for quality control for our audit organization in effect for the year ended September 30, 2021, has been suitably designed to provide reasonable assurance of conforming in all material respects with Government Auditing Standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. We acknowledge that your office assigned a peer review rating of Pass to our system of quality control. We have no other comments on the draft report.

We appreciate the feedback provided during this review and the courtesy and professionalism of your staff in the conduct of this important external peer review. It was a pleasure to work with your team.

Sincerely,

Rashmi Bartlett
Inspector General, USITC