



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

Christopher W. Dentel  
Inspector General

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Date: November 13, 2015

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

FROM : Christopher W. Dentel, Inspector General

SUBJECT : Audit of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Fiscal Year 2015  
Financial Statements

Pursuant to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, commonly referred to as the "CFO Act," as amended, this letter transmits the Independent Auditor's Report issued by CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. 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. 15-02, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*, as amended.

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, 2015 and 2014, 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.

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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, 2015 and 2014, 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 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. 15-02. 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 no instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations that are required to be reported under United States generally accepted government auditing standards or OMB guidance.

Audit Follow-up

The independent auditor's report contains no new recommendations, as no significant deficiencies were found by the auditors. Management was provided a draft copy of the audit report for comment and generally concurred with the findings. CLA reviewed the status of the recommendations related to findings from the prior year audit and determined that the compliance finding related to violations of the Antideficiency Act had been resolved in fiscal year 2015.

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 generally accepted 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.

  
Christopher W. Dentel  
Inspector General

Attached: Audit Report



CliftonLarsonAllen

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
www.cliftonlarsonallen.com

## 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, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, 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 over financial reporting relevant to the preparation, and fair presentation of these financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the U.S.; the standards applicable to 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. 15-02, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements* (OMB Bulletin 15-02). Those standards and OMB Bulletin 15-02 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 the 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 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (Continued)

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, 2015 and 2014, 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 Commission's Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) 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 (FASAB), which 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 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 the MD&A 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, and Other Accompanying Information, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements or RSI. 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**

#### ***Report on 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

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (Continued)

the Commission's internal control or on management's assertion on internal control included in the MD&A. We did not test all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly defined by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

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 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.

### ***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

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 material effect on the financial statements.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* or OMB Bulletin No. 15-02.

### ***Management's Responsibilities 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, and contract agreements.

### ***Auditors' Responsibilities***

We are responsible for: (1) obtaining a sufficient understanding of internal control over financial reporting to plan the audit, and (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

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (Continued)

may deteriorate. In addition, we caution that our internal control testing may not be sufficient for other purposes.

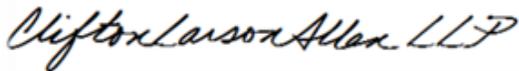
We did not test compliance with all laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements applicable to the Commission. We limited our tests of compliance to certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements. 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.

### ***Status of Prior Year's Control Deficiencies and Noncompliance Issues***

We have reviewed the status of the Commission's corrective actions with respect to the findings included in the prior year's Independent Auditors' Report, dated November 14, 2014. The status of prior year findings is presented in Exhibit A.

### ***Purpose of the Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and the Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

The purpose of the Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and the Report on Compliance and Other Matters sections of this report 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Arlington, Virginia  
November 13, 2015

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Management's Response to Findings**

Our assessment of the current status of the recommendations related to findings identified in the prior year audit is presented below:

<i><b>FY 2014 Finding</b></i>	<i><b>Type</b></i>	<i><b>FY 2015 Status</b></i>
Anti-Deficiency Act Violation	Compliance Finding	Resolved