



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

memorandum

DATE: 12 September 2003

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: Inspector General

SUBJECT: Personal, External, and Organizational Independence of the Office of the Inspector General
Staff Policy Guidance

TO: Office of the Inspector General Staff

CC: Management Council

The purpose of this memorandum is to give guidance regarding the Inspector General Act of 1978; the statute that created this office, 44 U.S.C. § 3901 *et seq.*; and the Government Auditing Standards, Revision 3, Independence, published earlier this year by the Comptroller General of the United States and their affect on us personally, externally, and organizationally.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, established the Offices of the Inspectors General as “independent and objective units” to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. The GPO OIG statute and the IG Act require this office to prevent and detect fraud and abuse of authority in the programs and operations of this agency. Each OIG employee has a responsibility to maintain independence, in both fact and appearance, so that our opinions, conclusions, judgments, and recommendations will be impartial and will be viewed as impartial by knowledgeable third parties. Nothing is more important to this office than maintaining in word and deed that this office maintains impartiality on its pronouncements to the GPO as a whole, to Congress, and to the American public. All actions by and discussions pertaining to this office must start from this premise! It is everyone’s responsibility while employed in this office to observe and, if necessary, demand nothing less from each other or anyone else outside this office.

The IG Act and the GPO OIG statute are hereby incorporated by reference as policy guidance for all components of the Office of the Inspector General.

This Policy Memorandum is effective immediately.

MARC A. NICHOLS
INSPECTOR GENERAL