



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

We assessed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) actions to address Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 in Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report No. [13-P-0178](#), *Improvements Needed in EPA Training and Oversight for Risk Management Program Inspections*, issued March 21, 2013. The Assistant Administrators for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Administration and Resources Management, and Office of Land and Emergency Management (formerly Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response) were the action officials responsible for ensuring completion of the corrective actions we reviewed. The EPA issued a rule implementing the Risk Management Program in 1996.

This report addresses the following EPA goal or cross-agency strategy:

- *Protecting human health and the environment by enforcing laws and assuring compliance.*

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

Listing of [OIG reports](#).

Follow-Up Report: EPA Has Developed Measures to Improve Training for Risk Management Program Inspectors

What We Found

The OIG had previously found that the EPA's management controls did not ensure that Risk Management Program inspectors and their first-line supervisors met training requirements. Contracts and cooperative agreements for inspection services also did not include EPA training requirements.

Knowledgeable inspectors help the EPA to ensure that facilities covered under the Risk Management Program take required regulatory steps to prevent airborne chemical releases that could cause death or serious health effects to the public.

The corrective actions taken by the agency are complete and meet the intent of OIG Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. These actions resulted in implementation of the following measures to improve inspector training:

- Revision of the program-specific curriculum training for Risk Management Program inspectors to clarify the basic and program-specific inspector annual refresher requirements.
- Appointment of regional single points of contact responsible for auditing regional compliance with EPA Order 3500.1 (as of June 19, 2014, this order established training requirements for EPA personnel authorized to conduct civil compliance inspections/field investigations and EPA Inspector Supervisors).
- Development of guidance for these audits, and requirements for reporting of regional compliance with the order.
- Modification of all Senior Environmental Employment grants to require the grantee to be in compliance with the training requirements in EPA Order 3500.1, and to ensure that Senior Environmental Employee enrollee position descriptions for Risk Management Program inspectors include the specific training requirements applicable to the position.
- Development of a contract clause for inspection support services requiring contractor inspectors to meet EPA Order 3500.1 training requirements.
- Correction of limitations in the Emergency Management Portal – Field Readiness Module training system enabling certificates to be uploaded into the system.

Improvements by the EPA should help to ensure that inspectors are properly trained to conduct quality inspections that prevent chemical releases into the air.

We make no recommendations. In its review of our draft findings, the agency had no comments.