



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

July 14, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General
Report No. [23-E-0012](#), *The EPA's Residential Wood Heater Program Does Not Provide Reasonable Assurance that Heaters Are Properly Tested and Certified Before Reaching Consumers*, issued February 28, 2023

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General 

TO: David M. Uhlmann, Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Thank you for your May 10, 2024 memorandum, which includes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's planned corrective actions for one unresolved subrecommendation, Recommendation 1c, issued in the subject Office of Inspector General report. Recommendations 1a, 1b, and 1d, as well as Recommendations 2 through 6, have been resolved.

Based on the information and supporting documentation provided, we agree that the planned corrective actions meet the intent of Recommendation 1c. The information you provided described several available oversight tools to ensure that wood heater certification tests are valid. First, the Lab Proficiency Test Program is important for demonstrating a lab's capacity to properly test appliances. Additionally, the standardized reports and the in-depth test reviews provide reasonable assurance that the labs are, in fact, properly conducting the tests. The in-depth reviews of certification test reports have continued since 2021 and have evolved to incorporate new, previously unidentified deficiencies discovered from test reports. Also, the Agency has increased its communications with test labs and third-party certifiers to ensure that deficiencies are addressed. Finally, once developed and implemented, the compliance audit tests and accompanying guidance should provide assurance that the certification tests are conducted in accordance with the regulation and test methods.

We appreciate the details you provided on the testing program and other approaches to address Recommendation 1c. The Agency should continue to implement these measures according to the milestones previously communicated to the OIG or pursuant to the New Source Performance Standards. All recommendations for the subject report are now considered resolved. You should track implementation of the corrective actions in the Agency's audit tracking system until all actions are completed.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epaoig.gov.

cc: Cecil Rodrigues, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

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