



June 17, 2025

Michelle L. Anderson
Assistant Inspector General for Audit
United States Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21235

SUBJECT: System Review Report – SSA OIG’s External Peer Review

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the audit organization of the United States Social Security Administration (SSA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), in effect for the period ending March 31, 2024. A system of quality control encompasses SSA OIG’s organizational structure, as well as the policies adopted and procedures established to provide reasonable assurance of conformity, in all material respects, with *Government Auditing Standards*¹ 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 SSA OIG, in effect for the period ending March 31, 2024, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide SSA OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards, as well as applicable legal and regulatory requirements, in all material respects.

Audit organizations can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiencies*, or *fail*. SSA 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). These procedures related to SSA 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 the 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 SSA 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 SSA OIG’s monitoring of work performed by IPAs.

¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), *Government Auditing Standards* (GAO-21-368G), April 2021

Letter of Comment

We have issued a letter dated June 17, 2025, that sets forth a finding that was not considered to be of sufficient significance to affect our opinion expressed in this report.

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 SSA OIG personnel to gain an understanding of the nature of the SSA OIG audit organization, and the design of SSA OIG's system of quality control - sufficient to assess the risks implicit in its audit function.

Based on our assessments, we selected GAGAS engagements and administrative files to test for conformity with professional standards and compliance with SSA OIG's system of quality control. The GAGAS engagements selected represented a reasonable cross-section of SSA OIG audit organization, with an emphasis on higher risk engagements.

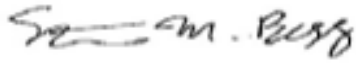
In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for the SSA OIG audit organization. Additionally, we tested compliance with SSA OIG's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of SSA OIG's policies and procedures on selected GAGAS engagements. 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.

Before concluding the peer review, we reassessed the adequacy of the scope of our procedures and met with SSA OIG management to discuss the results of our review. We believe that the procedures we performed provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. The enclosure to this report identifies SSA OIG engagements we reviewed.

Responsibilities and Limitation

SSA OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide 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 SSA OIG's compliance based on our review.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of quality control; therefore, instances of noncompliance may occur and remain undetected. Furthermore, projecting any evaluation of a system of quality control into future periods is subject to the risk that the system may become inadequate due to changes in conditions or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.



Stephen M. Begg
Acting Inspector General

Enclosure

cc:

Jeffrey Brown, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Mark Searight, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Kristen Schnatterly, Executive Officer

Scope and Methodology

We tested compliance with SSA OIG audit organization's system of quality control to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests included a review of 8 of 34 engagements conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS engagement) issued from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. We also reviewed the internal quality control reviews performed by SSA OIG.

In addition, we reviewed SSA OIG's monitoring of GAGAS engagements performed by IPAs where the IPA served as the auditor from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. During the period, SSA OIG contracted for the audit of its agency's fiscal year 2023 financial statements. SSA OIG also contracted for other GAGAS engagements that were performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

We did not visit any of SSA OIG's offices as all interface with SSA OIG was conducted virtually.

Reviewed GAGAS Engagements Performed by SSA OIG

	Report no.	Report date	Report title
1	A-01-20-50963	06/22/2023	The COVID-19 Pandemic's Effect on Disability Determination Services' Processing of Disability Claims
2	A-04-20-50977	06/22/2023	The Social Security Administration's Oversight of Beneficiaries Who Receive Benefits Under the Direct Express Debit Card Program
3	A-02-22-51157	09/18/2023	The Social Security Administration's Controls over Modernized Development Worksheets
4	A-07-21-51105	09/25/2023	Statutory Benefit Continuation for Disability Beneficiaries
5	A-13-20-50970	09/28/2023	Government Pension Data for the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset Determinations
6	A-09-19-50797	09/29/2023	Allegations of Representative Payees' Misuse of Benefits



Reviewed Monitoring Files of SSA OIG for Contracted GAGAS Engagements

	Report no.	Report date	Report title
1	152308	11/14/2023	The Social Security Administration's Financial Reporting for Fiscal Year 2023
2	142311	09/27/2023	Security of the Web Identification, Authentication, and Access Control Systems

Appendix – SSA OIG Response



Office of the Inspector General
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

June 9, 2025

Stephen M. Begg
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Mr. Begg,

We reviewed your draft report on our quality control system. We are pleased with your conclusion that we designed and complied with our quality control system to provide reasonable assurance of performing and reporting audit work in conformity with applicable professional standards and legal and regulatory requirements in all material respects. We have no comments on the System Review Report.

We appreciate the efforts of your staff in completing this review in a thorough and timely fashion.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED] Executive Office for the Office of Audit, at [REDACTED]. I look forward to receiving your final report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michelle L. Anderson'.

Michelle L. Anderson
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

Attachment

6401 Security Boulevard ♦ Baltimore, Maryland 21235 ♦ oig.ssa.gov