

# U.S. International Trade Commission

*Report on Internal Control Fiscal Year 2020*



OIG-AR-21-02

November 13, 2020



Office of Inspector General

*The U.S. International Trade Commission is an independent, nonpartisan, quasi-judicial federal agency that provides trade expertise to both the legislative and executive branches of government, determines the impact of imports on U.S. industries, and directs actions against certain unfair trade practices, such as patent, trademark, and copyright infringement. USITC analysts and economists investigate and publish reports on U.S. industries and the global trends that affect them. The agency also maintains and publishes the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.*

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



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## UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON, DC 20436

November 13, 2020

IG-SS-019

Commissioners:

This memorandum transmits the Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control (OIG-AR-21-02) associated with the audit of the Commission's financial statements for fiscal year 2020.

We contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm, Castro & Company to conduct the financial statement audit. The contract required that the audit be conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards and these auditing standards require a report on Internal Control to be produced as part of the audit.

Throughout the audit and at its conclusion, my office followed procedures and conducted a final review that included monitoring the performance of the audit, reviewing Castro & Company's report, related documentation, and making inquiries of its representatives. Our final review disclosed no instances where Castro & Company did not comply, in all material respects, with the U.S. generally accepted government auditing standards; however, this final review cannot be construed as an audit, and is not intended to enable us to express, and we do not express, any opinion on the Commission's internal control. Castro & Company is solely responsible for this report dated November 13, 2020, and the conclusions expressed in the report.

Thank you for the courtesies extended to the auditors and my staff during this audit.

Sincerely,

Michael J Haberstroh  
Acting Inspector General



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**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an  
Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with  
*Government Auditing Standards***

Inspector General  
U.S. International Trade Commission

We have audited the financial statements of the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), which comprise the balance sheets as of September 30, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of net cost, changes in net position, and budgetary resources for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 13, 2020. We conducted our audit 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 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 19-03, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2020, we considered USITC's internal control over financial reporting by obtaining an understanding of the design effectiveness of USITC's internal control, determining whether controls had been placed in operation, assessing control risk, and performing tests of USITC's controls as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not to express an opinion on the effectiveness of USITC's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of USITC's internal control over financial reporting. We limited our internal control testing to those controls necessary to achieve the objectives described in the OMB Bulletin No. 19-03. We did not test all internal controls relevant to operating objectives as broadly defined by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982 (FMFIA), such as those controls relevant to ensuring efficient operations.

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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a 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 over financial reporting was for the limited purposes described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting 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 or significant deficiencies. However, material weakness or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

We noted less significant matters involving internal control and its operations which we have reported to USITC management in a separate letter dated November 13, 2020.

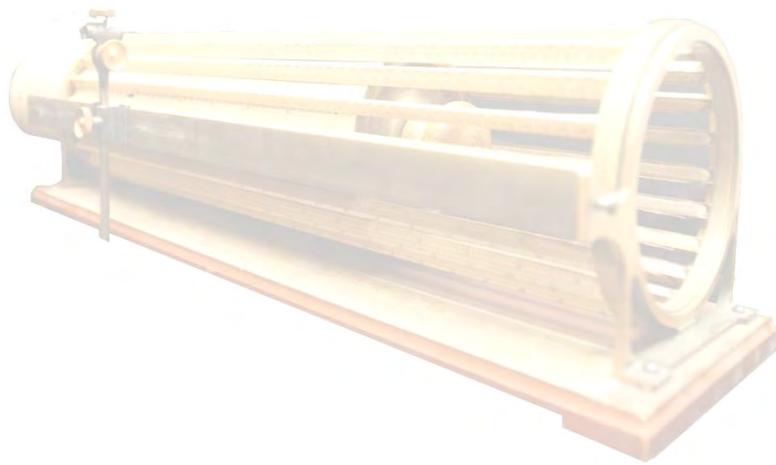
**Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of USITC's internal control. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering USITC's internal control. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management and the USITC Office of Inspector General, OMB, the Government Accountability Office, and Congress, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

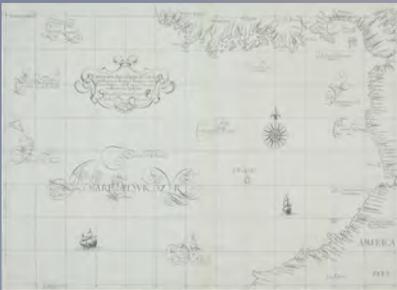
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Castro & Company, LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alexandria, VA  
November 13, 2020



*“Thacher’s Calculating Instrument” developed by Edwin Thacher in the late 1870s. It is a cylindrical, rotating slide rule able to quickly perform complex mathematical calculations involving roots and powers quickly. The instrument was used by architects, engineers, and actuaries as a measuring device.*

# To Promote and Preserve the Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Integrity of the U.S. International Trade Commission



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