

“(a) MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—(1) The head of a Federal agency shall make management decisions on all findings and recommendations set forth in an audit report of the inspector general of the agency within a maximum of six months after the issuance of the report.

“(2) The head of a Federal agency shall make management decisions on all findings and recommendations set forth in an audit report of any auditor from outside the Federal Government within a maximum of six months after the date on which the head of the agency receives the report.

“(b) COMPLETION OF FINAL ACTION.—The head of a Federal agency shall complete final action on each management decision required with regard to a recommendation in an inspector general’s report under subsection (a)(1) within 12 months after the date of the inspector general’s report. If the head of the agency fails to complete final action with regard to a management decision within the 12-month period, the inspector general concerned shall identify the matter in each of the inspector general’s semiannual reports pursuant to section 5(a)(3) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) until final action on the management decision is completed.”

§ 6. Authority of Inspector General; information and assistance from Federal agencies; unreasonable refusal; office space and equipment

(a) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by this Act, each Inspector General, in carrying out the provisions of this Act, is authorized—

(1) to have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material available to the applicable establishment which relate to programs and operations with respect to which that Inspector General has responsibilities under this Act;

(2) to make such investigations and reports relating to the administration of the programs and operations of the applicable establishment as are, in the judgment of the Inspector General, necessary or desirable;

(3) to request such information or assistance as may be necessary for carrying out the duties and responsibilities provided by this Act from any Federal, State, or local governmental agency or unit thereof;

(4) to require by subpoena the production of all information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other data and documentary evidence necessary in the performance of the functions assigned by this Act, which subpoena, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate United States district court: *Provided*, That procedures other than subpoenas shall be used by the Inspector General to obtain documents and information from Federal agencies;

(5) to administer to or take from any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit, whenever necessary in the performance of the functions assigned by this Act, which oath, affirmation, or affidavit when administered or taken by or before an employee of an Office of Inspector General designated by the Inspector General shall have the same force and effect as if administered or taken by or before an officer having a seal;

(6) to have direct and prompt access to the head of the establishment involved when nec-

essary for any purpose pertaining to the performance of functions and responsibilities under this Act;

(7) to select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;

(8) to obtain services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule by section 5332 of title 5, United States Code; and

(9) to the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts, to enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(b)(1) Upon request of an Inspector General for information or assistance under subsection (a)(3), the head of any Federal agency involved shall, insofar as is practicable and not in contravention of any existing statutory restriction or regulation of the Federal agency from which the information is requested, furnish to such Inspector General, or to an authorized designee, such information or assistance.

(2) Whenever information or assistance requested under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(3) is, in the judgment of an Inspector General, unreasonably refused or not provided, the Inspector General shall report the circumstances to the head of the establishment involved without delay.

(c) Each head of an establishment shall provide the Office within such establishment with appropriate and adequate office space at central and field office locations of such establishment, together with such equipment, office supplies, and communications facilities and services as may be necessary for the operation of such offices, and shall provide necessary maintenance services for such offices and the equipment and facilities located therein.

(d) For purposes of the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing the Senior Executive Service, any reference in such provisions to the “appointing authority” for a member of the Senior Executive Service or for a Senior Executive Service position shall, if such member or position is or would be within the Office of an Inspector General, be deemed to be a reference to such Inspector General.

(e)(1) In addition to the authority otherwise provided by this Act, each Inspector General appointed under section 3, any Assistant Inspector General for Investigations under such an Inspector General, and any special agent supervised by such an Assistant Inspector General may be authorized by the Attorney General to—

(A) carry a firearm while engaged in official duties as authorized under this Act or other statute, or as expressly authorized by the Attorney General;

(B) make an arrest without a warrant while engaged in official duties as authorized under this Act or other statute, or as expressly authorized by the Attorney General, for any offense against the United States committed in the presence of such Inspector General, Assistant Inspector General, or agent, or for any felony cognizable under the laws of the United States if such Inspector General, Assistant Inspector General, or agent has reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing such felony; and

(C) seek and execute warrants for arrest, search of a premises, or seizure of evidence issued under the authority of the United States upon probable cause to believe that a violation has been committed.

(2) The Attorney General may authorize exercise of the powers under this subsection only upon an initial determination that—

(A) the affected Office of Inspector General is significantly hampered in the performance of responsibilities established by this Act as a result of the lack of such powers;

(B) available assistance from other law enforcement agencies is insufficient to meet the need for such powers; and

(C) adequate internal safeguards and management procedures exist to ensure proper exercise of such powers.

(3) The Inspector General offices of the Department of Commerce, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of State, Department of Transportation, Department of the Treasury, Department of Veterans Affairs, Agency for International Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Personnel Management, Railroad Retirement Board, Small Business Administration, Social Security Administration, and the Tennessee Valley Authority are exempt from the requirement of paragraph (2) of an initial determination of eligibility by the Attorney General.

(4) The Attorney General shall promulgate, and revise as appropriate, guidelines which shall govern the exercise of the law enforcement powers established under paragraph (1).

(5)(A) Powers authorized for an Office of Inspector General under paragraph (1) may be rescinded or suspended upon a determination by the Attorney General that any of the requirements under paragraph (2) is no longer satisfied or that the exercise of authorized powers by that Office of Inspector General has not complied with the guidelines promulgated by the Attorney General under paragraph (4).

(B) Powers authorized to be exercised by any individual under paragraph (1) may be rescinded or suspended with respect to that individual upon a determination by the Attorney General

that such individual has not complied with guidelines promulgated by the Attorney General under paragraph (4).

(6) A determination by the Attorney General under paragraph (2) or (5) shall not be reviewable in or by any court.

(7) To ensure the proper exercise of the law enforcement powers authorized by this subsection, the Offices of Inspector General described under paragraph (3) shall, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, collectively enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish an external review process for ensuring that adequate internal safeguards and management procedures continue to exist within each Office and within any Office that later receives an authorization under paragraph (2). The review process shall be established in consultation with the Attorney General, who shall be provided with a copy of the memorandum of understanding that establishes the review process. Under the review process, the exercise of the law enforcement powers by each Office of Inspector General shall be reviewed periodically by another Office of Inspector General or by a committee of Inspectors General. The results of each review shall be communicated in writing to the applicable Inspector General and to the Attorney General.

(8) No provision of this subsection shall limit the exercise of law enforcement powers established under any other statutory authority, including United States Marshals Service special deputation.

(Pub. L. 95-452, § 6, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1104; Pub. L. 100-504, title I, §§ 107, 110(a), Oct. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 2528, 2529; Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, § 812(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2222.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (e)(7), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 107-296, which was approved Nov. 25, 2002.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-296 added subsec. (e).

1988—Subsec. (a)(5) to (9). Pub. L. 100-504, § 107, added par. (5) and redesignated former pars. (5) to (8) as (6) to (9), respectively.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 100-504, § 110(a), added subsec. (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, § 812(c), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2224, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 25, 2002].

“(2) INITIAL GUIDELINES.—Subsection (b) [enacting provisions set out as a note below] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 25, 2002].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-504 effective 180 days after Oct. 18, 1988, see section 113 of Pub. L. 100-504, set out as a note under section 5 of Pub. L. 95-452 in this Appendix.

REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS TO GS-16, 17, OR 18 PAY RATES

References in laws to the rates of pay for GS-16, 17, or 18, or to maximum rates of pay under the General Schedule, to be considered references to rates payable under specified sections of this title, see section 529

[title I, §101(c)(1)] of Pub. L. 101-509, set out in a note under section 5376 of this title.

LINKS TO WEBSITES OF OFFICES OF INSPECTORS
GENERAL

Pub. L. 110-161, div. B, title V, §534, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 1932, provided that: “The Departments, agencies, and commissions funded under this Act [div. B of Pub. L. 110-161, see Tables for classification], shall establish and maintain on the homepages of their Internet websites—

“(1) a direct link to the Internet websites of their Offices of Inspectors General; and

“(2) a mechanism on the Offices of Inspectors General website by which individuals may anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to those Departments, agencies, and commissions.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. D, title VII, §746, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2034, provided that:

“(a) Each executive department and agency shall establish and maintain on the homepage of its website, an obvious, direct link to the website of its respective Inspector General.

“(b) Each Office of Inspector General shall: (1) post on its website any public report or audit or portion of any report or audit issued within one day of its release; (2) provide a service on its website to allow an individual to request automatic receipt of information relating to any public report or audit or portion of that report or audit and which permits electronic transmittal of the information, or notice of the availability of the information without further request; and (3) establish and maintain a direct link on its website for individuals to anonymously report waste, fraud and abuse.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. E, title V, §555, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2082, provided that: “Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 26, 2007]—

“(1) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the website of the Department of Homeland Security, a direct link to the website of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security; and

“(2) the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the website of the Office of Inspector General a direct link for individuals to anonymously report waste, fraud, or abuse.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. G, title V, §522, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2211, provided that: “Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 26, 2007], the Departments, agencies, and commissions funded under this Act [div. G of Pub. L. 110-161, see Tables for classification], shall establish and maintain on the homepages of their Internet websites—

“(1) a direct link to the Internet websites of their Offices of Inspectors General; and

“(2) a mechanism on the Offices of Inspectors General website by which individuals may anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to those Departments, agencies, and commissions.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. I, title II, §226, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2272, provided that:

“(a) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 26, 2007], the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General a mechanism by which individuals can anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(b) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a direct link to the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. J, title I, §115, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2288, provided that:

“(a) LINK TO OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FROM HOMEPAGE OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Not later than

30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 26, 2007], the Secretary of State shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Department of State a direct link to the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of State.

“(b) ANONYMOUS REPORTING OF WASTE, FRAUD, OR ABUSE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of State shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General a mechanism by which individuals can anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to the Department of State.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. K, title I, §195, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2408, provided that: “Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 26, 2007], the Secretary of Transportation shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Department of Transportation—

“(1) a direct link to the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Transportation; and

“(2) a mechanism by which individuals may anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to the Department of Transportation.”

Pub. L. 110-161, div. K, title II, §234, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2439, provided that: “Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 26, 2007], the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Department of Housing and Urban Development—

“(1) a direct link to the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

“(2) a mechanism by which individuals may anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

Pub. L. 110-116, div. A, title VIII, §8121, Nov. 13, 2007, 121 Stat. 1341, provided that: “Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 13, 2007], the Secretary of Defense shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Internet website of the Department of Defense a direct link to the Internet website of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense.”

PROMULGATION OF INITIAL GUIDELINES

Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, §812(b), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2223, provided that:

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘memoranda of understanding’ means the agreements between the Department of Justice and the Inspector General offices described under section 6(e)(3) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as added by subsection (a) of this section) that—

“(A) are in effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 25, 2002]; and

“(B) authorize such offices to exercise authority that is the same or similar to the authority under section 6(e)(1) of such Act.

“(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 25, 2002], the Attorney General shall promulgate guidelines under section 6(e)(4) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as added by subsection (a) of this section) applicable to the Inspector General offices described under section 6(e)(3) of that Act.

“(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines promulgated under this subsection shall include, at a minimum, the operational and training requirements in the memoranda of understanding.

“(4) NO LAPSE OF AUTHORITY.—The memoranda of understanding in effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 25, 2002] shall remain in effect until the guidelines promulgated under this subsection take effect.”

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of all functions, personnel, assets, components, authorities, grant programs, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Under Secretary for Federal Emergency Management relating thereto, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, see section 315(a)(1) of Title 6, Domestic Security.

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, including the functions of the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(1) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTORS GENERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR ACADEMY AND INSPECTORS GENERAL FORENSIC LABORATORY

Pub. L. 106-422, § 2, Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1873, provided that:

“(a) INSPECTORS GENERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR ACADEMY.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Criminal Investigator Academy within the Department of the Treasury. The Criminal Investigator Academy is established for the purpose of performing investigator training services for offices of inspectors general created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Criminal Investigator Academy shall be administered by an Executive Director who shall report to an inspector general for an establishment as defined in section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).—

“(A) designated by the President’s Council on Integrity and Efficiency; or

“(B) if that council is eliminated, by a majority vote of the inspectors general created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(b) INSPECTORS GENERAL FORENSIC LABORATORY.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Inspectors General Forensic Laboratory within the Department of the Treasury. The Inspectors General Forensic Laboratory is established for the purpose of performing forensic services for offices of inspectors general created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Inspectors General Forensic Laboratory shall be administered by an Executive Director who shall report to an inspector general for an establishment as defined in section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).—

“(A) designated by the President’s Council on Integrity and Efficiency; or

“(B) if that council is eliminated, by a majority vote of the inspectors general created under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(c) SEPARATE APPROPRIATIONS ACCOUNT.—[Amended section 1105 of Title 31, Money and Finance.]

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal year thereafter.”

§ 7. Complaints by employees; disclosure of identity; reprisals

(a) The Inspector General may receive and investigate complaints or information from an employee of the establishment concerning the possible existence of an activity constituting a violation of law, rules, or regulations, or mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority or a substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety.

(b) The Inspector General shall not, after receipt of a complaint or information from an employee, disclose the identity of the employee without the consent of the employee, unless the Inspector General determines such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of the investigation.

(c) Any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority, take or threaten to take any action against any employee as a reprisal for making a complaint or disclosing information to an Inspector General, unless the complaint was made or the information disclosed with the knowledge that it was false or with willful disregard for its truth or falsity.

(Pub. L. 95-452, § 7, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1105.)

§ 8. Additional provisions with respect to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense

(a) No member of the Armed Forces, active or reserve, shall be appointed Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding the last two sentences of section 3(a), the Inspector General shall be under the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense with respect to audits or investigations, or the issuance of subpoenas, which require access to information concern—

(A) sensitive operational plans;

(B) intelligence matters;

(C) counterintelligence matters;

(D) ongoing criminal investigations by other administrative units of the Department of Defense related to national security; or

(E) other matters the disclosure of which would constitute a serious threat to national security.

(2) With respect to the information described in paragraph (1) the Secretary of Defense may prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit or investigation, or from issuing any subpoena, after the Inspector General has decided to initiate, carry out or complete such audit or investigation or to issue such subpoena, if the Secretary determines that such prohibition is necessary to preserve the national security interests of the United States.

(3) If the Secretary of Defense exercises any power under paragraph (1) or (2), the Inspector General shall submit a statement concerning such exercise within thirty days to the Committees on Armed Services and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of the House of Representatives and to other appropriate committees or subcommittees of the Congress.

(4) The Secretary shall, within thirty days after submission of a statement under paragraph (3), transmit a statement of the reasons for the exercise of power under paragraph (1) or (2) to the congressional committees specified in paragraph (3) and to other appropriate committees or subcommittees.