

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

Each year, issues related to information technology (IT) control deficiencies are identified at the component level during the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) annual financial statement audit. Although U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) took corrective action to address its prior year IT control deficiencies, issues continued to be identified that impact financial data. Collectively these deficiencies negatively impact the internal controls over financial reporting and its operation, and are considered to contribute to a material weakness at the Department level under American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA) standards.

IT Management Letter for the USCIS Component of the FY 2012 DHS Financial Statement Audit

What We Determined

During fiscal year (FY) 2012, USCIS initiated corrective action plans to address some prior year IT control deficiencies. As a result, improvement was made in the area of effective safeguards over physical access to sensitive facilities and resources. In addition, we continued to identify general IT control deficiencies that could potentially impact USCIS's financial data. The most significant findings were related to the Federal Financial Management System configuration and patch management, and deficiencies in security awareness. Collectively, the IT control deficiencies limited USCIS's ability to ensure that critical financial and operational data were maintained in such a manner to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability. In addition, these control deficiencies negatively impacted the internal controls over USCIS' financial reporting and its operations and we consider them to contribute to a material weakness at the Department level under standards established by the AICPA.

For Further Information:

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