

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 02-12-204-10-105, issued to the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health.

WHY READ THE REPORT

With the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act of 1970, Congress created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance. The OSH Act covers employers and their employees either directly through Federal OSHA or through an OSHA-approved state program.

In response to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, OSHA sought to improve its oversight of OSHA programs by implementing the Management Accountability Program (MAP) in FY 2006. The program was established as one component of OSHA's internal control system, as required by OMB Circular A-123. Specifically, MAP was implemented to: (1) assess the efficiency and effectiveness of field activities in relation to established policies and procedures, and (2) identify best practices and deficiencies in performance with the goal of improving program results.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

During FY 2009-2010, GAO and Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued seven reports with concerns of the efficiency and effectiveness of several programmatic internal controls. OSHA officials have identified MAP as the solution to several of the reported findings.

In order to determine how effectively the Directorate for Evaluation and Analysis (DEA) had exercised oversight over MAP, we designed our audit to answer the following objective:

Did DEA's oversight of the MAP help ensure that OSHA programs were effective and in compliance with national policies and procedures?

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2012/02-12-204-10-105.pdf>

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OSHA NEEDS TO IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OVER THE MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM

WHAT OIG FOUND

The OIG found DEA's oversight of MAP did not help ensure that OSHA programs were in compliance with national policies and procedures and performed effectively. First, DEA did not analyze and disseminate MAP report results to affect management's decision making process. Second, DEA did not provide comprehensive procedures for carrying out MAP duties or develop training guidelines for staff. As a result, audit reviews were not consistent from region to region and OSHA did not use the results of these reviews to improve operations.

The systemic weaknesses in DEA's oversight of the MAP occurred because OSHA had not emphasized the critical importance of the MAP in providing OSHA with information on the performance of its programs. For example, DEA assigned only one position the responsibility for performing day-to-day MAP operational activities, a position that carried additional responsibilities beyond monitoring MAP operations

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

The OIG recommended the Assistant Secretary of Occupational Safety and Health strengthen DEA's oversight by prioritizing the development and enforcement of procedures, holding DEA management responsible for MAP, and determining how best to allocate resources.