

Update of the Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Audit Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General, March 2026

I. Why the Update Was Initiated

In 2022, the AICPA released new Quality Management Standards, which significantly change how audit organizations are expected to ensure quality and reliability. Rather than relying on the traditional checklist-based “quality control” system, the new standards require a modern, risk-based “quality management” approach that identifies risks to audit quality and establishes systems to prevent issues before they occur. Because the 2024 Yellow Book now incorporates these AICPA standards, CIGIE updated the guide to ensure peer reviews assess whether audit organizations have designed and are operating these new quality management systems effectively.

II. Who Was Involved

The update was a collaborative effort led by volunteers from the Audit Committee’s Audit Peer Review (APR) Subcommittee and CIGIE community, representing multiple Offices of Inspector General. Audit and OIG professionals reviewed the existing guide, analyzed the new AICPA and GAO quality management standards, and drafted updates. The APR Subcommittee also consulted with the AICPA and GAO. The CIGIE Audit Committee and the broader CIGIE community provided feedback to ensure the updates were practical, implementable, and aligned with current professional standards. The final guide will be approved by the Audit Committee, the Executive Council, and the full CIGIE membership.

III. Update Process

- Project initiated following the release of the revised 2024 Government Auditing Standards and in response to feedback from recent peer review cycles.
- Updated guidance focused primarily on changes to Chapter 5 of the Yellow Book, “Quality Management, Engagement Quality Reviews, and Peer Review.”
- The *2020 Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Audit Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* and Appendices A, B, C, D1, D2, D3, D4, E, F, and G were reviewed and updated as necessary.
- Feedback was collected from the CIGIE audit community and incorporated to improve clarity, usability, and completeness, followed by consolidation of updates and resolution of comments.
- Approval process: The draft is now in final form. Additional changes at this stage should be limited to critical issues preventing final approval by the Audit Committee, Executive Council, and full CIGIE membership.

IV. Conclusion

- The updated guide strengthens the integrity, consistency, and credibility of the peer review process.
- It reflects a collaborative, standard-aligned effort across the CIGIE community.
- The updated guide positions OIGs for improved audit quality and more consistent peer review outcomes.
- The transition from the 2020 CIGIE Audit Peer Review Guide to the 2026 edition reflects GAO's phased implementation of the 2024 Yellow Book. Peer reviews must follow the version of GAO's Government Auditing Standards that governed the audit engagements and the auditable entity's system of quality management. As a result, organizations will use the 2020 guide for work performed under the 2018 Yellow Book and the 2026 guide for work performed under the 2024 Yellow Book once effective. During the transition, the governing Yellow Book determines which guide applies, and a single peer review may apply both guides if the underlying work spans Yellow Book versions.
- Once approved, the guide and appendices will be published on IGnet.gov and shared with the CIGIE community.

Questions about the update process or audit peer review process in general can be directed to the Audit Peer Review Subcommittee at cigie-audit-peerreview@list.nih.gov