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**From:** Office of the Director  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2017 12:23 PM  
**Subject:** Cooperation with the PBGC Office of Inspector General

The recent passage of the Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 (IG Empowerment Act), makes it a good time to emphasize the important job of our Office of Inspector General (OIG) and why it is critical to the OIG's performance that you fully cooperate with OIG requests for information.

Congress created Inspectors General, in part, to help agencies identify problems and inefficiencies. At PBGC, the OIG plays an essential role in helping us effectively and efficiently conduct our mission of protecting the retirement incomes of American workers. To do its job, the OIG needs access to agency information. This is why Congress authorized Inspectors General to have timely access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other materials related to agency programs and operations.

Among other things, the IG Empowerment Act strengthens Inspectors General's ability to have *complete* access to the information and materials they need to identify fraud, waste, and abuse. PBGC's longstanding practice, to cooperate completely with the OIG as it does its job, is consistent with the legislation.

Although PBGC employees should make the OIG aware when requested materials contain sensitive information or materials from organizations outside of our agency, this should not cause any delay or prevent the production of materials. If a PBGC employee does delay information access or otherwise attempts to interfere with OIG independence, the IG Empowerment Act requires the OIG to report this to Congress. If you are unsure of what the OIG is requesting during the course of an OIG audit, investigation, evaluation, inspection or review, or where requested materials are located, please see your supervisor to ensure that the OIG auditors and investigators receive what they need in a timely fashion. If you have any questions about your obligation to cooperate with requests by authorized representatives of the OIG, you should contact your supervisor or the Office of the General Counsel.

Finally, for the OIG to do its job, it needs PBGC employees to report instances of fraud, waste, and abuse. Retaliation against an employee who reports fraud, waste, or abuse to the OIG is against the law and will not be tolerated.

For more information about PBGC's OIG, please visit the website, [oig.pbgc.gov](http://oig.pbgc.gov).

Tom Reeder