

# DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

## Office of Inspector General

Follow-up Review on Recommendations  
from Audit of Procedures to Detect Uranium  
in Two Smuggling Incidents

**Unclassified Summary**





**Homeland  
Security**

## **Follow-up Review on Recommendations from Audit of Procedures to Detect Uranium in Two Smuggling Incidents**

### **Unclassified Summary (OIG-07-30)**

---

In September 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued an audit report titled, *Effectiveness of Customs and Border Protection's Procedures to Detect Uranium in Two Smuggling Incidents (OIG-04-39)*. This audit report made four recommendations to enhance the training and search procedures followed by Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) inspectors as well as the effectiveness of the radiation detection equipment. The Chairmen and Ranking Members of four House and Senate Committees requested the OIG to determine the status of CBP's implementation of the recommendations.

CBP is making progress in implementing the recommendations by continuing to improve its container examination process and radiation portal monitor operations. Specifically, it has revised its container inspection training; installed software enhancements in Radiation Portal Monitors; is working with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and DHS' Science and Technology Directorate officials and the Department of Energy scientists to improve the detection capability of radiation portal monitors by evaluating the next generation of these monitors. Also, CBP continues to assess the impact of radiation portal monitor software enhancements and the ability of the next generation of these monitors to identify the radioisotopes that trigger alarms. CBP believes that these technologies will increase the effectiveness of monitoring while reducing the burden that increased equipment sensitivity levels places on its resources and the trade.

CBP's improvements to the container inspection process and radiation detection equipment capabilities should continue to improve, as its officers become more experienced and new technologies are incorporated into detection equipment. CBP's actions in response to the four recommendations made in the initial report are adequate and we consider these recommendations resolved and closed.

**Additional Information and Copies**

To obtain additional copies of this report, call the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at (202) 254-4100, fax your request to (202) 254-4285, or visit the OIG web site at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

**OIG Hotline**

To report alleged fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement, or any other kind of criminal or noncriminal misconduct relative to department programs or operations, call the OIG Hotline at 1-800-323-8603; write to Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528, Attn: Office of Inspector General, Investigations Division – Hotline. The OIG seeks to protect the identity of each writer and caller.