



NASA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

KICKBACKS

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE
WRAPPER



ABOUT THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

WHO ARE WE?

Each Federal agency has an independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) charged with conducting objective audits and investigations, as well as preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse. Within the NASA OIG, the Office of Investigations handles allegations of wrongdoing involving organizations or individuals that receive awards from, conduct business with, or work with NASA.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We investigate allegations in which NASA is the potential victim of fraud, waste, or abuse by employees, grantees, contractors, or others. We receive allegations from many sources, including contractors, contractor employees, Agency employees, the OIG hotline, and the public. We also handle all allegations of violations of the Anti-Kickback Act.



KICKBACK - DEFINITION

WHAT IS A KICKBACK?

A “kickback” is defined as any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, thing of value, or compensation of any kind which is provided to any prime contractor, prime contractor employee, subcontractor, subcontractor employee, or a Federal employee for the purpose of improperly obtaining or rewarding favorable treatment in connection with a prime contract or in connection with a subcontract relating to a prime contract.

Under **41 U.S.C. Chapter 87–Kickbacks (Sections 8701–8707)** it is prohibited for any person to:

1. provide, attempt to provide, or offer to provide a kickback;
2. solicit, accept, or attempt to accept a kickback; or
3. include the amount of any kickback prohibited by clause (1) or (2) in the contract price charged by a subcontractor to a prime contractor or a higher tier subcontractor or in the contract price charged by a prime contractor to the United States.

PENALTIES

The NASA OIG investigates allegations of violations of the Anti-Kickback Act and refers these violations to the U.S. Department of Justice, which could result in fines, penalties, and/or jail time. Any person who knowingly and willfully engages in a kickback scheme could face imprisonment for up to 10 years. Violators may also be subjected to restitution of twice the amount of each kickback involved in the violation and fined up to \$10,000 for each occurrence of prohibited conduct.

REPORTING SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS

NASA employees and contracting personnel are expected to report unethical business practices and suspected violations of ethics-related laws, such as the Anti-Kickback Act, to the OIG. Personnel may also seek guidance from their respective Ethics Program Offices.

KICKBACK INDICATORS

- Unexplained increase in wealth of Government official
- Overly friendly interaction between Government official and contractor
- Continuing awards to subcontractors with poor performance records
- Payment of unjustified high prices, purchase of unnecessary or inappropriate goods/services, or continued acceptance of late delivery, low-quality work
- “No-value-added” technical specifications that dictates contract awards to a certain company or companies
- Unqualified and/or unlicensed subcontractors working on prime contracts
- Government official’s acceptance of inappropriate gifts or entertainment
- Inadequate documentation of contract violations by contracting personnel

NASA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS
300 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20546-0001
202-358-1500



OFFICE LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS

NASA OIG HEADQUARTERS

Washington, DC
202-358-1500

AMES RESEARCH CENTER

Moffett Field, CA
650-604-2678 (Investigations)

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards Air Force Base, CA
202-358-1001 (Investigations)

GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Cleveland, OH
216-433-6121 (Investigations)
216-433-9714 (Audits)

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Greenbelt, MD
301-286-9316 (Investigations)
301-286-0497 (Audits)

Trenton, NJ Place of Duty
609-656-2543 or 609-656-2545

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

Pasadena, CA
202-358-1001 (Investigations)
818-354-9743 (Audits)

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Houston, TX
281-483-8427 (Investigations)
281-483-9572 (Audits)

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Kennedy Space Center, FL
321-867-4714 (Investigations)
321-867-4719 (Audits)

LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

Hampton, VA
757-864-3263 (Investigations)
757-864-8500 (Audits)

MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Marshall Space Flight Center, AL
256-544-9188 (Investigations)
256-791-2002 (Audits)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESIDENT AGENCY

Greenwood Village, CO
202-358-4900 (Investigations)

STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Stennis Space Center, MS
228-688-1493 (Investigations)

NASA Policy Directive 9800.1B requires NASA employees who observe crime, fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement to report the observation or suspicion to the OIG. Likewise, NASA employees, contractors, grantees, programs, partners, and those receiving NASA funds are expected to cooperate fully with the OIG and its designees. To report suspected violations, contact us at one of our office locations or through our Hotline.

OIG HOTLINE

1-800-424-9183 / TDD: 1-800-535-8134

<https://oig.nasa.gov/hotline.html>

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