



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

December 8, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS AND INSPECTORS GENERAL OF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *John Ashcroft*

SUBJECT:

Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General
with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority

I have today signed the attached Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority to guide the exercise of criminal law enforcement authority by the presidentially appointed Inspectors General. These guidelines are the product of the hard work of many members of the law enforcement community engaged in the investigation and prosecution of crimes against government programs.

These guidelines govern the exercise of new statutory police powers by the Inspectors General, the coordination of overlapping responsibilities by federal law enforcement components, and the important role of federal prosecutors in providing guidance in the use of sensitive criminal investigative techniques. United States Attorneys and Assistant United States Attorneys should use these guidelines in working with Inspectors General to achieve fruitful investigations and prosecutions.

Crimes against government programs result in some of the most complicated and sensitive of criminal investigations and prosecutions. I want to emphasize that the American people expect the highest standards to be met by their government, and they expect us to aggressively investigate and prosecute those who would abuse or otherwise tarnish the public trust. As we go forward, I would like all of the participants in this great task to renew their commitment to the rule of law and the dignity of our mutual endeavor. I expect the combined efforts of the Inspectors General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to root out corruption with the guidance of the United States Attorneys and the Criminal Division. Each of us has a role in this team effort and we must all be committed to that teamwork to make it succeed.

Attachment