



**To:** APOs and CUPOs

**AUD #23-47**

**CC:** Jim Barnaby, Deputy Commissioner, State Purchasing Division  
Mary Chapman, Deputy Division Director, State Purchasing Division  
Mukesh Patel, State Purchasing Division Portfolio Manager

**From:** Audits, State Purchasing Division

**Date:** March 30, 2023

**Re:** Audit of invalid NIGP code use – purchase orders (POs) issued in January 2023

### **Audit Summary**

National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) codes are a universal taxonomy for identifying commodities and services in procurement systems. The State of Georgia uses the NIGP five-digit item code as a commodity code to classify products and services on POs.

For University System of Georgia (USG) entities, there were \$11.1 million in PO lines, with an issue with the NIGP code used. These issues were as follows:

- \$10.6 million in PO lines, where the NIGP code field was left blank; and,
- \$459,038 in PO lines, where the NIGP code field contained an invalid code.

### **Audit Objectives**

1. Determine how many PO lines had the following NIGP code issues:
  - a. no NIGP code; and,
  - b. an invalid code, i.e., a code that was not a NIGP code.
2. Determine which state entities issued PO lines with NIGP code issues.

The audit scope and methodology used in this audit are summarized in **Appendix A**.

### **Audit Objective: No NIGP code**

For TGM entities, we found no instances of the NIGP code field being left blank on a PO line. Providing a NIGP code is required (i.e., a mandatory field) in the version of PeopleSoft used by TGM entities.

For USG entities, we found 277 PO lines on 162 POs where the NIGP code field was left blank. These PO lines totaled \$10.6 million.

### **Audit Objective: Invalid code**

For TGM entities, we found no instances of invalid NIGP code use on a PO line. Providing a valid NIGP code is required (i.e., a mandatory field) in the version of PeopleSoft used by TGM entities.

For USG entities, we found 175 PO lines on 97 POs where the NIGP code field contained an invalid code. These PO lines totaled \$459,038. Use of the NIGP code 00000, which is not a valid NIGP code, accounted for 147 (84%) of the 175 PO lines with invalid NIGP codes. The remaining invalid codes appeared to be custom codes or typographical errors by the buyers or requesters.

### **Recommendations**

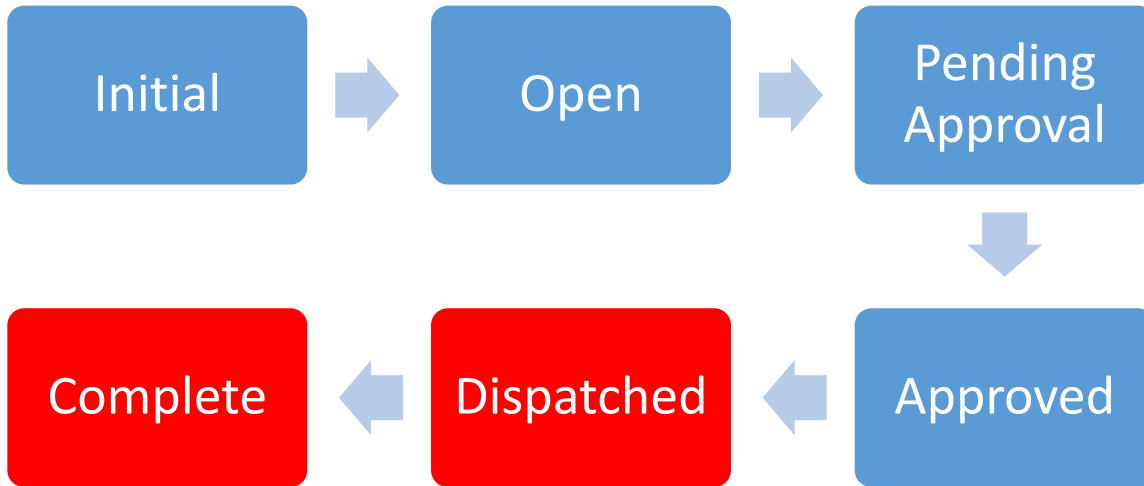
1. SPD Audits will contact state entities that repeatedly use invalid or no NIGP codes on POs to provide guidance on the correct use of NIGP codes.
2. SPD should work with the appropriate IT support staff from the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS), the State Accounting Office, and USG to develop methods that prevent invalid codes from being entered in the NIGP code field on requisitions and POs.
3. APOs/CUPOs should review PO data from this audit at the buyer level to ensure that staff is adequately trained and, where necessary, re-trained in using NIGP codes on POs. SPD should also consider offering a stand-alone course on NIGP code use for buyers, requestors, approvers, and APOs/CUPOs.

# Appendix A

## Audit Scope and Methodology

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This audit is of purchase orders (POs) issued in January 2023 - POs with PO dates between January 1, 2023, through January 31, 2023. The PO dates were when the PO queries were run in February 2023. The PO queries come from different financial systems. Except for the Georgia Institute of Technology, which uses Workday, all other audited state entities use PeopleSoft for their financial system. It is not the same instance of PeopleSoft since each instance is configured differently. The objective of the audit was to audit POs issued or dispatched. Since the PO queries are run from different financial systems, the terminology used to indicate the PO status or the life cycle for POs varies. For TGM entities, the PO life cycle consists of the following steps:



Only those POs in the stage of dispatched or complete were included in this audit. Phases, before dispatched, represent the internal approval process a state entity uses before the PO is sent to the supplier. For TGM entities, this is known as dispatched. Complete is the status used when the PO is closed and can no longer be modified or used.