



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DR. TIM BORING
DIRECTOR

March 27, 2026

Jessica Thomas
Chief Internal Auditor
State Budget Office
Office of Internal Audit Services
111 S Capitol Ave
7th Floor, Romney Building
Lansing MI 48933

Dear Director Thomas,

In accordance with the State of Michigan, [Financial Management Guide, Part VII](#), enclosed is the department's final corrective action plan to address recommendations contained within the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) report of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural for the Licensing Portal System (791-0595-25).

The department has already implemented necessary corrective actions to remediate the access control finding. Accordingly, we welcome the OAG to revisit the finding and to confirm that all corrective actions have been properly implemented.

Questions regarding the corrective action plan may be directed to me at 517-599-3605 or by email at renterias@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia Renteria".

Sylvia Renteria
Director of Finance and Budget

Enclosure (1)

c: Executive Office: JoAnne Huls, Sheila Marshall-Curtis, Trish Foster
Office of the Auditor General: Doug Ringler
House Fiscal Agency: Mary Ann Cleary
Senate Fiscal Agency: Kathryn Summers

House and Senate Appropriation Committees: Ann Bollin, Sarah Anthony
House and Senate Appropriation Sub-Committees: Ken Borton, John Cherry
House and Senate Standing Committees: Jerry Neyer, Sue Shink
MDARD: Director Dr. Tim Boring, Chief of Staff Kathy Angerer,
Bureau Director Craig VanBuren

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Licensing Portal System (LPS), 791-0595-25
Issued by OAG
January 28, 2026
Department Final Corrective Action Plan

Summary Response Matrix

	Complied	Will Comply	Partially Complied	Will Not Comply
Agrees	1			
Partially Agrees				
Disagrees				

Final Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Finding Number: 1

Finding Title: Improvements needed to LPS access controls.

Related IT system: Licensing Portal System (LPS)

Department Response

Management Views: MDARD agrees.

Planned Corrective Action and Milestones (Management Response):

MDARD implemented new standard operating procedures to strengthen access controls for LPS. MDARD is now fully compliant with the State of Michigan's Information Technology Access Control Standard (SOM Technical Standard 1340.00.020.01) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology's access control best practices. MDARD has also fully executed all Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget-aligned access control requirements.

MDARD conducts user certification reviews annually and conducts user inactivity reviews monthly in accordance with the State of Michigan's Information Technology Access Control Standard (SOM Technical Standard 1340.00.020.01).

MDARD has implemented new procedures to track employee departures and inactivity in LPS. The department now disables inactive LPS user accounts after 60 days and disables within three days the accounts of employees who are terminated

or who transfer, consistent with the State of Michigan’s Information Technology Access Control Standard (SOM Technical Standard 1340.00.020.01).

MDARD created and implemented a user/role/group permission matrix to ensure that all LPS groups and users are assigned the correct permissions.

Compliance Date: July 15, 2025

Responsible Individual: Director of Integrated Solutions Division, Eric Hearld

MDARD's comments are misleading as this date was during our audit period. We selected a population of users as of July 18, 2025 (See page 19 of the [audit report](#)) and we noted the exceptions for this finding. Therefore, the access controls were not fully implemented.

