

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000206

Senator Leyonhjelm provided in writing.

Question

SWA - advice from the FAO

The FAO, which is responsible for the development and maintenance of GHS, during the development of the Model WHS Regulations 2011, specifically recognised that 'A risk-based approach to agricultural chemical labels is superior to GHS for protecting worker health and safety'. Did SWA disregard this specific advice from the FAO?

Answer

The United Nations Sub-committee of Experts on the GHS is responsible for the development and maintenance of the GHS, not the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

The majority of Safe Work Australia Members consider that the risk based labelling system for AgVet chemicals is not adequate, and is improved by the inclusion of additional hazard information on labels as is provided for all other workplace hazardous chemicals.