

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates February 2012

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: 201

Division/Agency: Biosecurity – Animal Division/Meat and Livestock Australia

Topic: Mark 1 Restraint Boxes

Proof Hansard page: Written

Senator Rhiannon asked:

1. Can you provide an update on the rollout of the modified Mark 1 restraint box?
2. How many Mark 1 boxes have been modified so far and what locations are these in?
3. Is the Mark 1 restraint box still being used in its original form? If so in what locations?
4. How many of these boxes incorporate stunning?

Answer:

1. Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has not supported the installation of any Mark 1 boxes since April 2011.
2. Operators within individual supply chains are responsible for modifications to Mark 1 boxes to ensure they are compliant with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) animal welfare guidelines. MLA has assisted with technical advice in some cases but does not have access to a list of Mark 1 boxes that are being modified.
3. The Mark 1 restraint box in its original form does not meet the OIE animal welfare guidelines and therefore does not meet the requirements under the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) regulatory framework. MLA has only been working in facilities seeking to meet the ESCAS requirements, so does not have access to this information.
4. Please refer to the answer to Question 3.