

February 20, 2017

Committee Secretariat
Senate Economics References Committee
Parliament of Australia
Via email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to my evidence before the Committee on 30 January, I would like to provide the following additional information.

1. I was asked during my testimony by Senator Ketter whether there was currently any legal requirement “for any form of testing before these products come into Australia”. I have made enquiries on this matter, and I am advised that there is no such requirement.
2. I was further asked by Senator Ketter what customs brokers do in order to ascertain the suitability of imported products. I am advised that they rely on the questions asked of the importers. This was subsequently confirmed by Mr Brame, of the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia, who gave evidence after me.
3. Senator Xenophon made reference to a “golden sample” – a term for providing a compliant product to test and then importing non-compliant products. I would like to clarify that the processes currently being put in place by Yuanda do not relate simply to a single sample. Under the processes we are enacting, every batch of materials which are at risk of containing asbestos and which are for use in products destined for Australia will be subject to invasive sampling. These will then be sent to Australia to be tested for asbestos in a NATA-accredited laboratory. Only after that process takes place will the batch of product be allowed to be approved for export. When a new batch of materials is required, a new round of tests will be undertaken. So I don’t believe there will be a likelihood of a “golden sample” under the comprehensive testing arrangements Yuanda Australia is currently enacting. I am intending to visit the factory in March to satisfy myself that these procedures have been put in place and are being enforced as agreed.

On behalf of Yuanda Australia, I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide evidence, and for the respectful way in which our views were sought and heard.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Will
Managing Director
Yuanda Australia